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CONTACT: Shelby Sledge (512) 206-0229

Hooked on hockey

Chicken Soup for the Soul celebrates the players, the game and the fans who cheer them on

COS COB, Conn. – “I swore that I would prove all the people who verbally and otherwise abused me wrong when I made it in the NHL.” Georges Laraque had a passion for hockey, but unsupportive and racist teammates made it hard to keep playing. Through hard work and resilience, he became a celebrated enforcer in the NHL. Georges, like many other contributors to ***Chicken Soup for the Soul: Hooked on Hockey*** (Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, October 2, 2012) learned valuable lessons through the pursuit of his hockey dream.

Like any sport, hockey teaches more than just athleticism. The 101 stories in *Chicken Soup for the Soul: Hooked on Hockey* remind hockey fans of their own journey in learning how to shoot and score, as well as the valuable lessons they gained along the way.

Hockey is not just a valuable resource for life lessons, but forges many life-long friends as well. Female Canadian Olympic hockey player Hayley Wickenheiser developed an unusual friendship while playing men’s hockey in Finland. The family that owned the hockey rink had a young daughter, Matilda. She knew no English but loved the game and became Hayley’s shadow. Years later, Hayley still mentors Matilda. The young hockey fan is one of the best hockey players in Finland. “You just never know who you are going to impact in your life, whose paths you’re going to cross ... and I am so happy that all those years ago, a little blond rink rat skated across mine,” Hayley says.

Young hockey fans could never grow into professional hockey players without the support of their families. Matt Duchene always knew he wanted to play in the NHL, but could not have done it without his family, driving him to practice and always supporting him. “But I owe the most to my parents, Chris and Vince Duchene—I truly would not be where I am, doing what I love, were it not for them and everything they did for me.” Matt now plays for his favorite team growing up, the Colorado Avalanche.

Whether looking to relive their favorite memories of playing hockey or to enjoy inspiring stories of a hockey player’s journey to going pro, this new addition to the Chicken Soup for the Soul series is a heartfelt read for hockey lovers young and old.

Chicken Soup for the Soul: Hooked on Hockey (Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, and Laura Robinson) releases on October 2, 2012. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing, LLC, publishes all the latest titles in the famous Chicken Soup for the Soul book series, which are distributed through Simon & Schuster, Inc. Since 1993, books in the Chicken Soup for the Soul series have sold more than 100 million copies in the United States and Canada alone. Chicken Soup for the Soul titles have been sold in more than 100 countries and translated into more than 40 languages. Chicken Soup for the Soul Publishing also licenses the right to use its famous brand to high-quality licensees. The company is currently implementing a plan to expand into all media—working on several TV shows as well as a major motion picture, and developing a digital presence dedicated to life improvement, emotional support, inspiration, and wellness. In 2007, *USA Today* named Chicken Soup for the Soul one of the five most memorable and impactful books in the last quarter century. For more information visit www.chickensoup.com.

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To receive a review copy of ***Chicken Soup for the Soul: Hooked on Hockey*** or to request an interview, please contact Shelby Sledge at (512) 206-0229 or shelby@sheltoninteractive.com.