



End of (Calendar) Year Report: 2005

Dear Friends of Pittsburgh Soccer in the Community,

As we enter into a new year we would like to share with you our successes of 2005. Eighteen months ago myself and Mark Taylor agreed to try to make a difference in the communities of Pittsburgh after we witness first-hand the poverty and difficulties some of the communities face daily. We agreed that making a difference meant being a continual presence for the children in these communities. With the help and thanks of the City of Pittsburgh, community leaders, foundations, and the support of PA West Soccer and the Riverhounds Soccer Club, among others, we hope we have gone a long way in achieving this in our first year.

Pittsburgh Soccer in the Community has come into contact with over 300 children in the Pittsburgh area through various clinics and camps since April. Our initial goal of combining soccer with lifestyle talks was greatly received by not only the kids, but the program directors and the children's parents. We would like to give a big "Thank You" to all of the lifestyle speakers who came out to speak with the children this year.

Pittsburgh Soccer in the Community held sessions at the following locations: The Kingsley Association in East Liberty, The Hazelwood Y.M.C.A., The Salvation Army in Homewood, Gwen's Girls, YouthPlaces, One Step in Wilkinsburg, and the Urban League School of Pittsburgh in East Liberty among others.

Sixteen week programs were provided at The Kingsley Association, Hazelwood Y.M.C.A., and the Salvation Army in Homewood. The Kingsley Association's response to the program was so popular that bi-weekly sessions were held at that location. At these main locations donations were made by the Pittsburgh Riverhounds Soccer Club and PA West Soccer Association. T-shirts, stickers, calendars, and soccer balls were distributed to every kid at these three locations along with every kid receiving a Pittsburgh Soccer in the Community T-shirt. Activities organized outside of the program this spring included a trip to see the Riverhounds Soccer Club play in Washington, PA. Two nights were selected for the children and their parents to see the games. John Tokarski of The Weed and Seed Initiative kindly provided free transportation to and from the games and the Riverhounds for \$3.00 provided game tickets, hot dogs and drinks for the kids and their parents. The kids also got the opportunity to meet the players before the game on the field. It was great to see as many parents attend the games as children. During the fall season we combined the above communities and formed a Soccer in the Community team to play in the Fox Chapel Moonlight Madness Soccer Tournament at Founders Field. This was a great occasion as it brought kids and parents from different communities together not only on the soccer field but also off. Three games were played outdoors under the flood lights at this tournament and every child was presented with a trophy at the end.

Pittsburgh Soccer in the Community has formed partnerships with a number of government agencies including the F.B.I., Senator Santorum's office and H.U.D. More details of this partnership are contained within this report.

Our aim at Pittsburgh Soccer in the Community is to effect children in a positive way. At the end of our first year we already have wonderful memories and images of kids having fun learning soccer and life lessons. We look forward to many more memories in the coming years. Thank you for all of your help in our first year, all of the above couldn't have happened without your support.

Sincerely,

James Meara
Co - Founder / Director of Operations