



Akron Inner City Soccer Club

2009

Celebrates 10th Year Anniversary



Helping today's youth become tomorrow's good citizen by providing a positive environment to learn character and values that could not be learned on the streets.

"Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it" Proverbs 22.6



Akron Inner City Celebrates Its Ten Year Anniversary

Notes from the president

Akron Inner City Soccer Club has reached a milestone! As of September 2009 our club is 10 years young. We praise and thank Almighty God for the blessings He has bestowed on our club. Since the very beginning, He has been kind and generous to us. He continues to show us His favor by sending, talented dedicated and committed coaches; enthusiastic and eager players, and supportive soccer moms and dads. God has shown us, time and time again, that He has His hand on this program. And for that we are grateful, humbled, and honored. Special thanks to Pastor Dennis Butts who showed up early one Saturday morning 10 years ago and prayed over the birth of a new soccer club. He showed up again to help us celebrate our 10 year anniversary as our featured speaker. Much love and thanks Pastor Butts!

Our Club has not had a major incident, or accident, since 1999. Over three thousand Akron children have participated in our program. Our teams have played over one thousand games against various clubs in the Northeast Ohio area. Some of our former and current players are now on teams in some of the Akron area high schools using the skills they developed through our program.

Our teams have played in many tournaments, and have won numerous awards. We have competed as far as away as Cincinnati, Ohio. For the last two years, we have offered five weeks no cost summer soccer camps to Akron inner city youth. Our teams have played indoor games against some nationally known clubs, such as International Soccer Club, at the Pinnacle in Medina, Ohio. We are delighted to be the first inner city soccer club that offers an all-year-round soccer program for the Akron inner city children in an adult-supervised, safe environment. We are grateful for all of these accomplishments, the opportunities, and above all, we are grateful to God for our program, which continues to reach the lives of so many of Akron's inner city children.

Since 1999, when Akron Inner City Soccer Club was first founded, our basic mission has been simple and straight forward; to expand and to provide access of the highest level of soccer to the under-served, under-represented, and at-risk inner city children of Akron. We also, wanted to achieve this at a reasonable cost to the family.

We accomplish this by:

- Setting our goals high
- Being focused, disciplined and working hard as a team.
- Making kids our top priority.

We provide a structured environment where the kids learn basic life lessons such as:

- Respect
- Teamwork

- Cooperation
- Leadership Skills
- Developing social skills
- Having fun and enjoying themselves.

It is our goal to use this avenue to inspire the children to aim high, to face tomorrow with determination and purpose, and to live a healthier life style.

Many thanks to our past, and present, coaches for their dedication commitment, contributions and for helping to make a difference. Our coaches continue to give unselfishly of their time and talents. They continue to be role models, figures of authority, and caring leaders. We graciously thank them for being the strong, solid pillars of Akron Inner City Soccer Program that they are. Thanks to our many community-minded foundations and individuals for their generous contributions, and donations. Your financial support continues to make a huge impact for our program. Thanks for your vision for our kids and community. Our program is where it is today due, in huge part, to your support. Lastly, many thanks to our soccer moms and dads for taking on additional responsibilities, and making the time, and commitment to our kids. Your Children will long remember your sacrifice of your valuable time and show of love for them, through your participation in their activities. It will carry them far into the future.

As we look forward in to the future, with our faith in God, we pray that God will continue to bless us with the opportunity and the resources we need to carry on our mission. That mission is to reach Akron's Inner City Children before the streets, and give them the positive guidance they want and deserve. We pray that God will continue to lead us, direct us, and guard every step we take.

The Pillars of Akron Inner City Soccer Club



Front Row (left to right): Richard Burton, Ike Akpan, Kwey Benton

Middle Row (left to right): Tenisha Bulls, Tiara Worthy, Tijuana Taylor (Soccer Moms)

Back Row (left to right): Kevin Nunn, Emmanuel Essel, Richard Burutsa, Tom Sayle, Dennis Malaba, Dele Olabisi

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2009 Akron Inner City Soccer Championship Teams!



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*CONGRATULATIONS TO INNER CITY SOCCER CLUB
FOR 10 YEARS OF MENTORING AND DEVELOPING
SKILLS OF CHILDREN
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK*

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SOCCER & DIVERSITY

It is a great honor, a great experience and a fantastic opportunity to coach a group of players so talented and so diverse. in fact, is a dream come true! Soccer is truly a world sport, a celebration of culture and diversity. Spring of 2009 featured our U14-Boys (boys under the age of fourteen years old) team name **Inner City Fire**. These boys became the division champions in the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association Division and Class B4C2.

What is so different, so unique and interesting about the group was how diverse the team was. The team had a full roster of 18 players, and 10 of which were foreign born. The players embraced each other's culture, and the style of play. These players, from different countries of origin, each spoke the language and had the chemistry of soccer, that made the team so formidable.

Meet the players; Front Row, left to right: Tommy Xiong (Laos), Patrick Smith (Liberia), Seleke Koreleh (Liberia), Richard Prieto (Mexico), Evan Johnson (USA), Braxton Smith (USA), Wilber Cabrera (El-Salvador) Back Row, left to right: Coach Ike Akpan (Nigeria), Uriah Fitzpatrick (USA), Kody Brown (USA), Victor Benavides (Venezuela), Ryan Hubbard (USA), Imokhai Okolo (USA) Newton Praseuth (Laos), Lin Naing (Burma), Tyla Tucker (USA), Quyen Nguyen (Vietnam), Luis Mendez (Mexico), and Dele Olabisi (Nigeria). Not in the picture are Lydia Thoman (USA) and Coach John Irvine (USA).

Impressed with the player's soccer skills and talents, the team earned the opportunity, and were invited to compete in the Inaugural Buckeye Cup Tournament in Newark, Ohio May 2—3, 2009. It was a great exposure for the team and our club. Travelling to Newark was the second longest distance from Akron that our club had ever travelled. The boys pulled off a great show winning two out of three scheduled games. However, we did not advance to the finals due to goal differentials.

Never-the-less, we had a wonderful time. The host provided a beautiful atmosphere and a friendly welcome. The soccer fields were the envy of any soccer club. We are grateful for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, and the experience everyone had had with the team.



Akron Inner City Soccer Club members send our warmest congrats, and best wishes to Steve Zakuani (Congo) a former University of Akron team members who was drafted NO 1 overall in the 2008 Major League Soccer (MLS) expansion team Seattle Sounders FC.

Picture courtesy of Tina Boyes of Akron Community Foundation



Steve working with Mohamed Traoe (Liberia) during the University of Akron annual free clinic for Akron Inner City Soccer Club

MEET LAGOS INNER CITY SOCCER CLUB

We are excited to introduce, our first expansion club, Lagos Inner City Soccer Club in Lagos Nigeria. We are looking forward to the day when Akron Inner City Soccer Club would get the opportunity to travel over the Atlantic and play soccer matches against Lagos Inner City Soccer Club or vice-versa.

Vincent Sunday

President



HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

I want to thank Coach Dele, and the Akron Inner-City Soccer Club for continuously striving to meet their mission, "To teach the fundamental rules, skills, and principles involved with the game of soccer in a fun, safe environment at an affordable cost to families."

When my son, Michaud Reyna was 6 years old, a parent told me about the Akron Inner-City Soccer Club and encouraged me to register my son to join the soccer team. From his very first practice with the team, I noticed that the coaches and volunteer staff were always patient with the children as they taught them soccer drills. The coaches challenged the children, without frustrating them. My son, played, had fun, and met new children. What I had not considered at that time, was the possibilities that soccer could bring in the future.

Michaud played soccer with the Akron Inner-City Soccer Club for 2 seasons before we moved from Ohio. But that wasn't the end of his soccer-playing days. We moved to a metropolitan area on the East Coast where people of different nationalities, are extremely passionate about the game of soccer. It wasn't long before Michaud was able to join a local team and apply the skills that he gained from playing with the Akron Inner-City Soccer Club. Michaud continued to play soccer, and the kid who once knew nothing about the game of soccer, began to develop into an agile soccer player.

Today, at the age of 14, Michaud still enjoys playing soccer. During the fall season of 2009, Michaud was one of two students selected by coaches of his CYO Division to represent their team in the CYO All-Star Game. What a great achievement! But, the true benefit did not stop there. This school year, Michaud began applying for enrollment into high schools, some of which have very competitive enrollment processes and costly tuition rates. He is able to highlight achievements that he has made on the soccer field on his high school and scholarship applications, and some day he will leverage these same soccer skills, when applying for college admissions and college scholarships.

I am very thankful for the Inner-City Soccer Club; there are many inner-city players who may have never considered joining a soccer team if this program did not exist. Instead those inner-city youth would seek to play the more popular, basketball, and/or football. But, through our experience while applying for high schools, I realized that the Inner-City Soccer Club has truly been a blessing for my sons. This organization has provided them with the foundational skills for a sport that will continue to generate scholarship dollars as they move on through high school and even college.

Thank you, Coach Dele, and Best Regards to the Inner-City Soccer Team!

Sincerely,

Yvette Reyna

Cleveland City Stars

Akron Inner City Soccer Club would like to express our sincere gratitude to the entire Cleveland City Stars for their organization's participation in our soccer clinic. The clinic was held Thursday, May 21, 2009 at Schneider Park, here in Akron. We thank the head coach Rod Underwood for releasing the attending players for the clinic: Ibrahim Kante (Mali), Joshua Boateng (Ghana); Mr. Ryan Aroney, Director of Media Relations and Messer's Tobias Maroske and Mr. Marc Seuser, the Rising Stars Coordinators. Thank You.





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2009 Akron Inner City Soccer Club Banquet

10th Anniversary Celebration!



SUMMER CAMPS OF 2009

For the second consecutive year, Akron Inner City Soccer Club was blessed with the opportunity to offer 5-weeks of free summer soccer camps for the children of Akron. The 2008 camps were funded by V. E. (Tom) Atkins Fund of Akron Community Foundation and The Welty family Foundation. The 2009 camps were funded by V. E. (Tom) Atkins Fund of the Akron Community Foundation. Just like the previous year, the camps were successful with four hundred and fifty children participating

For five exciting, fun-filled weeks during the summer, four hundred and fifty children were given an alternative to hanging out in the streets. They participated in soccer training, and learned or improved their playing skills from our gifted coaches. The summer program allowed us to get the children off the couches, away from TV, and video game and engage them in a physical activity. While having fun, they were also improving their health since physical activity has been proven to lower blood pressure, increase metabolism, accelerate fat burning and decrease the chances of childhood obesity.

We thank the city of Akron Department of Parks and Recreations for allowing us to use the following city parks; Hawkins Field, Patterson Sport Complex, Good Year Park, Joy Park and Mason Park. Many thanks go to the following coaches for their participation in the 2009 summer soccer camps; Meredith Whitehead (USA), Justin Chenault (USA), Dogba Bass (Liberia), Jude Obot (Nigeria), Abdul Alimi (Nigeria), Kwey Becton (USA), Emmanuel Essel (Ghana), Andy Boateng (Ghana), Remberto Garcia (Mexico), Richard Burton (Jamaica) and Dele Olabisi (Nigeria). Thanks to Tiara Worthy for conducting the attendance and coordinating the survey, and to all the parents who helped at the water station.





A very special thank you goes to Pastor Eric S. Thoman CENTRAL BAPTIST MISSION CENTER, located at 919 Johnston Street, Akron, Ohio for the surprise chicken dinner he and his church provided for the entire Akron Inner City Soccer Club and their parents on that beautiful Friday evening, July 31, 2009. We will never forget your kindness. God bless you and your church for your kindness!



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AKRON INNER CITY SOCCER COACHES

NAME	ORIGIN	TEAM
Tunde Olabisi	U.S.A.	U-8 Team Lions
Dele Olabisi	Nigeria	U-8 Team Cobras
Emmanuel Essel	Ghana	U9-Boys Pythons
Kisha Miller	U.S.A.	U9-Girls Lightning
Remberto Garcia	Mexico	U10-Boys Tsunami
Brad Regal	U.S.A.	U10-Girls Volcanoes
Richard Burton	Jamaica	U11-Boys Flames
Kwey Benton	U.S.A.	U11-Girls Eagles
Dennis Malaba	Zimbabwe	U12-Boys Hurricanes
Richard Burutsa	Zimbabwe	U12-Boys Hurricanes
Kevin Nunn	U.S.A.	U14-Boys Thunder
Justin Chenault	U.S.A.	U14-Boys Thunder
Ike Akpan	Nigeria	U14-Boys Thunder

Akron Inner City Soccer Club Needs You!

We welcome charities or organizations that would like to sponsor a team or give a one time donations. You can also support our efforts by contributing your time to become a coach or an assistant coach. We are a 501 (c) (3) organization, so your contribution is Tax deductible. For more information please contact Coach Dele Olabisi at 330-867-2797 or e-mail Jolabisi@neo.rr.com

We play all year round

FALL

Boys & Girls

Summer Ages 6-14 years old Winter

Spring

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Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Telephone _____

 _Girl _Boy

AGE____ DOB ____/____/____

Shirt Size SM____ MED____ LG ____ XLG____ Children sizes

Cost \$30

Detach and Mail to:

Akron Inner City Soccer Club
Attn: Coach Dele
865 Roslyn Avenue
Akron, OH 44320

Questions?:

Call: 330.867.2797
Email: jolabisi@neo.rr.com

Visit us online @ www.inner-citysoccer.org