

AKRON INNER-CITY SOCCER CLUB

USSF DIVERSITY PARTNER

2018 NEWSLETTER



Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will never depart from it. Proverbs 22:6



This newsletter is another vehicle that is being used to communicate and inform the community, individuals, and our contributing foundations. All have made a tremendous investment in the lives of the children of Akron.

Once again, the AICSC 2017 Year Round Youth Development/After School Soccer Program for Akron's children was a great success!



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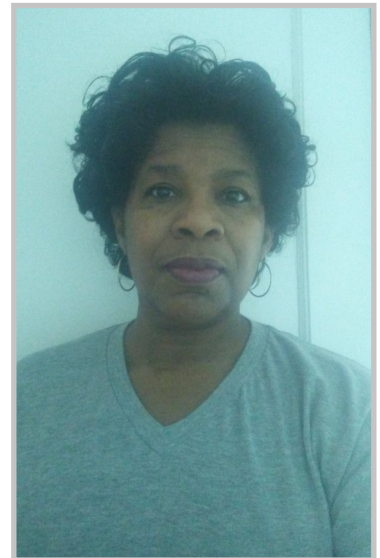
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A Year in Review

Akron Inner City Soccer Club's 2017 Year Round Youth Development/ After School Soccer Program for the Akron's children was another great success! Soccer has been recognized as a **powerful tool for social change**, and we are using our annual newsletter to communicate and inform the community, individuals, parents and our contributing foundations about the program. All have made a tremendous investment in the lives of the inner city children of Akron. Together we will provide the greatest opportunity for the youth in our community to succeed in life.



2017 Program Supporter Spotlight



Brock Kertoy

Inner City Soccer Club thanks you for all of your support throughout the season! Your kindness and efforts did not go unnoticed. We're thankful for you.

Phil Hootman

Thank you for recognizing a need to develop inner-city soccer players in the United States. Your support, kind contributions, love and passion for the game are valued greatly appreciated.

Muriel Tillman

Upon meeting, you said you wanted to help our club and you went above and beyond with your support. Our club is blessed to have your support. Thank you for all of the time and energy that you spent with our players.



Notes From Coach Dele

Akron Inner City Soccer Club celebrates another year of great success!

Soccer is being recognized as a powerful tool for social change. We are using our annual newsletter to communicate and inform the community, individuals, parents and our contributing foundations about our program. All have made a tremendous investment in the lives of the inner city children. Together, we will provide the greatest opportunity for the youth in our community to succeed in life.

As in the previous years, our year round program started with eight weeks of FREE indoor foot-skills training at The Elder Johnson Family Life Center, on the campus of The House of the Lord Church. During these winter training sessions, we strived to:

- Keep our players active during the winter months when many youth spend a lot of time watching TV and playing video games, and when they tend to accumulate unhealthy weight.
- Improve our young player's flexibility and endurance which helps to prevent injuries throughout our year-long program.
- Improve player strength and soccer skills.
- Provide a constructive adult supervised activity during the winter season.

(... continued on page 4)

Notes From Coach Dele (continued)

Our teams continue to showcase excellence on and off the soccer fields. In both of our spring and fall soccer programs, many of our teams made the playoffs, many were division champions, and playoff champions in the 2017 of the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association (GAASA) competitive games. We attribute our team's success year-in and year-out to the following:

- Parent's dedications to their children
- Player's commitment to their teammates
- Our staff of volunteer coaches
- Our diverse participants
- Our soccer Moms, Dads, and other volunteers
- Our gracious sponsors

- God's continued blessings

Our 7th Annual Akron Unity Soccer Tournament was a huge success. 2017 marked the 10th year we have provided FREE Summer Soccer Camp for Akron's children. This event was truly a blessing to many families who's children, may not have been able to participate in an organized, and adult supervised summer camp. Thanks to the individuals and foundations that have made generous financial contributions to our program. The program would not have been possible for many of our players without you, and without being under the umbrella of blessings from The Almighty God.

Thank you!



2016**Participation**

1. Akron Inner City Soccer Club
2. Canton Akron Soccer Club
3. Chippewa Soccer Club
4. Cuyahoga Falls Soccer Club
5. Eagle Select Canton, Ohio
6. Lightning Soccer Club Canton, Ohio
7. NEO Soccer Club Parma, Ohio
8. Revenna Soccer Club Revenna, Ohio
9. Ternopil Soccer Club Parma, Ohio
10. Fairview Soccer Club

**2017****Participation**

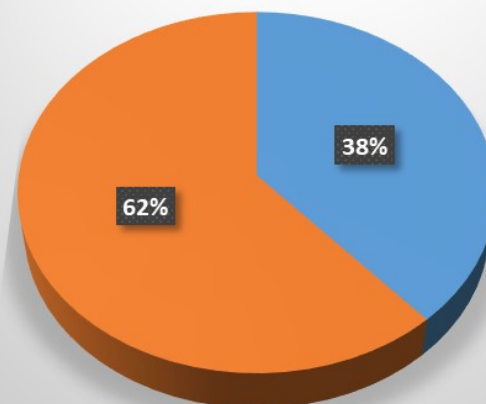
1. Akron Inner City Soccer Club
2. Cuyahoga Falls Soccer Club
3. Eagle Select Canton, Ohio
4. NEO Soccer Club Parma, Ohio
5. Ternopil Soccer Club Parma, OH
6. Louisville Soccer Club Spence, Ohio
7. Roostown Soccer Club
8. Coventry Youth Soccer Club
9. Perry United Soccer Club
10. WASA
11. Diamond Select
12. BOCA
13. CAK Select
14. Chippewa Soccer
15. Kent Stars
16. Royal Academy

We're Growing!

CLUBS PARTICIPATION

2016 = 10

2017 = 16



■ 2016
■ 2017

Our Annual Akron Unity Tournament continues to increase in club participation each year!

7th Annual Akron Unity Tournament

On August 12, 2017, we hosted 47 teams and played a total of 74 games (over 2,000 players total)! We are grateful for all of the players, parents, coaches and family members came out to enjoy the beautiful game of soccer.

In 2016, we had 10 clubs participate which grew to 16 participating clubs in 2017. We're excited about the success and continued growth of this the Annual Unity Tournament, and we know it wouldn't be possible without the support from our community. We are tremendously grateful for all the support we received from parents, coaches, referee's and volunteers. Many thanks to all of you!

With great gratitude, we would also like to thank the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association (GAASA) League, and our corporate sponsors; First Energy Foundation, PPG Industries of Cleveland, Ohio and SAF Inc. of Akron, Ohio. We owe the tournaments success to you. Thank you.

Division Champions

1. U9-Boys Division A, Ternopil Soccer Club Parma
2. U9-Boys Division, NEO Soccer Club, Parma
3. U10-Boys, Akron Inner City Soccer Club
4. U10-Girls, Akron Inner City Soccer Club
5. U11-Boys Division, Royal Academy
6. U11-Boys/Girls Division B, Kent Soccer Club
7. U12-Boys, NEO Soccer Club, Parma
8. U12-Girls, Akron Inner City Soccer Club
9. U13/U14-Boys, Ternopil Soccer Club Parma
10. U13/U14-Girls, Coventry Soccer



Akron Inner City Soccer-Spring Practice



Spring 2017 Standings

A season record for the Akron Inner City Soccer Club! Three teams became division champions! Six out of seven of our teams made the playoffs!

Team	W	L	T	Position	Playoffs
U9 Boys Akron Inner City Pythons	7	0	1	2nd out of 8 teams	✓
U9 Girls Akron Inner City Eagles	1	6	1	9th out of 10 teams	
U10 Boys Akron Inner City Tsunami	5	2	1	1st out of 5 teams 🏆🏆	✓
U11 Boys Akron Inner City Flames	6	1	1	1st out of 6 teams 🏆🏆	✓
U12-Girls Akron Inner City Avalanche	3	3	2	4th out of 10 teams	✓
B3C1 Akron Inner City Tigers	7	1	0	1st out of 6 teams 🏆🏆	✓
B5C1 Akron Inner City Lions	7	0	1	1st out of 5 teams 🏆🏆	✓

🏆🏆 = Division Champs

🏆 = Playoff Champs



A Beautiful City Deserves A Beautiful Game (abbreviated version)

Article by, Mr. Henry Bate Agbor-Baiyee (Soccer Dad)

The sport known globally as football or soccer as it is termed in America is considered to be one of the most celebrated and accessible sport across socio-economic classes around the world yet it seems to be reserved for the privileged kids of affluent backgrounds in our country. It is not easy to understand why and how this came about, but generally speaking, organized soccer leagues mostly thrive in affluent suburban communities. When, by stroke of luck, it penetrates into low income urban communities, it can be frightfully expensive, disorganized and low quality. Sadly, sports have been de-prioritized in the public educational arena. Extensive budget cuts have resulted in defunding of 'non-essential' services and programs like soccer. Our kids who should be out there engaged and involved in playing soccer, volleyball, basketball, etc. are bound to be bored, hang around aimlessly or indulge in illicit activities.

It is factual that organized sports are essential for the

overall well-being of our youth because it elevates their social competence and self-esteem thus deterring juvenile deviance and delinquency. We also know that, in general, youth who play team sports have a more positive outlook and outcome in life than their counterparts who do not. Team sports like soccer, volleyball, basketball, American football etc. are, therefore, known for teaching social and moral values, good sportsmanship, and teamwork. It is safe to assert that organized sports are crucial to academic success, community safety, public health and even our economy. After all, the cost to hire a soccer coach in a troubled community, for example, can save taxpayers as much as twenty-nine times that amount in dollars saved from kids being incarcerated or thrown out of school.

The kids in the beautiful city of Akron deserve better.

(... continued on page 10)



10th Annual FREE Summer Soccer Camp

Our 2017 summer camp was significant because it represented a decade of providing **FOUR WEEKS OF FREE CAMP** to the children of Akron. Our FREE Four Week Summer Soccer Camp is made possible through the generosity of our sponsors such as the Akron Community Foundation, United Way, parents and community supporters. With your help we served over 1,000 Akron's youth since it was founded, offering the needed opportunity to participate in an adult supervised activity.

Our summer camps are a big hit within the community. Some of the reasons for this popularity are:

- FREE soccer camp Monday through Friday
- Our camp travels to four different locations in the city eliminating transportation issues
- Over 100 meals are served every evening at no cost to the parents.

The delicious, and nutritious meals were began as part of a collaborative effort between The Southside Dreams of Akron, and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). The meal was started by the late Mrs. Alice Anderson, then Director of The Southside Dreams of Akron. Mrs. Anderson, along with her volunteers, prepared and brought the food to each camp. In 2017 the city of Akron Parks and Recreation started began offering meals to our participants. Thanks to the city of Akron Parks and Recreation.

Again, our FREE Sumer Camp has not been duplicated in any other urban city that we know of. Thank you all for making a difference.

Our sincere thanks go to the Akron Urban League for sending five young adults, in collaboration with Summit County Job and Family Services, for on-the-job-training during our summer soccer camp. Their participation in the summer camp program was a real blessing. They were very involved in all aspects of the camp, from assisting our coaches, to helping out during meals time. Thank you all, and hope you will be able to join us again in the summer of 2018. Thank You.

- Akron Inner City Soccer Club





UNITED WAY OF SUMMIT COUNTY

BOLD GOALS INITIATIVE | 2018-2025

The United Way of Summit County has a big dream and the big dream is explained in the Bold Goals Initiative.

- **GOAL 1:** 65% of Akron Public Schools third graders reading at or above grade level. Currently at 38%.
- **GOAL 2:** 90% of Akron Public Schools high schoolers graduating in 4 years, with 60% college/career ready. Currently, at 75% and 21% respectively.
- **GOAL 3:** Financially empower 11,000 people. Currently 42,000 people in Akron are considered to be "working poor" + with the skills, knowledge and resources to budget and save, manage debt, build credit and access banking services.
- **GOAL 4:** Reduce ER Visits due to drug overdoses to 1000. Currently at 2,400 annually.

"Ultimately, United Way of Summit County envisions a future where Everyone has the tools to be financially empowered, where every student has the skills to succeed in the classroom and beyond and where no family is devastated by addiction. As we work toward the future, these Bold Goals for 2025 will serve as concrete benchmarks for our success and hold us accountable to our community."

- Akron Beacon Journal

Since 1999 Akron Inner City Soccer Club has had a vision and a mission to positively impact the lives of the under-privileged, under-served and at-risk Akron's children through our Year Round Youth Development/After School Soccer Program. We are so delighted and grateful for the trust and the opportunities that have been made possible to our club by the United Way of Summit County, as they partner with our club on the journey to achieve the Bold Goals in 2025. Our focus will be through our interaction with our youth, to emphasize school attendance that will eventually lead to increased graduation rates in the Akron Public Schools. Our program will provide the avenue that will help to keep our youth focused, engaged and provide tutoring through our year round youth development/after school soccer program.

- Dele Olabisi, Akron Inner Soccer Club



United Way of Summit County

A Beautiful City Deserves A Beautiful Game (continued)

Our schools, public agencies, nonprofit organizations, and faith based institutions need to rally around our city to support and replicate programs like the Akron

Inner City Soccer program led by Coach Dele Olabisi. Coach Dele believes firmly in the urgency to physically engage and involve our kids through soccer to afford better prospects to succeed in life. Even if our children were not able to use soccer to get out of their homes or neighborhoods, at least they would be spending their free time in a healthy way and not getting into trouble with gangs, drugs, or criminal activities.

Akron Inner City Soccer may not be a magical fix but it is a step in the right direction. It is a program designed to help engage our youth in physical activity and use soccer as a vehicle to teach life skills, encourage the values of teamwork and promote discipline, confidence and self-esteem. Despite that, Akron has limited human and material resources to provide this organized program for the kids, Coach Dele is committed to alter the status quo.

Although children in urban and underserved communi-

ties face tremendous challenges ranging from a lack of access to healthy foods to an acute shortage of safe places to play, they have grit. By grit, we mean they have indomitable mettle and tenacity to get back on their feet after encountering obstacles in life. With the right environment and support system in place, these young people can blossom transforming their grit into a wellspring of capacity in the future. With direct, intentional and effective programming and support from community partners and stakeholders, the challenges of "raising our children by the whole village" can be mitigated. Akron Inner-City Soccer Club is bridging the gap.

Hey, who knows? Maybe the next Pele may not come from Brazil...he will come from the beautiful city of Akron. After all, isn't the next Michael Jordan from Akron?

Akron Inner City Soccer Club is organized and operated for charitable, religious, & educational purposes serving children and families in Akron and the surrounding communities. It operates to provide the opportunity for our children to fraternize and learn from each other while playing the beautiful game, soccer.





U12 - Akron Inner City Soccer Flames - Season Finale, | Lodi, Ohio



Fall 2017 Standings

During the fall of 2017 five out of eight of our teams participated in the Greater Akron Amateur Soccer Association (GAASA) competitive games made the playoffs. Good job teams, and keep up the great work!

Team	W	L	T	Position	Playoffs
B9C1 Akron Inner City Pythons	1	6	1	6 th out of 6 teams	NO
B9C4 Akron Inner City Fire	1	6	1	3 ^{9h} out of 10 teams	NO
G9C2 Akron Inner City Eagles	1	6	1	7 th out of 7 teams	NO
B0C1 Akron Inner City Tsunami	4	2	2	4 ^{9h} out of 8 teams	✓
G0C3 Akron Inner City Hurricanes	4	2	2	3 rd out of 6 teams	✓
B2C2 Akron Inner City Flames	8	0	0	1 st out of 7 teams 🏆🏆	✓
G2C3 Akron Inner City Avalanche	6	1	1	2 nd out of 5 teams	✓
B4C1 Akron Inner City Tigers	5	1	2	2 nd out of 5 teams	✓



= Division Champs



= Playoff Champs

THANK YOU CHRIST COMMUNITY CHAPEL



Above

Luke Weaver & Jessica Burger
Christ Community Chapel

Akron Inner City Soccer Club is so grateful to The Christ Community Chapel of Akron for choosing our club as a partner in its new outreach initiative. This initiative is inspired by the dedication of the Church to revitalize the spirit and togetherness that is necessary to meet the challenges that face our community.

Akron Inner City Soccer Club will provide an avenue for the church to reach out to more community members. Mr. Keith Jemison, a member of the Church, expressed the Church's intentions. Here are some of the things the Church has started doing for our members:

During the Christmas of 2017, the Church blessed a Congolese family, that has children in our program, with a voucher to purchase winter coats for the children.

Members of the Church who are soccer players are now volunteering as coaches in our program.

The Church has started bringing snacks for one hundred participants during the eight Saturdays of the Winter Indoor Footskills Training which began Saturday, January 20, 2018.

The Church has promised to sponsor some players by taking care of their registration fees for the spring 2018 season.

We believe this ongoing partnership will continue to change the lives of many low income families in our community.

We give God All of The Glory.



It takes a village to raise a child



2017 END OF YEAR BANQUET

The banquet was held on Saturday, November 4, 2017 at the Akron Urban League (President's Hall). Many thanks go to everyone who helped to contribute to the success of the banquet. Special thanks to Ms. Demetrius Falconer, and Ms. Awanda King for their many hours spent in planning, and coordinating, as well as their financial support. The 2017 banquet featured delicious food from Ray's Catering (of Akron). This event was sponsored in part by Ms. Sandra Roebuck (décor), and the by the Ronald McDonald House Charities of North East Ohio.

Thank You!





Special thanks to AICSC Supporters

Sponsors

Akron Community Foundation

Anonymous Donor

First Energy Foundation

Glenn R. & Alice V. Boggess Memorial Fdn.

Henry V. & Frances W. Christenson Fdn.

Laura R. & Lucian Q. Moffitt Memorial Fdn.

Lloyd L. & Louise Smith Memorial Fdn.

Musson, R.C. & Katharine M. Charitable Fdn.

PPG Industries GIVE Foundation

PPG Industries Cleveland, Ohio

Ronald McDonald House Charities

SAF Inc.

The Sisler McFawn Fdn.

The Welty Family Foundation

Vernon Odom Fund of the Akron Community Fdn

United Way of Summit County

W. Paul & Thora J. Mills Fdn.



In-Kind Supporters

Akron Public Schools

Bill & Joan Moore

Chris Muller of N.E.O. Soccer Club Parma,
Ohio

CTI Web Services.

First Choice Bookkeeping Service

Graffiti Print Shop

Summit County Department of Job &
Family Services

The Akron Urban League

The City of Akron Parks & Recreation

The House of The Lord Church



Above:

Anonymous donation from a member of our community. The clothing was given to families in our program.

Many thanks to the kind hearted person.

Coaches Corner



GAASA TEAMS

Angelica Reeves, United States



Dele Olabisi, Nigeria



Any Gilmore, United States



Edric Applewhite, Trinidad & Tobago



Bridget Karboski, United States



Emmanuel Sese, Liberia



Boo Le, Thailand



Ike Akpan, Nigeria



Candice Al-Amin, United States



Kim Hawkins, United States



Chidozie Martins, Nigeria



Lamont Jones, United States



Chris Okoh, Nigeria



Mina Shahata, Egypt



David Hooks, United States



Pierre Ferrer, Philippines



Tunde Olabisi, United States



IN-HOUSE TEAMS

Andrea Allen, Jamaica



Kashmere Greer, United States



Special Recognition

Board Members

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Joni Cooper

Tonya Okolo

Patricia A. Kennard

David Wallace

Webmaster

Olaronke Olabisi

Melissa Reahm

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Upcoming Events

AKRON INNER CITY SOCCER PRESENTS

AKRON UNITY TOURNAMENT

8TH ANNUAL

ONE DAY TOURNAMENT
SATURDAY
AUGUST 11, 2018

USSF DIVERSITY PARTNER

COPLEY ROAD SOCCER COMPLEX
1806 COPLEY RD AKRON 44320

AKRON INNER CITY SOCCER CLUB

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT THROUGH SOCCER
A RADIATION OF EXCELLENCE

COME EXPERIENCE A
ONE DAY TOURNAMENT
THAT IS FRIENDLY AND
DIVERSE

EACH TEAM
GUARANTEED 3
GAMES

TROPHIES AWARDED
TO DIVISION
CHAMPIONS

EXPANDING THE SPORT OF SOCCER TO INNER CITY CHILDREN

U9 TO U15
BOYS &
GIRLS

ENTRY FEE \$150 PER TEAM
Register At: www.inner-citysoccer.org
Entry Deadline SUNDAY AUGUST 5, 2018

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REGISTER TODAY