

A RADIATION OF EXCELLENCE

“Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will never depart from it.”

**AKRON INNER-CITY  
SOCCER CLUB**  
USSF DIVERSITY PARTNER

**2020 NEWSLETTER**

Our heartfelt thanks to God Almighty for 20 years of grace and blessings to the Akron Inner City Soccer Club. We are very grateful to everyone that have made contributions during the journey.

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## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT



Akron Inner City Soccer Club was founded in 1999 with the mission to make the sport of soccer accessible and affordable to the Akron area inner city children. The vision to use soccer as a platform where participants would feel welcomed and cared for. Also, where they could see the benefits soccer has to offer such as learning sportsmanship, teamwork, and personal skill set development. The program provides a safe environment where the Children can grow to become positive and productive adults. Soccer is a tool to help keep the participants healthy and safe year-round.

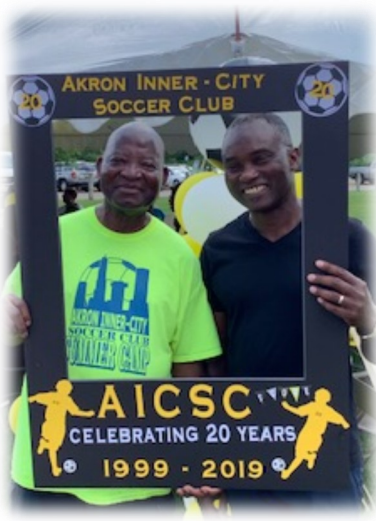
Since inception the program serves hundreds of youth. This would not have been made possible without God's blessings AICSC with players, parents, volunteer's coaches, and the generosity of individuals and the Akron area foundations. Our teams compete and win many tournaments. Our program has become the recruiting ground for area high school for soccer coaching job opportunities.

- *Dele Olabisi*

President

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## THE 20 YEAR CELEBRATION



We celebrated two decades of successful soccer programming to the Akron community on Saturday July 27th, 2019 at the beautiful Copley Road Soccer Complex in Akron, Ohio. A special thank you goes to, director of coaching Mr. Ike Akpan Sr., owner and president of Serving American Future (SAF Inc.) for sponsoring the celebration. Thanks to everyone that played a huge role in making the celebration a success. Special thanks to Joni Cooper, Russell Cooper, Anita Wilkson, Tonya Okolo, Michelle Sales, Nike Olabisi-Green, Tunde Olabisi, Detra Gunn, Brea Gunn, Sydney Gun, and Andrew Wallace.









**UNITED WAY OF  
SUMMIT COUNTY  
BOLD GOALS  
INITIATIVE  
2018 - 2025**

We are delighted that Akron Inner City Soccer Club continues to participate and work alongside United Way of Summit County 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 80% and 19% 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.



Our program continues to provide the unique opportunities made possible strong connections with the parents and participants who are the target population in the bold goals’ initiative. Our program provides after school partner opportunity with the participants and enable us to encourage them to stay in school since studies have shown that staying in school will lead to high graduation rate and help to increase the percentage of the students that will either college or career ready. We track the school attendance of our participants through the Summit Education Initiatives (SEI). We were encouraged when seeing the Risk Level data from the Marking Period 1 (MP 1) and Making Period 2 (MP 2) the High Risk Level among our participants dropped by 6% and Some Risk Level increased by 6%. Those are great signs and indicators that our participants are listening and making good decisions and going to school and that our program is having positive impact.



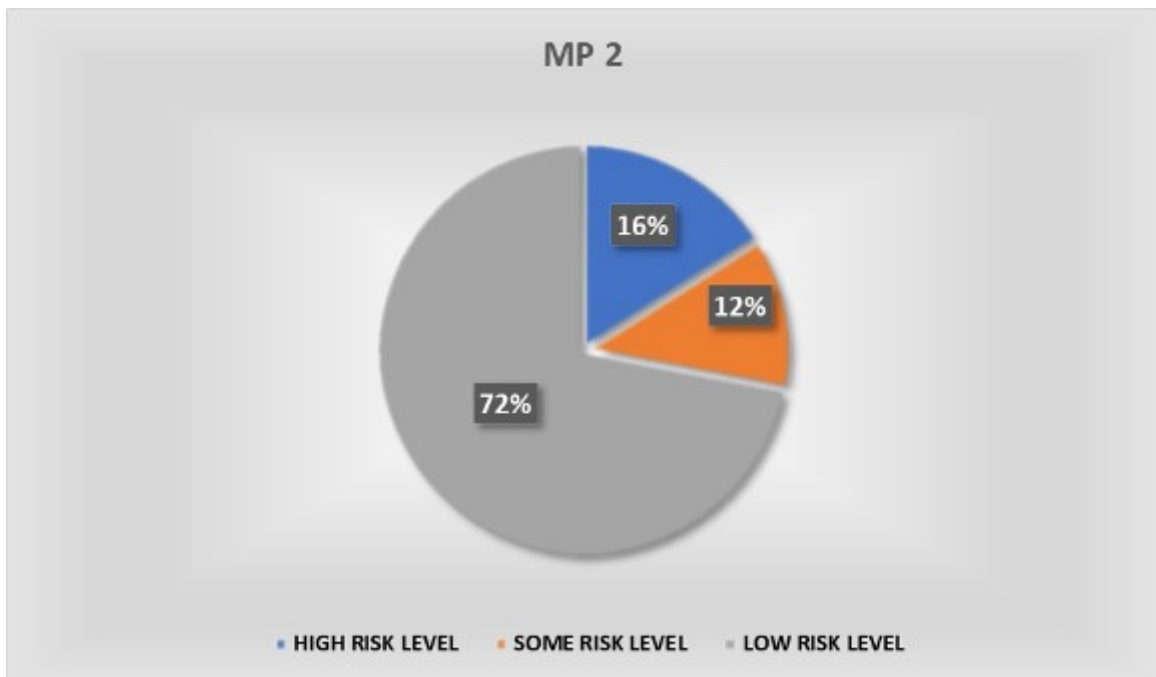
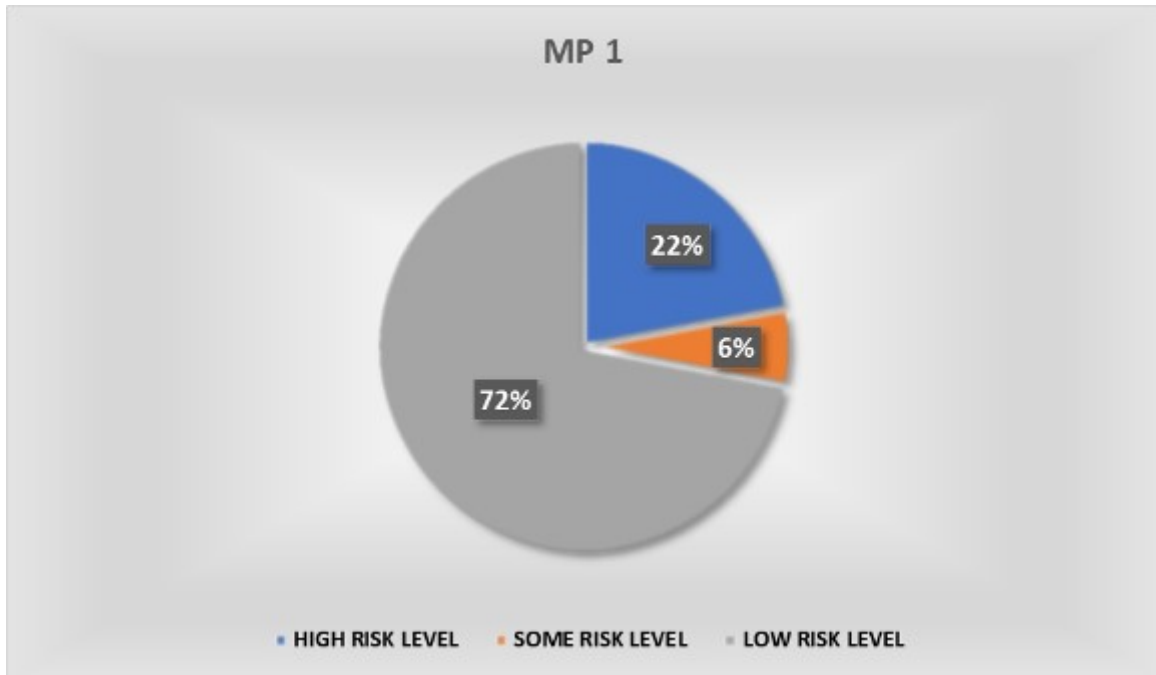




United Way improves lives by mobilizing the caring power of communities around the world to advance the common good.  
- **United Way Mission**



# Akron Public Schools Risk Level Evaluation 2019-2020 School Attendance of the Akron Inner City Soccer Club Participants



MP 1: August 23rd— October 19th

MP 2: October 19th—December 21st

# GLOBAL CLEVELAND INAUGURAL SISTER CITIES CONFERENCE

**MAY 1—3, 2019**

**Mission:** To enhance our economic, social, and cultural prosperity through enriching global partnerships.

**Vision:** To have a local-global network of businesses, educational institutions, organizations, and local governments connected to Cleveland to internationalize our city and create a global citizenry.

The 3- days event was held at different locations in Cleveland. On the second day of the event, a soccer tournament among the sister cities was held at St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland, Ohio. Akron Inner City Soccer Club high school boys team represented Nigeria and Ibadan Boys High School which Coach Dele Olabisi attended and was the soccer captain in 1969.

They played against teams representing Peru, Albania, Lithuania and Ireland. The scores were:

<b>Game One</b>	<b>Nigeria</b> 7	<b>Peru</b> 3
<b>Game Two</b>	<b>Nigeria</b> 10	<b>Albania</b> 3
<b>Game Three</b>	<b>Nigeria</b> 5	<b>Lithuania</b> 1
<b>Game Four</b>	<b>Nigeria</b> 2	<b>Ireland</b> 2

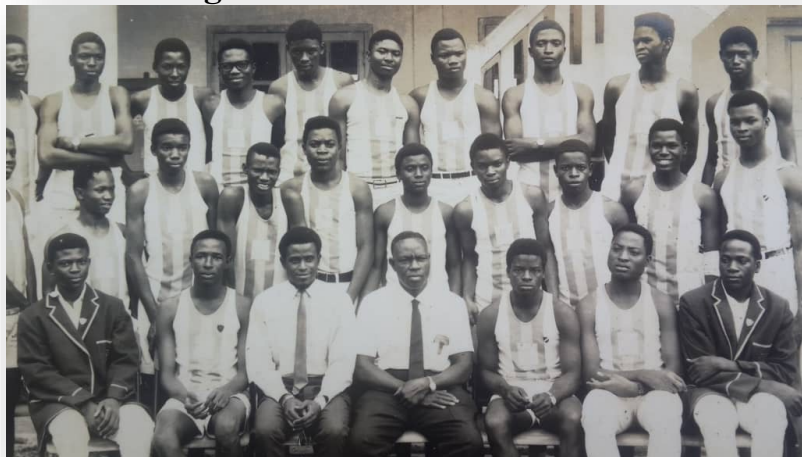
Nigeria and Ireland won three games each and ties each other, the game went to penalty shootout. Ireland won the shootout by 3 to 1 and declared the champions.

The beauty of the event was that everyone had a great time meeting and shearing experiences and culture among the soccer players from different countries. We planned to return in 2020 and bring the trophy to the city of Akron. Thanks to Elizabeth Cusma Program Director for putting the Global Cleveland Sister Cities event together. It was a great event. Thanks for selecting Ibadan as one of the sister cities.

## Ibadan Boys

### High School Soccer Team 1969

Dele Olabisi  
(front row #6  
from left to  
right)







## PARENT CORNER

I have thoroughly enjoyed coaching my daughters' soccer team over the past few years. It allowed me the opportunity to not only bond with her through the sport she loves, but also mentor other young women along the way. Although she never said it directly, I could tell she enjoyed me being there pushing her to do her best. Soccer was an outlet for many of the young ladies to escape some of the daily struggles they faced and allowed them to get exercise, build friendships and learn the ends and out of the game. Seeing them grow up and mature over the years has been very rewarding. From the races we'd have after practice to the quick pep talks before games, those were times that I will cherish. Soccer is not just a sport, it's the tool that teaches teamwork, leadership, discipline and resilience needed to succeed in all areas of life.



- *Angelica Wilson*

Soccer Mom/Coach





## SUMMIT CYCLING CENTER

As one of the African proverbs says, “It takes a village to raise a child”. Special thank you to Tom Bennett the Executive Director of the Summit Cycling Center, Lonnie Harris and Muriel Tillman for being the village. The donation of bicycles to our program participants was very much appreciated. Thank you for making a difference!



## GLOBAL TIES AKRON

Global Ties Akron welcomed five visitors from Belarus to our city. “This delegation came to U.S. as participants of the International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) sponsored by the U.S. Department of State with funding provided by the U.S. Government. The visitors



were in Akron for two days November 11 & 12, 2019. The visitors were scheduled to visit places and interview different organizations including Akron Inner City Soccer club. On Monday, November 11, Coach Dele met with the delegates. They were interested to hear how the club operates, i.e. recruiting players, coaches, uniforms selection, training etc. They were also interested in fund raising, as they are trying to implement similar team activities in their country.

After the morning seminar, we treated them to an evening of a friendly soccer scrimmage at the Akron Indoor Soccer located at 73 W. Rosewood Avenue off South Main Street. They were delighted for the scrimmage against us and had a lot of fun. It just demonstrated the true meaning of soccer being a global sport. Thanks to everyone that helped in getting the arena and thanks to Mr. Vito Testa the owner of the arena for allowing us to use the facility free of charge. Thanks to Michelle Wilson Executive Director of Global Ties Akron, keep up the good work.





## SUMMER CAMP 2019

The four weeks of FREE soccer camp of 2019 was another huge success. The camps were held at a different location around the city. This ensures participants the opportunity to attend a local camp in their neighborhood and eliminated the need for transportation. The camp drew an average of one hundred participants per week. Nutritious meals were distributed after each camp by the Summit County Summer Means Program.

Our summer soccer camp program has helped open the doors of opportunity and provide the access for the participants to receive books every week that they can take home to read and keep. These we believed have generated interest and the love of reading with the participants, and in-fact many have said that they now read for more than ten minutes per day. The book distribution resulted from a collaboration with the Akron Public Library and Children And Books (CAB). Special thanks to Sarah Deisler and Carrier Burrier as well as Mr. & Mrs. Chuck Bell.





“Reach high, for the stars lie hidden in your soul.  
Dream deep, for every dream precedes the goal.”  
- Pamela Vaull Starr





## 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL AKRON UNITY SOCCER TOURNAMENT

The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Akron Unity Soccer Tournament was held Saturday, August 10, 2019. This was one day tournament with fifty-six teams participating, resulting in an estimated of 784 players, 112 coaches, 20 referees and over 1,500 parents, and family friends. The tournament has brought over 2,000 citizens together in one day to enjoy the beautiful sport of soccer. We hope this tournament has made a little impact in the economy of our city. We thank our sponsors for making the program possible. Special thanks to our volunteers, Anita Wilkson, Joni Cooper, Tonya Okolo, Brea Gunn, Sydney Gunn, Detra Gunn, Nike Olabisi-Green, Bobby Simmons, Aquilla Hollinger and Angelica Wilson.





# CHAMPIONS







# Special Thanks to AICSC Supporters



## SPONSERS

Akron Community Foundation  
Anonymous Donor  
Charles E. & Mable M. Richie Memorial Fdn.  
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The Welty Family Foundation  
United Way of Summit County  
Vernon Odom Fund of the Akron Community Fdn.  
W. Paul & Thora J. Mills Fdn.  
Mr. Martin P Houser Fund of the Akron Community Foundation  
Knights of Columbus Council 14551

## IN-KIND SUPPORTERS

Akron Public Schools  
CTI Web Services.  
First Choice Bookkeeping Service  
Graffiti Print Shop  
N.E.O. Soccer Club Parma, Ohio  
The City of Akron Parks & Recreation  
The House of The Lord Church





# COACHES & SPECIAL RECOGNITION

## GAASA TEAMS

Kashmere Greer—In-House Teams

Wilmont Sowa—U9 Boys

Amina Sese—U9 Girls

Paul Okonkwo—U9 Boys

Rohan Burton—U10 Boys

Tunde Olabisi—U10 Boys

Chris Okoh—U11 Girls

Boridor Bodom—U11 Girls

Takenya Lindsey—U11 Girls

Emmanuel Sese—U13 Boys

Chidozie Martins 0 U15 Boys

Chris Falconer—U15 Girls

Ike Akpan—High School

Dele Olabisi—Head Coach

### **Board Members**

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Tanya Okolo

Joni Cooper

Clara Blackwell

Robert Hubbard

### **Webmaster**

David Fakoya

### **Editor**

Angelica Wilson

### **Newsletter Design**

Angelica Wilson



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**-Proverbs 22:6**

