



Soccer for Social Change . . . Leadership Beyond the Game

Winter 2012 Newsletter

GOAL! Starfinder's soccer, educational and personal development programs inspire young people from underserved communities to achieve success both on and off the field. Starfinder promotes youth leadership, a love of learning, the benefits of teamwork and the rewards of commitment and responsibility.

Thank you Corporate Partners!!



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First Shot by Steve Baumann, President

It's All About Jobs!

The ongoing focus on unemployment and job creation is topic number one in the national political debate. Here at Starfinder we also know first-hand the impact that a paying job has on our Senior Leader participants. For the past two summers, we have created paid internships for over 20 of our most committed participants. In previous newsletters we have included written reflections from the Senior Leader interns that highlight the meaningfulness of the work experience. For most, this is the first paycheck that they have ever received. We have seen in all of our interns how the tasks and requirements of the paid summer experience are instrumental in the development of new levels of awareness, accountability, and responsibility that comes with having a job.

We are ecstatic to announce a new partnership with **The Hill at Whitemarsh**, a continuing care retirement community located in Lafayette Hill. Through an introduction from Starfinder supporter Richard Lowe, conversations began last spring between **Judy McGruther**, CEO at The Hill, and me about how our two organizations might work together. Today, two Starfinder graduates, **Luc Toussaint** and **Mohammed Bah** (both at Delaware County Community College), and four Senior Leaders, **Mike Arthur** and siblings **Nury, Sammy, and Danny Ortiz** are working as part-time food service employees at The Hill. Each day brings many opportunities for learning and growth as these young people navigate the responsibilities of being part of the world of work.

We are hopeful that 3 or 4 additional Starfinder youth will join the food service ranks in the coming weeks. Looking to the future, Judy and I envision other work opportunities in facility maintenance, landscaping, and possibly health services. We are also very excited about the possibilities for intergenerational programming where Starfinder participants might share their expertise in computers and social media while residents at The Hill share their vast knowledge and experience with business, education, and numerous other exciting career paths. What a great collaboration to begin 2012!



Luc Toussaint, Sharon Javier (Dining Manager), Patrick Brooks (Dining Director), and Mohammed Bah

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Program News

Eat Right, Get Fit, Grow Strong!

Fitness and nutrition education is essential to the health and learning of children and adolescents. The fitness and nutrition behaviors of young people have a direct impact on their long-term social, emotional, psychological, and intellectual development. Research indicates that health education as part of an after school program enables young people to develop the knowledge and skills that they



need to avoid health risks and enhance both their health and their ongoing social and academic achievement.

Health and nutrition education has always been part of the Starfinder curriculum. We are pleased to announce that grants from the **Walmart Foundation** and **Janssen Biotech** will enable us to significantly enhance our **Eat Right, Get Fit, Grow Strong** health and nutrition program. Starfinder's Future and Junior Leader participants will be involved in hands-on classroom activities that introduce, develop, and extend knowledge and understanding about proper nutrition, healthy food choices, food science, food preparation, and the relationship between nutrition and health. A key element of this enhanced program is Starfinder's provision of a nutritious snack to each attendee at each session and the distribution of an environmentally appropriate water container for every participant. Through this program we will provide our participants with the knowledge and skills they need to not only enhance their personal health, but also the health of their families and communities.

As part of this grant Starfinder has purchased 3 treadmills, 2 elliptical trainers, and 2 recumbent bicycles that will be used to supplement our ongoing soccer cardio fitness activities. Additionally, these fitness machines will be available to the parents of our participants so that they can get in some exercise while they are here watching their children participate in the Starfinder program. What a great opportunity for the whole family to learn about the benefits of eating right, getting fit, and growing strong.

Junior and Senior Boys Showcase Their Soccer Skills

Starfinder's participants are no different than the thousands of soccer players throughout the country who have aspirations of playing college soccer. What is sometimes different is that many of our participants do not get the opportunity to play in front of college coaches. On Saturday, January 7, 2012, Starfinder held its first ever **College Showcase**. Thirty-eight Senior Leaders participated in a series of games to showcase their talents to over fifteen college coaches from the Philadelphia area. It proved to be an incredible experience for all who attended.

Rob Nydick, coach at Arcadia University, shared this comment.

"The Starfinder College Showcase was a very beneficial recruiting event for our program. The showcase provided us with an opportunity to identify many players who would be a great addition to our University and soccer program."

Starfinder participants were equally excited to get the opportunity to "showcase" their skills for the attending coaches. The team play was competitive and skillful with great spirit evident in every match. Here is what some Starfinder Senior Leaders had to say about the tournament.

*"It was an amazing time. It gave me a chance to actually show colleges what I have and what I have learned over the years of coming to Starfinder, which is how to play soccer and how to be part of a team. The day wasn't about winning or losing, it was about having fun." **Michael Arthur***

"The play was electric and competitive. It really brought out the best of me and my teammates. Having college coaches watching brought out the best in us. We played our best and put on a show for the coaches. It was an awesome experience and a lot of fun."

Sallen Woewiyu

"I enjoyed how it gave all of the participants more of an incentive to compete against each other. The day gave us an opportunity to showcase our skills for college coaches. Being able to play in front of coaches will give some of us opportunities with college that we may not have previously had."

Sammy Ortiz



Senior Leaders Spotlight: Rosy Henao

In a city with a high school graduation rate of only 58%, Rosy Henao's aspirations go far beyond that statistic. Hailing from Philadelphia's Olney section, where pathways to a positive future are ridden with drugs, crime and other deleterious behaviors, Rosy sets her sights on college. While waiting to receive college acceptance letters, Rosy is focusing her efforts on relieving the financial burden of college by applying for financial aid, grants and other scholarships. She expects to find out in March if her first choice, West Chester University, becomes a reality.



With classmates struggling to finish high school as young mothers and fathers, "education first" resonates as Rosy reflects on her involvement over the years with Starfinder. Working as a Starfinder Summer Intern in 2011 helped her realize the impact she can have on young kids. "I want to major in Business Management so I can create a soccer program (like Starfinder) for kids." Rosy never saw herself as a role model until she learned that playing games like Duck, Duck, Goose, giving high fives, and demonstrating her soccer ball skills brought smiles to young faces and created a connection with the aspiring soccer players in her neighborhood.

Rosy is blessed to have a great role model in her own home – her Mom! Each morning at 4:30, Rosy's Mom rises to do household chores and make preparations for breakfast, lunch, and dinner and then heads off to her full time job. Rosy marvels at her Mom's energy and dedication and is inspired by her parents whose devotion and love encourages her to do the best she can in all her endeavors.

Rosy enjoys Tyler Perry movies because the content is related to real life situations that are presented through a humorous story with a moral. Always the fashionista, Rosy draws confidence and strength from the maxim, "To be yourself is to be different." Starfinder is lucky and privileged to be Rosy's home away from home.

Gothia Cup 2012

"My experience in Sweden was amazing. This trip is going to be in my memories for a long time. This trip was unforgettable. I really wanted to stay there for at least a month. Thank you SKF and Starfinder."
Edwin 2011

Once again this summer, SKF USA Inc., whose North American headquarters is located in Lansdale, will sponsor a team from Starfinder to participate in the Gothia Cup, the world's largest youth soccer tournament. The team of seventeen U18 boys and 3 coaches will travel to Gothenburg, Sweden from July 14-22 for games against teams from around the world.

Last summer, a team of U16 Starfinder players had the experience of a lifetime as they competed against teams from England, Guatemala, Norway, and Sweden, met young people from Africa and Asia, and learned a lot about themselves as they enjoyed the culture and history of a foreign country. This summer's participants, none of whom participated in 2011, will be selected based on their program attendance, engagement with enrichment activities, behavior in all interactions, improvement and performance in soccer activities, and written responses to two essay questions.

SKF will also sponsor an indoor tournament in March for all Senior Leader boys and once the Gothia Cup team is chosen, a number of outdoor scrimmages will be scheduled in May and June to prepare for the tournament in Sweden. Many thanks once again to SKF USA Inc. for their belief in the Starfinder program and their commitment to provide such a special opportunity.



"Our trip to Sweden was one of the best experiences of my life. We interacted with many kids of our age from all over the world, and I learned that even though they're from other countries, they're not that different from us." **Matthew 2011**

Congratulations Senior Leaders

The participants in Starfinder's Senior Leaders program never fail to amaze us. We are amazed that they travel by car, bus and train (and often a combination!) twice a week to play soccer and participate in enrichment activities that foster individual growth in athletics and academics. We tend to focus a lot on their academic successes and stress the importance of a quality education, but we often overlook the importance of soccer to them and their successes within the sport.

We'd like to congratulate the following Senior Leaders who were selected to high school all-star and all-county teams.

Stanley Amah – All-DELCO 2nd Team
Preston Dennis – All-DELCO Honorable Mention
Keelby Espinola – Philadelphia All-Public League 1st Team

Justin Kamara – All-DELCO Honorable Mention
Mohamed Konneh – All Del-Val Honorable Mention, All-DELCO Honorable Mention
Chimanuka Kuderha – All-DELCO Honorable Mention
Kyle McHugh – Catholic League 3rd Team
Stewart Mena – All-DELCO Honorable Mention
Andrew Mitchell – Philadelphia Public League 2nd team
Nury Ortiz – All-DELCO 2nd Team
Sammy Ortiz – All-DELCO 2nd Team
Enoch Paye – All-DELCO Honorable Mention
David Seng – Philadelphia Public League 3rd Team
Nabieu Sesay – All Del-Val 1st Team; All-DELCO Honorable Mention
Sallen Woewiyu – All Del-Val 1st Team; All-DELCO Honorable Mention

Well done! We're proud of all of you!!

Welcome...

Starfinder Welcomes Ellen Freda, Chief Development Officer

Starfinder is pleased to announce that Ellen Freda has joined the Starfinder team as Chief Development Officer. Ellen grew up in the local Philadelphia area and graduated from Harriton High School. She has an undergraduate English degree from Penn and a master's degree in educational psychology from Temple. She began her development career at Schultz & Williams as part of a team that provided strategic development, management and marketing solutions to nonprofits.

Ellen spent seven years at The College of Physicians of Philadelphia in progressively more responsible positions including three years as

development director. She was most recently the executive director of Dress for Success Philadelphia. Ellen's experience, drive, and creativity will surely energize and accelerate all of Starfinder's fundraising efforts. Starfinder is very excited to have Ellen come on board as the latest member of the Starfinder team.

Lunchtime Soccer Continues!!

Join us for pick up soccer every Tuesday & Thursday, 12-1pm.
\$5 to play, free parking, showers, great exercise!

Info: Nick, 215-435-1383 or nick@starfinderfoundation.org

Thank you!!!

Annual Campaign Is a HUGE Success!

Once again we are blown away by the generosity of our community. So many of you stepped forward with a year-end gift to support our programs for kids. **We raised \$50,001 from 267 donors. Wow!**

We topped both our original goal (\$40,000) and our revised goal of (\$50,000). (Want to help us go even higher? See below to make a contribution!!)

Your donation directly benefits our kids, helping us to provide consistent, high quality programming year-round.

Special thanks to all our Team Captains who rallied their friends and communities on our behalf. You are truly heroes!

For more details and a list of donors, visit our Campaign page: <http://starfinderfoundation.org/support-sf/2011-annual-campaign.html>.

New Corporate Partners

Our community of corporate supporters is growing! As mentioned earlier in this newsletter, Starfinder received a generous grant from the **Walmart Foundation** to support its new Eat Right, Get Fit, Grow Strong nutrition and fitness program. This program is also being supported by a grant from the **Janssen Biotech, Inc.**, a Johnson & Johnson company.

We are also delighted to welcome **Dermody Properties** as our newest Corporate Partner! In addition, we want to give a big shout

Thank You Vanguard Volunteers

For the third year in a row we welcomed a group of energized volunteers from Vanguard in honor of **Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service**. Working alongside Starfinder's teens and staff, the group helped us spiff up our building, raked our huge turf field, and worked on sections of the mosaic mural (to be installed this spring!).

We are delighted to partner with Vanguard and look forward to welcoming them back again next year.

out to **Clif Bar**, which has been sending truck loads of healthy nutritious snacks to power our kids for several years.

Thank you to all our corporate supporters for providing the necessary resources to strengthen and grow our programs!!

Become a Corporate Partner! Support a great cause and receive positive public exposure through Starfinder's Corporate Partners Program! For more information, contact Steve Baumann, President & CEO, at 215-536-7631 or steve@starfinderfoundation.org.

Please Support Starfinder!

Like what you see? Please help us continue to provide quality soccer, educational, and personal development programs to underserved youth.

Make a secure donation online at: OR **Mail your gift to:**

www.starfinderfoundation.org

(Click the Donate button.)

Starfinder Foundation
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All donations are tax-deductable.

Thank you!!

