



STARFINDER FOUNDATION
Senior Leader Reflections
Summer 2012

Senior Leader #1

This summer has been very great for me because I got my first job with the Starfinder Foundation. I learned many different things like how to handle responsibilities when given one, how to be on time, good human relations, good communication skills, and the most important how to work with kids. Keeping kids under control was not as easy as I thought. We had to work with a lot of kids and learn how to keep them under control and active till the end of the day. I had a good time working with different kids from places that I have never been before.

This opportunity that was given to me by Starfinder helped give me the experience needed for college and when I enter the work force. I work with a lot of different people who I really didn't know much about and I got the chance to know them better and establish a relationship with each and every one of them. These experiences help me grow as person. This job helps me understand that I'm almost ready for the real world and still got a lot to learn.

One situation that made a lasting impression on me was when a girl that was playing with the guys and they kept telling her how she couldn't get the ball because she was too weak and she kept trying and trying and later proved them wrong. I would love to do this anytime again. It's been a great experience for me and thanks to Starfinder for giving me the opportunity to be a part of their summer program.

The coaches that help me with this job did a lot of good for me because when I was doing something wrong, they help me and show me the right way to do it. At the summer, I worked with kids that were almost the same age as me and other a little younger than I was. I think that made my job a lot easier because I could play games with them and work with them in a way they could understand. I had fun and would do it all over again when given the chance. And I'm looking forward to doing it again next year. All thanks to Coach Nettie, coach Nick, and coach Steve Jackson.

Senior Leader #2

This is my reflection/opinion while I was working at the summer program. I had a great time during the few weeks that I worked as a coach. It was a great experience to be working for the first time, because I never had a job before. Working as a summer coach and working with little kids is something that I always wanted to do, and on top of all that, getting paid for it, was a big privilege. I really thank the Starfinder Foundation for giving me this opportunity because it has earned me money in my pocket for a few of my college expenses.

As weeks went by working with the little kids at 2 different sites became a routine. It was something that I knew was in my schedule and if I wanted to do something else during my day, I have to work around it. As time went on it became more of a responsibility because I felt like I owed the kids something. They were a pleasure to have, and to teach. I have learned a few things about myself and about soccer. One thing I learned about myself is that "I will never know what I'm good at until I try it". I personally thought that it would be impossible for me to work with kids or teach them anything, but trying it out and signing up to be part of the summer program helped me out. Working with the kids wasn't the easiest task, but it was easier than I expected.

On the other hand I learned something new about soccer. I learned one easy way to take the ball from an opponent. Coach Nick told me that taking the ball from an opponent is as easy as stepping on the ball (literally). Working with other coaches such as Coach Ola, Coach Nabieu, and Coach Sallen etc. was fun. Specially the leadership of Coach Sallen was something I respected. He was one of the leaders between us coaches, he told us what to do, and how to handle some kids, because of his years of experience. His tactics and suggestions worked and were something that I will keep in my head because that might help me later on in life. We all had great partnership and got along pretty well, since we were all familiar with each other.

I wished the program didn't end so early, because I missed teaching and showing kids how to do certain things. Most of the kids wanted to learn new things, and some of them even looked up to me as a role model. In the beginning of the program most kids didn't want to follow the planned curriculum given to us by Starfinder, they just wanted to scrimmage for two hours. As weeks went by I managed to get the planned curriculum across and teaching them a few things by promising them that we will play soccer for at least an hour if they let me teach them a couple things for an hour. It was a long time promise that they all agreed with and for me it was a deal that worked to perfection. Camp was a success in my opinion because everyone seemed to be on track and focused.

Lastly happiness is something really important with kids. This is a quote I heard before. A teacher asked a kid what he wanted to be when he grows up, and he answered "I just want to be happy when I grow up", for a minute you would think he didn't understand the question, but this little kid actually understood the meaning of life. The kids have to be happy to be where they are. Keeping every single one of them involve in the games we were playing was a way to make them smile. For example during scrimmages passing them the ball and letting them score was something they enjoyed. Encouraging them to do better and complimenting them on the good things and on their effort was something important. Finally I would love to say thank you to Starfinder for everything they have done for me this entire year. Starfinder changed my life in many ways. This was my first and my last year at Starfinder because I'm a senior but I would love to come back to participate in some events, and to be part of the summer program next summer. THANK YOU AGAIN

Senior Leader #3

I love soccer so when I heard the summer program is about soccer, it motivated me to want to do it. Me being a coach in the summer program made me happy because I was able to teach upcoming soccer players discipline and the love for the sport. However as the week went by, the kids started having attitudes but that didn't make me to change my attitude towards the kids and as a coach that made me get them involved more in the game. Some participants taught me something new about myself. As one participant said, "I like you more than the other coaches." That said to me that I've must be doing well and I should continue doing what I'm doing teaching them to be a better people as time goes by.

Now that the summer program is over, I definitely miss joking with the kids and playing small sided games with them. All the kids had their moments when they don't want to do anything which is OK because they are kids and kids can be kids. Matter of fact I've heard one of my co-coach said exactly this, "I'm sick and tired of these kids they don't want to do anything." I said to him they are only kids if you want them to participate more just keep telling them you will give them water break if they participate. We did like I said and they were able to refocus and became involved more although they didn't do everything we wanted but they did part of the activities. We did their favorite games donkey tail and shark and minnows that got them involved more and turned out awesome because they were going hard and laughing.

When working as a group is good but sometimes it doesn't because some people in the group wouldn't want to do anything. Some coaches in the program don't want to do anything and that bothered me because they're getting paid as much as I get paid so why wouldn't they work and get their kids involve. The kids get involve when the coaches get involve. Some advantages of working with group are that they take where you left off when you're tired and get the work done. Even when some of the coaches were disappointments, some coaches really impressed me because they were able to laugh with the kids, talk to them from beginning to end of the day, and even some yelled at other coaches for not doing what they suppose to do and that impressed me.

I really don't have a specific time that I made a kid smile because everyday I made them smile and laugh and I felt good about it. I even remember when I was dancing for them and all of 'em were cracking up. Anytime when we're playing and they made a good pass or scored, I praised them and said good job keep it up and they would smile. There is this time when I was doing freestyle tricks with the ball and gather around me asking me to teach them some and I did even though they didn't get it, I still felt like I impact them because they want to do what I do. One of the older kid and her older sister kept talking to me when I was working and coach Nick said stop flirting with him he's working. I think this situation is funny and I would never forget.

Senior Leader #4

This year was an amazing year for me. I had the chance to work with Starfinder and teach kids younger than me how to play the game that I love. At the site where I worked with my other friends was fun, but sometimes kids don't listen. So I tried my best to keep control of them through soccer. Because of what Starfinder coaches taught us we were able to control these kids through soccer. We had to sometimes change up our games because the kids were tired or were unable to do it. This has changed me by showing me how it feels to be an adult.

This has been a great opportunity for me to make some money while playing my favorite sport and sharing my knowledge with kids who are younger than me. I tried to make the kids laugh as much as I can, but when it was time for drills I was serious. Even though it was a job and we were going to get paid for doing this, I probably would have done it for free because it was just so fun. I also think that it will prepare me for my job when I get older because I had to wake up early and get ready for my job.

While working with a friend like Erick I learned a lot because Erick did this before and he gave me pointers on what to do when something happens. It's not easy to keep the kids in control so now I know how Starfinder coaches feel when we don't listen or fool around. There was some kids that were at the program and reminded me of when I was little and I feel like if I had coaches like that when I was little I would of been so much better now than I am. From now on I am going to listen to all my coaches and learn something to be the best that I can be and that's what I learned from this camp.

Now that we are finished with the program I will miss seeing my friends from Starfinder and also some kids as well. There was one participant that impressed me, because he was small but he was really good and that made me wanna tell the kids that no matter what size you are because soccer is not about height. Every time he played he always won the player of the day because he wasn't selfish and greedy he tried to pass the ball but when he needed to keep the ball he did. I think he is going to be a good soccer player when he gets older. Basically this summer was that much better because I had a chance to help Starfinder with this awesome soccer program. It might be the best summer I have ever had.

Senior Leader #5

When camp first started, I was a bit nervous and confused. I had no idea what it would be like or the kind of kids I would be training. I must confess that I rely on my friends that had done the job before during the first week. Not having the experience didn't give me fright, but motivated me to build up my experience. I worked along with Sallen mostly. He motivated me and enlightened my spirit to continue working. I watched him mostly the first week and learned a lot.

The following weeks were amazing because we knew the kids and it felt like we had trained them for like a year. The day I decided to apply to be a coach for summer program, it was all about the money. But my mindset changed as we advanced into the middle stage of the camp. The kids seemed more like younger siblings to me. I realized that I had more patience than I imagined myself. During the time of work, some of the sites which I was stationed had more respectful kids and some caused me to almost lose my patience. At Multi-Cultural, the kids were good and they made us feel needed. They did what we said without questions although there were some that refused.

At all of my sites, the children were cooperative and we worked together well. But it was this one day that I was working in place of Matt at Germantown, which was a complete nightmare. The kids were very challenging. There was a kid that kept picking a fight on everyone and used offensive words. During the course of that, I became more encouraged instead of being discouraged. I noticed my maturity had improved to the extent that I could control my temper.

It was wonderful working along with my friends from Starfinder Foundation. They were cooperative which made it easier to accomplish our task. I thank Starfinder and its staff for giving us the opportunity to work and gain experience. I hope to work along with them again.

Senior Leader #6

Some of my summer work experiences at the summer program sites were successful in many ways. Being able to teach the children the value of how to play the game was a challenge, but being up for the challenge was a great experience. Getting to know the children by name was one of the most daring tests I had accomplished during my summer work hours. Once I started to get a feeling of how you know most of the kids names, then my job became a lot easier since they would get a feeling for who I was. When I did attendance every day, it seemed like there was a pair of twins and triplets. One particular group of children, triplets, took a liking to me and I felt I made a lasting impression on them. I spent a lot of time with them and with my great sense of humor; I made them laugh a lot. In addition to helping the children improve their soccer skills, I gave piggy back rides, showed them attention and made sure they had a good summer soccer experience.

I want to thank Starfinder's for giving me this work experience, because soccer is my passion and it is easy for me to explain something I know well. Working with underserved children is an experience that I will never forget. Travel to the work sites was sometimes a challenge especially on one particular Tuesday, when I was dropped off at 8th and Duncannon and then realized moments later that Nick gave us the week off. So I had no idea where I was, but knew if I got to Broad Street I would be okay. Looking up Somerville Street, I saw Einstein Hospital. There was relief. Once I had found myself at Broad Street line, I said to myself "wow that was an adventure."

Senior Leader #7

First off I would like to say that Starfinder's summer program was a great opportunity and experience being able to receive my first paycheck and learn many life-skills through the summer

program. I never really had a job before so most of it was pretty new and so was working with a group of young children.

I'd have to say that getting the kids to listen was probably the hardest part about the job. Everything else was pretty much downhill once I got them to listen since explaining the games was a lot easier. There was also many problems we had to sort through during the sessions with the kids. It was great to get to share the game of soccer with kids of all different skill levels, age, you name it. Something I learned out of all of this is to hope for the best and prepare for the worst. I had to be prepared for anything to happen, and if something good happened then that's great and continue to encourage it.

During this whole experience I had to learn how to take Septa throughout the whole city, instead of only having to take it back and forth from school. It was quite an experience getting around the whole city by myself. It was also great getting together every Monday to go over the previous week and discuss the upcoming week. I learned a multitude of fun soccer games that I can apply to other people. I want to thank Starfinder for providing me a job this summer. I really learned so much through Starfinder's summer program.

Senior Leader #8

Coaching for Starfinder is one of the many things I look forward to when summer approaches. I love working with kids even though it is a challenge sometimes. For me, that was something to look forward to as well as the fact that I will be able to make some impact (whether big or small) on a child. As the weeks went by, I learned a lot. Not just about the girls that I coached but also about myself. My group called themselves the "pink dragons" and they were also playing in a summer league.

As for myself, I have learned to always have a game plan with situations like these such as working with at least 15 girls at once. I learned to know exactly what I am working with and what I needed to do to reach my goal for the day and not just by following the curriculum but also while having good time management and simply having fun with the kids. I have also realized that I cannot always be the "nice coach". There's not enough time to let everyone play the game of their choice or do what they wanted.

Seeing as this was my second year working for the summer program and I found it easier to work with other coaches and the camp members themselves. It is always better working with another coach. However, working with older kids this year was somewhat of a challenge. They were not afraid to speak their mind. If they did not want to do something they would say so. Trying to get them to do something that they obviously did not want to do was I think the hardest part. I noticed that we, as the coaches had to set an example of what we wanted them to do and join in with the activity. We also made suggestions or asked them if they wanted to play a different game just to keep their attention.

My last day at the camp, I knew I had made an impact on some of the girls. I asked them if they would miss me and if they enjoyed their summer with Starfinder. They all said yes and asked if I was returning next year. To me, that is a huge impact I think I have made on them. Sadly, I could not promise them that I would be returning. They, in turn have impacted upon on me. Just seeing them smile and laugh and to know that they do actually enjoy coming every Tuesdays and Thursdays afternoon in ninety degree weather just to run around in the hot sun made me feel like I made them enthusiastic to play soccer. I think that that's the main goal of a coach. I hope I have more opportunities to work for Starfinder and that I can make another child smile.

Senior Leader #9

Working with kids has always been my dream. So I was happy when Starfinder gave me the opportunity to work with them again. Last year was a bit crazy for me so I looked forward to a better

year this year. I had made some mistakes last year and I looked to learn from it this year. I had a different site this year so I was scared that the kids would not accept me. So as the day approached for me to go to work, I had goosebumps. But I hoped this year would be better than last year and it was.

I was also scared because this was a different site from last year so I was surprised that the kids loved me. My first week was awesome and I looked forward to the following weeks. I think the reason why I did better this year was because I knew the lesson plan and I was better prepared. I attribute this to the training sessions we had on Mondays. Those sessions were better this year. We had to go through the games and face our problems head on. The other thing that I loved about the program this year was the help I had. We had more people so that made it easier to coach since I had less kids to worry about. The new people also were very friendly and fun to be around. They seemed like family even though we were at work. Responsibilities were shared and no one hardly complained.

There were not many bad kids this year. The few that were disruptive, I took care of them. This is mostly due to the coaching training we had last year and the year before that because it helped me deal with issues that arose. And also the nutrition class that we had this year, I enjoyed it because it taught me something new. Though we didn't discuss much during these times, the kids also loved it which is a surprise because of what happened last year, in which the kids did not want any part in the nutrition class. I believe the main reason for that was because it was shorter than the ones last year.

There are not many improvements I would ask for next year because this year seemed very good. I would just advise that we have more of the nutrition since the kids enjoyed it and also that us the coaches should have a say in the games. I think I would like it if I made my own games. But all in all I thank Starfinder for the job this year because it gave me a sense of achievement and responsibility. I felt like an adult and I'm looking forward to having this opportunity next year.(that is if they allow me to come back from college to work with them) :-)

Senior Leader # 10

Starfinder's summer job was very fun. I had a good experience. It made me happy every time I came to work. The kids were full of energy and they really liked me. Working at Multicultural was also a good experience because I live in Upper Darby and it was close to home. This was a good opportunity. To talk to the kids I know some of the kids were my girlfriend's little brothers. Some of them are kids that look up to me. Me coaching them was a good thing for them and for me too because I got to teach them how to be a good soccer player, and knowing the rules in soccer and what the game is all about. My girlfriend's little brothers still tell me how they miss us.

This is how I know the kids liked me. One day I was walking around in Upper Darby and one of the kids from the program walk up to me with his dad to tell me thanks for coaching at Multicultural. And that his son had lots of fun with us coaching there.

Working with my friends was also good. They kept me in company and were very nice. Working at Cooke was very scary because the 'hood was full of many bad people. Even a kid was shot. One improvement would be to have it at a better site next time.

I feel like I did not know how to teach the kids because I always never understood the stuff we taught. If I do not understand the stuff we would always tell the kids to juggle the ball or pass the ball around. I did not do much to help out the people I worked with and I want to change that.

Starfinder was fun and I want to do it again with my friends. My experience of working with Starfinder was fun and because I was making a difference my helping as a coach. Working with the kids help me understand that when someone is teaching me something I have to pay attention and learn what they are trying to teach me.

Senior Leader #11

I was bored this summer and I wanted to make money. I hit up my friends and they told me Starfinder was giving them a job. First, I was like surprised because I didn't know about it. But when I went to Starfinder and they told me the job was to coach kids. I don't really like kids because they are disrespectful but I was happy because I thought I would be working at Beverly Hills. But I became sad when I had to work at Germantown.

When I started work at Germantown, I thought it would be bad but it was worse. The kids did not listen and they were disrespectful. They always talked when the coaches talked and they did not listen. It was not that bad because Natasha and Mike helped me out. After a while, I got use to the kids but I wish they were not that bad.

Working in the summer program made me realize that I have no patience at all especially for kids. They get on my nerves and made me almost quit. The main reason I stayed was for the money and also to prove myself wrong. I actually liked some of the kids. Those who actually listened. They made me not want to have kids.

I wish next year they should teach us how to deal with bad kids because that will have helped me. And also I would ask for a pay raise because I feel like we do too much. One positive thing is that the games were fun. The kids sometimes liked it but not always. I want to work again next year because I think when I keep working, I will get better at it. It was a hard job to deal with bad kids but I really liked it.

Senior Leader #12

Working in the summer as a summer program coach and coaching young kids has impacted me in many ways. It has taught me many things and left many memories that I will always remember. It impacted me by giving me insights on the minds of younger kids and a better understanding of their needs. They would always play out of bounds until I told them several times to stay in the grid. One of the kids would always complain and I had to get him active and involved in the exercises just like everyone else was doing it. I felt more motivated to keep coaching the kids as I got to know them better and they got to know me as well.

At one point one of the kids taught me something that I won't forget. They said "Coach Erick, this is my cousin" and those two cousins played around together and cooperated with each other a lot. This taught me that it doesn't matter how old you are, kids know the value of family and they care for each other a lot as family members. Not all cousins, brothers, sisters, etc. act like they hate each other and mess with each other.

I miss being challenged by those kids to figure out different ways to get them involved and having fun at the same time. Every practice was different and had its own obstacles that I had to hurdle. One of the things I miss the most is seeing them smiling and having fun. It let me know that they were happy. Sometimes I would have to switch up what we as coaches had planned to do because they weren't having fun or happy doing the exercises they were told to do. I would change up the games a bit so they could enjoy them more and if that didn't work then I would ask them what they wanted to do and then jump into one of those exercises/games so they could be happy and having fun. This usually worked since they cooperated better. Just like they impacted me, I felt like I impacted them too because sometimes I would do something and then some of the kids would do the same thing and learn certain things just by watching me. It was all about being a good role model to the kids.

Senior Leader #13

When I first heard about this job, I thought it would be a perfect opportunity for me to at least make something out of a lack luster summer. I had no idea what I was getting into or how to do the job. I just thought it was easy money, but the experience I got from the program is priceless. I never thought I would learn so much. I learned a lot about being a leader and leadership qualities. The job really gave me the knowledge I needed to be a leader going into my senior soccer season.

I didn't really care about the job at first, but when I arrived at the camp, my perspective changed. I felt that I had an opportunity to learn from my colleagues and the kids. I've never coached before and I finally understood how coaches feel. I've been a player for many years but never a coach, so I now knew why coaches react the way they do to the things we do. People, no matter how old do the same things but in different ways and at different levels. I could see myself and remember that I used to do the same things the kids do and my coach would get mad the way I got mad but I would never understand why.

This job helped me understand. The job also helped my people skills. I learn how to react to kids that were upset, getting frustrated, or getting out of hand. I had so much fun working with other coaches to find ways to get the kids enjoy the activities. Personally, I loved the site I worked at and the kids. I had the easiest site and everything went smooth almost every week. I had fun working with friends, at one point I didn't mind waking up early morning and taking three trains to get to the worksite as long as I was coaching the type of kids I work with and doing it with my friends by my side. I can't wait till next year to do it again.

Senior Leader #14

I have truly enjoyed working with the Starfinder Foundation Summer Program for the second year in a row. I feel that it was a tremendous success in accomplishing its purpose this summer; teaching others about not only how to play soccer but about being a leader on and off the field and about nutrition. This was accomplished by the little classroom activities we had after the sessions with the kids. For example, the surveys that were given about healthy snacks and drinks along with the fruit snacks that were given after sessions were a nice way of enforcing it a little.

What kept me motivated to continue participating in this program for the second year was that I felt I could make a difference in a child's life. Nowadays, being involved in a sport is a great way to not only keep children active and healthy, but it allows them to build the skill required to excel as they get older. I believe that the younger the child is the better it is to teach them how to play; that is why I wanted to be involved in this summer program, I could give another child the opportunity that I didn't have to start early and learn about what they need to be a successful athlete for the future.

However, there were some difficulties in taking part in this program. When I worked with the older kids at Germantown, it was a bit more of a struggle to keep them focused on what activities were taking place because there was a group of kids that were stationed right next to our field that weren't playing and weren't part of the program. This caused the kids that I worked with to not want to take part in an activity that was going on that they didn't necessarily like or want to play since they saw the other kids doing whatever they wanted. As a result, one minute they would want to play, then after a minute or two they would change their mind and not want to play because their team was losing or they just didn't find it interesting anymore.

I think it was best that some coaches got to work together in the same group because it allowed the children to learn different things from all of us. For example, I could try and teach the kids about how to juggle the ball, but for me that wasn't a strong skill I maintained pretty well so they were able to learn from another coach I worked with, who was better at juggling than I was. They were able to gain

knowledge of different tricks and skills from all of us and be taught in different ways due to a certain coach's style and move. If there was just one coach for a group, those children would only obtain the knowledge of what that one person has to offer. If I only knew how to do good passing, that's all the kids would pick up on. So my point being that the kids would learn more from a few coaches, as opposed to just being restricted to one.

I will definitely miss being a part of this summer program because unfortunately I won't be able to look forward to doing this yet again next summer. I will certainly miss being a part of Starfinder altogether because you guys are just awesome! Thank you for everything you have taught me and for the many opportunities you guys have given me, this being one of them!

Senior Leader #15

I really enjoyed myself this summer and feel as I gained a lot of experience in working with children and coaching. Just like last summer I was motivated and eager to teach young children soccer. I feel that soccer was the main reason why I chose to apply. But as I continued working I became more enthusiastic because my coworkers were very nice and the kids were always excited to see each of us. I was able to work with the young kids and times it was hard for them to understand certain instructions. I learned to be patient and repeat them more than once and consistently asking them questions.

During this summer job I faced many challenges, like coming on time, I believe Coach Nick noticed that a lot. The hardest challenge I faced individually was pleasing kids when they disagreed or argued. At first I would manage to make one happy as the other stayed upset, later I just had them talk it out, in which they eventually reconcile. The coaches and I would usually face many problems with the kids not liking the curriculum or planned activities. At times we improvised and choosing activities they rather play but usually the coaches and I would join in the activity, changing their mind about the game. What helped me perform my job better was that the coaches that I work with, especially Sallen. He was very helpful and always knew what to do in difficult situations.

Overall I had fun working and really liked it. It was a great experience for me and I learned so much from it. It was very exciting working with children because they were always so excited. I think what I miss most is seeing them smile each time they accomplished something that was difficult for them, whether it was a pass, a goal, a dribble. It made me feel good and made me smile as well. I enjoyed myself and thank the other coaches for sharing this adventure with me and I thank Starfinder for the opportunity they have given me.

Senior Leader #16

Working as a coach of young children for my third year was an all around great experience for me. Much like years past, I found being able to work with the same kids over a six week span to be both enjoyable and challenging.

Going into camp this year with two years of experience under my belt gave me the feeling that I was a veteran compared to the various first year workers. This created, in a way, a sense of responsibility to help these new workers learn the ropes of how coaching young kids worked. In the beginning, working with these other coaches created some challenges, as the work load was not always distributed evenly. However as the weeks progressed this changed as coaches became more comfortable with their responsibilities. Having two other workers by your side makes working with a group of children a lot easier.

The main challenge that I encountered this year was the behavior of the children. Compared to years past, the younger group of children was especially wild and uninterested. This presented a

challenge for me and my fellow coaches to create ways to control and entertain these children. If some drills were too advanced, and the participants were complaining, we would always resort to blob tag or red light/green light to boost their enthusiasm. Seeing the participants enjoying themselves gave me a sense of satisfaction, but the best feeling came about from someone being excited about performing a skill I had successfully taught them.

In the end, working for Starfinder this summer was a very enjoyable experience. Being able to teach the game I love to very young kids makes it feel as if I am not even working.

Senior Leader #17

Thanks to Starfinder for giving me a job over the summer. I really wanted the job because I get to be with my brother and friends doing the thing I love to do and helping little kids in my neighborhood to get better and help them stay out of trouble. This summer has been fun and it has changed me in many ways. Working with all my friends and new people from the Starfinder Foundation taught me that you have to learn to appreciate what you have in life.

I learned this lesson when I seen Sammy riding his scooter to work. I am so use to my work schedule and routines in which I use to get to and from work that I would miss them. I would miss especially the bus ride to and from Starfinder every Monday. We have a lot of fun on the 65 with all my friends. I remember one day on the bus when we was making fun of the Sweden this year because they were showing the video of all they did in Sweden and in one of the video it showed someone dancing with one of the girls in Sweden.

One thing that I remember that I think was funny and sad at the same time was when I ask the kid to come up with a team name but he could not think of one so he started crying. I did not know what to say or do when I seen the kid crying, lucky for us his mom was at the field. She came and took him from the field and we got on with the game. If his mom was not there I don't think that I would have made the right decision.

Something that happen while coaching at Multicultural that made me want to come back and coach there next year was when the little kids pick me to be on their team over my brother. I had a fun time working with Sam. He made it easier to coach the kid because most of them speak Spanish and he also speak Spanish. If he would not have work with me on the little kid, I would not have any way to communicate with the Spanish speaking kids.

Senior Leader #18

Every summer for the past three years I have been given the opportunity to work at Starfinder's summer program. Working at the camps has usually been the highlight of my summer, mostly because I have the opportunity to help kids enjoy the same camp I enjoyed when I was their age. This year my experience with the camp was a little more different then it has been years ago. I believe this is because I've been so busy the past year working and trying to get my life together that I found the program to be an escape from everything. This "peaceful place " that I felt once used to be me enwrapped in the game of soccer but since I have let myself pull away from the Love I have for the game I was reminded of how much I miss playing.

My motivation to work the camps was that it didn't really feel like a job. I would go to "work" because it was fun and the coaches; Nettie, Nick and Steve were always so nice and they actually cared about us not just as employees but as people. As a server and a McDonald's employee I know that some managers really don't care. All they care about is be on time, clock in, do your work, and clock out. It's

nice to actually be motivated to go to work by something else besides a pay check. I personally was motivated by the coaches, soccer and how much I enjoyed working at the camps.

This summer I was only able to work at the Helping Hands program. Working with the Helping Hands kids was a very different experience. I was accustomed to working at the Feltonville site, the kids already knew the fundamentals, knew how to kick and pass the ball and pretty much I could explain any game to them and they would hop to it with no issue. At the Helping Hands program it was a whole other story.

Some of the girls had no interest in playing soccer they wanted to sit under the tree and talk. Most of the boys wanted to play but got frustrated when they couldn't win and when others cheated. Also at this program the kids seemed to think that the only way to solve a problem or to deal with a cheater was to hit. Little by little the girls became interested in playing; the boys became better with the ball and also included the girls in the game and when someone had an issue they would come to the coaches and we would try and talk it out and if that didn't work they would sit out to cool down.

Working at Starfinder made my summer complete. I made new friends, and realized that I'm never too busy for soccer.