



## Soccer for Social Change . . . Leadership Beyond the Game

### May 2011 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.*

#### HELP US WIN \$2,500!

A few minutes of your time will win Starfinder a \$2,500 Responsible Sports Community Grant. Details at [www.starfinderfoundation.org](http://www.starfinderfoundation.org).

**Your participation is crucial!!!!**  
(Deadline to help: May 31st)

#### 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](mailto:nick@starfinderfoundation.org)

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### First Shot by Steve Baumann, President

#### SKF USA Inc. Sponsors Starfinder Team at 2011 Gothia Cup in Sweden

On Saturday, April 2nd, eight teams of our Senior Leader boys battled heroically to be hailed as the inaugural winners of the SKF USA Meet the World Tournament. Cheered on by over 125 energetic spectators, Tottenham Hotspur outlasted all opponents and was crowned champions after a day of pure magic for all. Following the awards presentation, Poul Jeppesen, president and CEO of SKF USA, made the surprise announcement that SKF USA would be paying all expenses to send a Starfinder team to the 2011 Gothia Cup in Gothenburg, Sweden.

The U16 team of 17 players has been selected and preparations are moving ahead for a July 16th departure. Participants were selected based on their program attendance, engagement, behavior, performance and written responses to two essay questions. The following excerpts from the boys' essays illustrate the thoughtfulness of their responses and the impact that we strive for in our soccer, educational, and personal development programming.



#### Q #1: What experience at Starfinder has taught you something besides soccer?

...The film project taught me that there is kindness in all people, and not to judge by the way they are dressed. Getting to know a person is the only way you can truly have an opinion on them....

...Julio taught me so much about how to maintain an athletic attitude and how to respect my body and its limits.... that we all have the ability to succeed and we all can if we are not sidetracked by health and lifestyle choices....

... Starfinder made us bring our report cards every marking period to make sure that we are doing well in school.... Since they started doing that I stopped goofing around and actually did my work. This has helped me become a better person and student....

#### Q #2: What will you learn by going on this trip and how it will impact your aspirations?

...All of the countries I have traveled to I have gone there to escape war.... Going to Sweden... would be the first time I would go to a country to play soccer and to enjoy being there not to escape a war or a dangerous place...

...Now that I have experienced the diversity of my own country..., I would like to see for myself diversity in a foreign world setting...

...This trip could have an impact on me by opening up my thinking. My goal is to become a lawyer; lawyers need to be broad thinkers and also to be bold and confident to speak anywhere...

Read more excerpts online: go to [www.starfinderfoundation.org](http://www.starfinderfoundation.org) and click the First Shot news article.

#### Also in this issue:

##### Program News:

- Senior Leaders (Grades 9-12): Class of 2011 & Staying Active...Off the Pitch
- Future and Junior Leaders (Grades 1-8): summer Programs, Germantown Soccer Club, & School Programming

- Mosaic Mural is Magic!
- Soccer Girls Rule

##### Thank you!!!! and Welcome!:

- New Corporate Partners Program
- Recent Grants
- Welcome New Staff

# Program News

## Senior Leaders (Grades 9-12)

### Class of 2012!!

On Friday, June 10 at 5:30 PM, Starfinder will celebrate the high school graduation of 20 of its Senior Leaders. Shire, one of the world's leading specialty biopharmaceutical companies, is proud to be the sponsor of this event that recognizes the commitment, perseverance, and achievement of these young people both in school and as part of the Starfinder program. Many of our graduates have been part of Starfinder for multiple years, and their participation has been instrumental in creating the engaging, inspiring, and motivating environment that is the foundation for the Starfinder experience. Congratulations to these amazing and talented future leaders!



We are ecstatic to report the next stop on our graduates' educational journey: **Mustapha Alpha, Hamed Badini**, Community College of Philadelphia; **Mohammed Bah, Benson Bangura**, Delaware County Community College; **Mamie Dukaray**, Penn State Brandywine; **Eric Fallah, Widener**; **Yohanna Ghede, Al Reid**, LaSalle University; **Ibrahim Kamara**, Penn State State College; **Sekou Konneh**, Penn State Berks; **Ibrahim Nasser, Melanie Sachs, Rory Pitter**, Temple University; **Luc-Annaud Toussaint, Emmanuel Weiah**, Neumann University; **Christophe Dourfour**, St. Joseph's University; **Sumo Yarkpawolo**, Cabrini College.

We look forward to keeping in touch with these graduates as they continue with their education. We are equally happy to report that 24 of 27 Starfinder 2008, 2009, and 2010 graduates are currently enrolled in post-secondary education and doing well.

### Staying Active... Off the Pitch

As our high school seniors feel the excitement of finding out where their educational journey will lead them next, other Senior Leaders are busy in the classroom and the computer lab. Since January, our sophomores and juniors have been preparing for the SATs. Alternating between math problem sets, vocabulary, grammar, and the subtleties of constructing a topic sentence supported by coherent thoughts, participants have gained new knowledge and strategies for all sections of the dreaded test. Our students have been diligent learners and are hopeful that this added study will enhance their performance.

This winter a group of sophomore Senior Leaders sought to learn more about the issues and consequences of teen pregnancy. Working with mentors from the University Community Collaborative of Philadelphia (UCCP) at Temple University, they explored many sides of this complex issue. After researching and thoroughly discussing the topic, they wrote a script and created a skit to teach others what they had learned. Our kids met up with the Youth Action Scholars, another

high school group associated with UCCP, who had been exploring inequality in public education. Each group made presentations and then they discussed both topics. The participants found the project to be very meaningful and a fun way to learn.



UCCP is also partnering with Starfinder to help prepare 30 Senior Leaders for paid internships in our summer program. UCCP's training workshops enhance the teens' skills in organization, facilitation, leadership, collaboration, and project development and management. A new mentorship component the year supports the teens to develop their own lessons for the summer curriculum. Additional training includes a two-day coaching course facilitated by Eastern Pennsylvania Youth Soccer Association and training by Starfinder staff in how to teach our enrichment curriculum, student behavior management, and program operation. Thanks to all this preparation, this year's summer program is bound to be the best yet!

## Future and Junior Leaders (Grades 1-8)

### Summer Programs Get Underway June 27th

Starfinder will run summer programs for children ages 6-12 at four sites in the Philadelphia area. All programs begin the week of June 27, 2011 and run through the week ending August 12, 2011. Please note: there will be no programs the week of July 18-22. Each site will operate twice a week from 6 to 8 PM. The days at each site are as follows:

**Girard College** - Mondays and Wednesdays

**Edison High School** - Mondays and Wednesdays

**Beverly Hills Middle School** - Tuesdays and Thursdays

**In Partnership with Germantown Soccer Club** - Tuesdays and Thursdays (site to be determined)

The twice-weekly sessions will include soccer skills training, game competition, teambuilding, and nutrition activities. Each participant will get an opportunity to take a leadership role as a "captain" in one of the many team play situations. The summer program sites were selected to serve the communities where Starfinder has existing relationships with soccer clubs, schools, and winter participants. Thus more students have the opportunity to participate year-round.

A unique feature of the summer program is the participation of our Senior Leaders as paid interns. At each program site 6-8 Senior Leader interns will play a large role in implementing and managing the summer activities. The interns will not only grow and learn from this experience, but also serve as important role models for the participants.



## Partnership Grows with Germantown Soccer Club

Among our participants back in the 2009-10 winter season were 10 bright-eyed Future Leaders brought to Starfinder by Nigerian native and soccer enthusiast, Yomi Awodesu. Yomi and his eager young charges lived in close by Germantown, and as the season went on more and more participants from Germantown joined Yomi's group. With neighborhood soccer interest growing, Yomi began conversations with other interested parents in the community about the possibility of organizing a more formal soccer association.

In the summer of 2010, seeing an opportunity to nurture a more community-based soccer activity, Starfinder collaborated with Yomi and his neighbors to deliver a weekly program in the E. Mt. Airy/ Germantown section of Philadelphia. For six weeks, 75-100 mostly young soccer newbies enjoyed soccer skills training, small-sided games, team building exercises, and health and nutrition activities. Supported by parent volunteers and our own Senior Leaders, the summer program was a huge success.

By fall the Germantown Soccer Club (GSC) was officially formed and began an intramural league and travel team for these emerging soccer talents. After a successful fall season, 30-35 GSC players made Starfinder their home every Monday and Thursday evening throughout the 2010-11 winter season. This spring, with local field space at a premium and interest continuing to grow, Starfinder is now regularly hosting 65-80 GSC participants.

In a little over one year, what started as a small group of 10 players has grown to a substantial and enthusiastic group. Congratulations to Yomi and all those supporters who have worked diligently to provide this great experience for the kids.



Starfinder cherishes this kind of collaboration and believes that helping inner city soccer clubs build the capacity for sustainability and growth is instrumental to achieving our mission.

## School Programming

Starfinder just wrapped up a ten-week session at Laura Carnell Elementary School in North Philadelphia called SPELLS: Soccer Propels English Language Learners. In order to participate in the twice-weekly program, ELL students had to spend an additional 60 minutes working on skills specifically focused to improve PSSA scores. Soccer is a significant draw for these students, since for most it is the national sport of their country of origin. During our two-year partnership, the ELLs in the program have achieved Annual Yearly Progress and over 96% of the ELLs have demonstrated growth on the ACCESS for ELL exam, outperforming their peers who did not participate in the program. We seek to grow this program to a larger cohort of schools in PSD.

An eight-week program is now in progress at Dunbar Elementary, Clemente Middle School, and Ethel Allen Elementary, all of which are Promise Academies in the Philadelphia School District. This program is part of the Middle School Intramural Sports Initiative. During this twice-weekly after school program, one session each week is devoted



to soccer skill training and team building activities and the other to small-sided scrimmage games with leadership opportunities for each participant. Depending upon school district budget decisions, this pilot will be extended to additional schools

in the fall. Meanwhile, Starfinder continues to partner with the Philadelphia Union to provide after school programming in the Chester School District. This spring Stetser Elementary is the site of the activities. We encourage our Philadelphia area participants to take the next step and join our summer programming in their neighborhood and our winter programming in Manayunk.

## Mosaic Mural is Magical!!!

Starfinder's unique soccer and art project is making great progress. Facilitated by noted mosaic artist and educator, Baily Cypress, every participant in our winter program connected with their inner artist through participation in this project.



Whether creating designs for World Cup soccer team crests, cutting and affixing tile pieces, grouting or polishing, everyone has made a contribution to the mural's creation. There is still much work to complete, but after a winter of imagining what the mural would look like, the Senior Leaders took a moment to get a preview. They headed outside and placed several completed panels on the wall where they will be permanently installed. Pictured here is part of Starfinder's tagline, "Leadership Beyond the Game." When "Soccer for Social Change" is added along with the multiple soccer team crests we will have both a work of art and an important message to share with Manayunk, Philadelphia, and the world. Expected completion date is at the end of the summer.





## Soccer Girls Rule

On Sat., March 12th, our facility was buzzing when two Soccer Girls Rule (SGR) teams took to the pitch to compete against girls from the Anderson Monarch and Fairmount Soccer Clubs. The games were played under FIFA Fair Play rules so scores were not tallied. Prior to the matches, representatives from each team decided the rules for the matches together. After the games, the teams awarded each other points for sportsmanship, honesty, and fair play. Cheers and raucous applause from the dozens of parents and fans greeted the girls as the tournament ended.

On May 7th, SGR traveled to Northeast High School to watch the Liberty Belles, Philadelphia's women's football team, take on the Keystone Assault. The girls participated in the pre-game coin toss and played soccer at half-time.

On May 24th, our SGR and Senior Leader girls will join girls from the Germantown and Feltonville Soccer Clubs for a soccer clinic sponsored by Women's Professional Soccer



(WPS). Hosted by Starfinder, the clinic will include professional players from the Philadelphia Independence.

The summer program starts June 27th. Twice a week the SGR girls will work on teambuilding, health, nutrition, and leadership activities facilitated by Starfinder coaches and Senior Leader girls. After a successful first year, the SGR girls are looking forward to an active summer and year two of the program beginning in late August.



## Thank you!!! ... and Welcome!

### New Corporate Partners Program

**Would your company like to support a great cause and receive positive public exposure?** Starfinder's new Corporate Partners Program provides the perfect opportunity. Our corporate partners enjoy such benefits as public recognition on our website, in our facility, and through other media; and opportunities to meet our program participants. For more information, please contact Steve Baumann at 215-536-7631.

**Thank you to our Inaugural Corporate Partners:** Brandywine Realty Trust, Cozen O'Connor, Glenmede, KPMG, Pepper Hamilton LLP, Shire, SKF USA Inc., Thomson Reuters, and Wells Fargo.

### Recent Grants

Starfinder is pleased to announce recent grants from **The Patricia Kind Family Foundation**, the **Samuel S. Fels Fund**, **The Northwest Fund**, **The Genuardi Family Foundation**, and the **Doc Cousounis Fund** of The Philadelphia Foundation. **THANK YOU!!** (Visit our website for more details.)

### Welcome New Staff

Please join us in welcoming several new members to our team:

**Lindsey Carstens** is no newcomer to Starfinder. In fact she's been a committed member of the coaching team for a year and a half. What's new is her role as Senior Leaders Girls Program Coordinator. In this part time position, Lindsey is helping to strengthen and expand our soccer and education program for teen girls. Lindsey is also pursuing a degree in Physical Therapy at the University of the Sciences.

**Amy Rymer** is also already well-known to Starfinder. She is the "AR" in AR Creative, the media company behind our wonderful videos (which can be accessed on our homepage). Amy has also taught the Media Literacy and Technology class for our Senior Leaders for the past two years. Amy has added a new hat: Administrative Assistant. She has ably taken over the reins from Amy Baumann, who is expecting twins any day!!....

**Summer Interns** – And finally, for the third year in a row, we are thrilled to welcome interns from Schreyer Honors College at Penn State University. Alexandra Haeusser, Raymond Chappetta, and Angelo Cerimele will spend eight weeks with us, helping with programs, data collection, and evaluation.

## Please Support Starfinder!

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

...our SGR girls will enjoy another great educational outing!

...our kids will have a great summer experience!

...our teens will have meaningful work this summer!

...we will be able to finish and install the mosaic mural!

...our kids will shine as they aspire to success in school and beyond!

**Make a secure donation online at:**

[www.starfinderfoundation.org](http://www.starfinderfoundation.org)

(Click the Donate button.)

OR

**Mail your gift to:**

Starfinder Foundation  
4015 Main Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19127

All donations are tax-deductable.

**Thank you!!**

