

SOUTH BRONX UNITED SOCCER CLUB

**Annual Report
2009-2010**



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Letter from the Executive Director

Less than two years ago, South Bronx United was founded to enrich the lives of at-risk youth through soccer. Since January 2009, South Bronx United has grown from just one soccer team of 16 boys to an organization serving over 300 boys and girls between ages 4 and 19 through our recreational, travel, and developmental soccer programs. While emphasizing important life values through these programs, we have also built off the field activities to address the importance of educational achievement, healthy lifestyles, and character development.

The South Bronx Community has long been considered one of the poorest districts in the entire nation. Students consistently perform among the lowest in the state on English and math assessments, and academic performance only declines with age. Barely half of South Bronx high school students graduate and far fewer attend college. Furthermore, according to a recent report by the Food Action Research Center, South Bronx simultaneously has the highest hunger and obesity rates in the country. To address these inequities, we use soccer for social change.

In the 2009-2010 seasons, our travel teams garnered various trophies on the field and had opportunities to travel to every borough and Long Island, while many of their peers rarely had the chance to leave the neighborhood. Our first college showcase tournament gave needed exposure to our oldest group and resulted in a scholarship offer and recruitment opportunities. To promote player development, we partnered with the New York Red Bulls as an Urban Soccer Training Partner, held clinics with Monroe College and Columbia University, and even partnered with AT&T to bring out Mexican National Team legend Claudio Suarez for a training session.

This spring, we started our long-awaited Recreational Program and immediately registered over 250 children and families to play every Saturday at Macomb Dam's Field across from Yankee Stadium. We then formed a partnership with Peter Rabbit Organics to provide organic fruit snacks to every child. Now all children have the opportunity to play soccer in a safe space and a healthy, structured environment.

South Bronx United's programs are offered at a minimal cost. Families contribute sixty dollars per year and no one is turned away for financial reasons, whereas participation in other large soccer clubs throughout New York City can cost players and families at least \$2,000 per year.

Off the field, our highlights included hosting a college planning night, where students worked with college counselors and met college coaches. We arranged tutoring and summer internships for students in need. We sent two of our most deserving leaders to the 2010 National Youth Leadership Institute this summer. And for the second consecutive year, we were recognized as one of thirty-nine beneficiaries awarded a grant from US Youth Soccer.

Moving forward, we plan to expand our programs in education, health and wellness, and character development with the hope that every South Bronx youth can receive the same opportunities as their peers elsewhere. Soccer can be the key to realize this dream.



Andrew So
Executive Director
South Bronx United



South Bronx United Guiding Principles

1. Unite a diverse group of youth and a diverse community towards common positive goals.
2. Address issues of childhood health and obesity.
3. Draw at-risk adolescents away from gangs and violence towards activities that foster positive leadership and character.
4. Emphasize the importance of education in a community with the lowest academic achievement of any district in New York State.
5. Assist high school students in getting into college.
6. Develop quality soccer players who demonstrate good technique, tactical awareness, and teamwork.

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SBU MISSION

South Bronx United Soccer Club uses soccer as a vehicle for social change. South Bronx United aims to help youth build character, teamwork, and leadership skills so that they can achieve success in high school, college, their careers and communities, and beyond. South Bronx United strives to promote educational achievement, health and wellness, and character development through activities on and off the soccer field and to unite a diverse group of individuals from an incredibly diverse community toward common positive goals.

"SBU is a responsibility because we feel we have an obligation to our teammates and the club when we step on the field. SBU has become like family to us as we spend a lot of time outside of practice and games and we also share opinions and ideas about different things besides soccer. It has given us an opportunity to play competitive soccer, make friends and contribute a positive image of the Bronx to other people."

Brothers Erick Hungria, 16, and Andy Hungria, 11

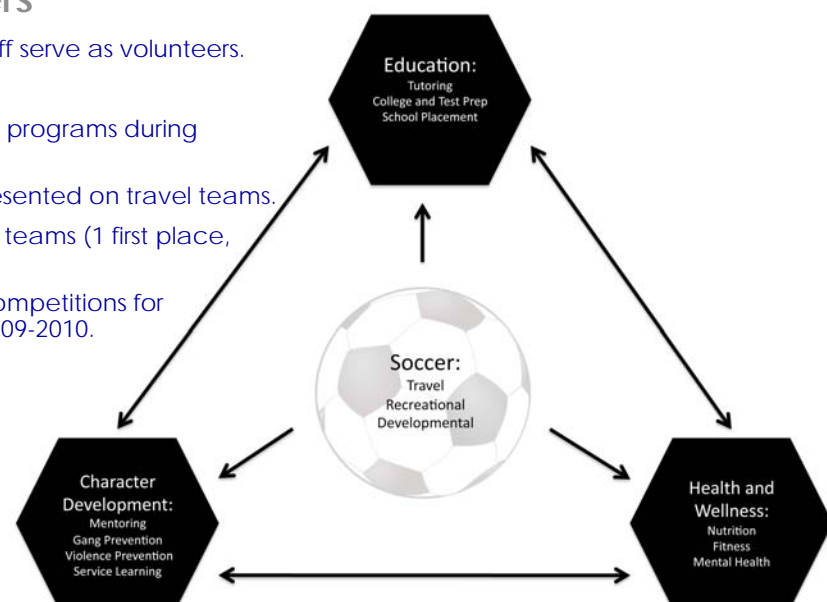


Vision/Future

South Bronx United is not a typical youth soccer club. As a sports-based youth development organization rooted in the community, we envision enriching children's lives through more than just soccer. Soccer is the vehicle for us to engage youth in an array of comprehensive services in the areas of education, health and wellness, and character development. Within the next three years, we will expand program offerings, increase the population served, and leave a greater positive impact on the community. For the 2010-2011 year, our first priority will be to address our educational goals as we strive to get all of our travel players into college. With a tutoring program in place and an expansion of our college prep programs to provide test preparation, college visits, and high school counseling, we expect to have a direct impact on students' educational prospects. South Bronx United will continue to promote healthy lifestyles through fitness and nutritional snacks, but will also bring health resources and community partners to our families. Eventually, we envision being able to provide a full array of physical and mental health services. Our goal is to develop strong character and we will continue to take part in leadership building opportunities to emphasize success on and off the field. South Bronx United will formalize a mentoring program, and engage youth in service learning and community development projects.

SBU by the Numbers

- 100%** South Bronx United staff serve as volunteers.
- 50** volunteer coaches.
- 330** youth registered in our programs during 2009-2010.
- 21** countries of birth represented on travel teams.
- 7** trophies won by travel teams (1 first place, 6 second place).
- 99** games played in all competitions for Travel teams during 2009-2010.
- \$35,465** raised to date.



2009-2010 Program Overview

Travel Program

In the 2009-2010 Season, 78 players played on four travel teams: Under-12 Boys, Under-14 Boys, Under-16 Boys, Under-19 Boys. They played year-round in the Cosmopolitan Junior Soccer League, affiliates of US Youth Soccer. The program gives players the opportunity to travel outside their neighborhoods throughout New York City and beyond. Teams compete in the Eastern New York State Cup. In our first full year, our teams have won nine trophies, and one player received a college scholarship offer through the South Bronx United College Showcase.

Recreational Program

The South Bronx United recreational league started in April 2010 and already serves 300 boys and girls, ages 4-19, in spring and fall seasons. The recreational league is open to all children regardless of ability. Children play every Saturday at Macomb's Dam field next to Yankee Stadium. The program promotes health and wellness through good nutrition and active lifestyles to fight obesity in a community with the most severe hunger and obesity problems in the nation. Children stay active in a safe environment and receive healthy organic snacks, thanks to a corporate food partnership. The recreational program is affiliated with the nationwide Soccer Association for Youth (SAY) Soccer.

Developmental Program

South Bronx United emphasizes player and character development of children at all levels. The club is an official training partner with the New York Red Bulls professional soccer club and has held seasonal clinics with college programs including Columbia University and Monroe College. The U19 developmental program offers high school aged players opportunities to further develop their skills. Many of the participants in this program play on local high school teams and aspire to play on our travel teams or on college teams upon graduation.

Education Program

South Bronx United's college preparedness program helps youth build awareness of, and plan for, college, through the help of counselors, college coaches, and recruiting resources. The program will be expanded to include college visits, application assistance, and test preparation. Starting in fall 2010, South Bronx United will provide after school homework help and tutoring, offered to all youth participating in the Travel or Recreation teams. Mentoring by coaches on and off the field helps youth build character, teamwork and leadership skills.

2009-2010 Highlights/Student Outcomes

9 student athletes placed in summer internships

2 student athletes sent to the 2010 National Youth Leadership Institute

1 student offered a full athletic scholarship through the South Bronx United college showcase

Player Growth

Congratulations to South Bronx United players for showing tremendous growth on and off the field over the course of the 2009-2010 year. One such player is 11-year-old Kevin Lopez. Since joining the U12 boys travel team last July, Kevin exhibited good practice attendance and developed into a formidable attacking player on the field. Despite lacking size and strength in comparison to his opponents, many who are a full year older, he used his skill to score multiple goals in the Fall and Spring seasons. Meanwhile, Kevin also finished fifth grade with high marks. Two South Bronx United staff members helped arrange an interview for Kevin with the Manhattan Country School—a renowned private school with a mission for achieving academic excellence, social responsibility, and equality—where he was accepted for the upcoming school year. With the expansion of our educational programs this fall, we hope that many more youth will gain the same opportunities as Kevin.

"South Bronx United has become a second family to most of the players. For most, SBU is the first team they have known and for others, playing for SBU is the first time they have played any kind of organized soccer. Playing for SBU has afforded parents a chance to leave their children in a safe and productive environment and don't have to worry about paying through the roof for their kids to play soccer. As the sole fully functioning soccer club in the Bronx, SBU is becoming a staple in the community. The advent of the recreational league has given opportunities to kids from all over the Bronx a chance to play soccer regardless of their skill level."

George Nantwi, U16 Boys Head Coach and Bronx Resident



Students Accepted into National Youth Leadership Institute

Thanks to support from individual donors, South Bronx United was able to send two very deserving players to the Urban Soccer Collaborative's 2010 National Youth Leadership Institute at Xavier University on July 26-31. Both players have shown tremendous leadership potential despite facing immense personal challenges.

Idrissa Bangura 14 was born in Sierra Leone, in the midst of a 10-year Civil War. Five years ago, Idrissa settled with his aunt and uncle in the Bronx. As he learned to adapt to a new culture, soccer became an important outlet. He found South Bronx United while practicing on his own one day near Yankee Stadium, and was immediately welcomed into the Under-14 team scoring two goals in his first game. By spring training, he had emerged as a leader on and off the field and was named team captain. Now, he leads the team through warm-up and practice drills. Off the field, he has faced numerous challenges, not the least of which, has been neighborhood gang violence. When his peers asked him to join a local gang fight, he consulted South Bronx United coaches, and as a result, decided to abstain from any violence. Next fall, Idrissa will be a sophomore at A. Phillip Randolph High School and aspires to attend Columbia University. The National Leadership Institute will help him take a big step towards this goal, while developing leadership skills that he will bring back to his club, school, and community.



"South Bronx United means a lot to me, it's like family. The people here I have a special bond with and the coaches are very helpful to me they help me out through a lot. SBU is special because it's like family, every moment we are together we enjoy it."

Christstely Mboundou 16 was born in Pointe Noire, Republic of Congo. During his early childhood years, his country was embroiled in a brief civil war from warring political factions; a few years ago, the instability in his homeland coupled with the separation of his parents led to his move to the Bronx to live with his father and older siblings. As expected, assimilation into a new culture and language (Congo was a French colony and thus most of his formal education was in French) proved challenging. A soccer enthusiast, he joined South Bronx United's Under-16 team last summer and immediately became one of the most influential players on and off the field. He led the team in scoring during the fall season and was voted team captain by his teammates at the start of the spring season. He led the team with great distinction during the spring season as he willingly shifted from his preferred position to accommodate his teammates and a new formation. He has personally credited South Bronx United Soccer Club with helping to ease his assimilation and his continued improvement in the classroom. A rising high school senior when school commences this fall, Christstely's participation in the leadership institute will bode well for him in terms of his leadership on and off the field for his high school team as well as South Bronx United Soccer Club. He is currently researching colleges and plans to study accounting.



"SBU is my beginning here, when I came here I knew nobody and not have a team ...SBU is like my family, all the players there are like family because I have been with them for 2 years."

"South Bronx United Soccer Club has filled a void in many of our refugee/asylum students' lives by offering a space to develop athleticism, character, and leadership through a sport that has remained a constant love during lifetimes of transition."

Elizabeth Demchak | Education Services Officer, International Rescue Committee



2009-2010 Financial Report

Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Income

Corporate:	\$ 7,770	22%
Individual:	\$ 7,890	22%
*Player Fees:	\$15,138	42%
Fundraising Events:	\$ 1,217	3%
Interest and Banking:	\$ 142	1%
Other:	\$ 3,580	10%

Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Expenses

Travel Program:	\$11,775	43%
Recreational Program:	\$13,156	48%
Administrative Costs:	\$ 2,380	9%

*Player fees are between \$30 and \$60 for one year for each player. Fees are waived in cases of hardship.

South Bronx United Soccer Club Gift Report 2009 - 2010

The following individuals and institutions proved support for South Bronx United Soccer Club's annual operating budget as well as specific programs and initiatives. South Bronx United is very grateful for their investment, which made growth possible.

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Bijan Paksima
Joseph Pellagatti
Ken and Laura Samuels
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In-Kind Support

South Bronx United would like to acknowledge the following companies, institutions, and individuals for providing invaluable resources and tremendous support.

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Christine Watts
Andre Webster
Earl Wilson

Travel Program Coaches

Riddhish Kankariya
Assistant Coach, Boys U12

Brian Samuels
Coach/Goalkeeper Coach, Boys U12

Andrew So
Head Coach, Boys U12 & U14

Gerardo Hardy Gonzalez
Asst Coach, Boys U14

Tenzin Teshay
Asst Coach, Boys U14

George Nantwi
Head Coach, Boys U16

Wesley Adjei
Assistant Coach, Boys U16

Ken Irish-Bramble
Head Coach, Boys U19

Steve Burnstin
Assistant Coach, Boys U19
Recreational Program Coordinator

In-Kind Support

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PUGG goals
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The Sport Source
Super Soccer Stars
Tuck It Away Storage
US Youth Soccer / Adidas
X10 Soccer



"SBU has changed me not only as a player. It changed me as a person. I got better at team work and I am getting better as a leader every week."

Hamed Sidibe, 14, Player

"It is amazing to see how far my little girl has come since day one. Her coaches rock!"

Lizette Hernandez, Parent

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*voted in for 2010 - 2011



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