



Home of The Milwaukee Kickers



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Kickers & Our Community

MKSC Community Outreach Initiatives (November 2016 – February 2017)

MILWAUKEE, WI (March 1, 2017) – The Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club's (MKSC) giving back to our community initiative continues to champion Milwaukee's adults, youth, families and students.



Cardinal Stritch University – On November 7th, MKSC's Dawn Urban, Events & Indoor League Administrator, and America SCORES Milwaukee's John Eggebrecht, Associate Director, served as mentors at [Cardinal Stritch University's](#) Sports Roundtable providing sports-related career advice and recommendations to undergraduate and graduate students from across the Milwaukee area.



Make-A-Wish Foundation – On November 26th, MKSC Staff Coach Pete Knezic planned and organized a group of friends and family members for a holiday-themed road trip to Chicago as a fundraiser for the [Make-A-Wish Foundation](#). Trip participants paid a fee for their bus tickets with a portion of the ticket price serving as a donation toward granting wishes to children diagnosed with a life-threatening medical condition. Knezic's efforts, combined with the generosity of Coach USA, raised over \$500 to support the organization's mission.



Barnes & Noble – On December 8th, MKSC Staff Coach Celso Fontana's daughters gift-wrapped in-store purchases at the Bayshore Town Center location in return for tips that were donated to [MKSC's community outreach programming](#). Thanks to everyone for their holiday and giving spirit.



The Salvation Army – On December 17th, MKSC's Tammy Gilpin-Ripp, Director of Marketing and Sponsorship/[Salvation Army](#) Advisory Board Member, was a bell ringer at one of Milwaukee County's red kettles to help support and sustain the organization's 80 year-round programs that provide basic needs, employment services and emergency services for Milwaukee's youth, families and seniors.



GloBall Giving – On December 29th, [GloBall Giving](#) informed MKSC that contributions dropped off at the year-round donation barrel at Uihlein Soccer Park helped the organization serve 45,000+ children locally and across the world. Working together to get items into deserving hands, some of MKSC's soccer camp t-shirts were delivered to female soccer players in the Dominican Republic. MKSC Staff Coach Michael King is a member of the GloBall Giving leadership team and supports efforts to give every child a chance to play.



Milwaukee County Parks – In January, Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club’s Alvaro Garcia-Velez, Executive Director, and America SCORES Milwaukee’s Kate Carpenter, Executive Director, attended the Friends of [Johnsons Park](#) and Friends of [Washington Park](#) meeting. They participated in community conversations about positive activities happening in the parks and the best way to coordinate the groups who utilize them.



American Lung Association in WI – In January, the Milwaukee Kickers partnered with the American Lung Association (ALA) to promote registration for the ALA’s [Fight For Air Climb](#) signature fundraising event on March 18th at the U.S. Bank Center. The event has taken place for more than 10 years, and raised more than \$40 million for research, patient education and advocacy efforts.



UWM Alumni Association – On January 16th, to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. and support Milwaukee Public Schools, MKSC’s Gilpin-Ripp participated in a [UWM Alumni Association Community Engagement](#) sponsored “Day of Service” event at Rufus King International Middle School. Along with fellow UWM alumni and community members, she participated in a school beautification project by painting motivational figures and quotes on the school’s walls to inspire students.



Uihlein Soccer Park – During the week of February 13th, hundreds of new Uihlein Soccer Park and Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club tournament, league and special event adult and youth t-shirts were donated to local nonprofit organizations and schools including Browning Elementary School, COA Youth & Family Centers, Mary McLeod Bethune Academy, Milwaukee German Immersion School (Special Education Department), Milwaukee Rescue Mission, Sojourner Truth House and The Salvation Army.



Milwaukee Area Technical College (MATC) – On February 14th, MKSC's Angie Opsahl, Office Manager, organized approximately 30 [MATC](#) faculty and staff as they celebrated Valentine's Day by volunteering at Uihlein Soccer Park where they showed us some much appreciated love by painting and touching up common areas in the soccer park's main building. MATC sent out multiple volunteer teams to assist various organizations in our community to celebrate the holiday.



Social Development Foundation – On February 23rd, MKSC Staff Coach Michael King cooked for a cause at Benihana in downtown Milwaukee. It was King's eighth time serving as a celebrity chef at the annual [Social Development Foundation](#) fundraising event. The funds raised support Social Development Commission programs that provide pathways from poverty to success for low-income residents in Milwaukee County.



Uihlein Soccer Park – From November through February, hundreds of families and friends of all ages participated in Uihlein Soccer Park’s year-round, open to the public weekday turf field Open Play hours. Wisconsin’s premier indoor/outdoor soccer complex provides the community with a fun, safe environment for all skill levels.

ABOUT MILWAUKEE KICKERS SOCCER CLUB

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Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club, a nonprofit organization and unifying force in the community that calls Uihlein Soccer Park home, strives to enrich the lives of adults and youth in the Greater Milwaukee Area by providing soccer to everyone no matter their size, shape, gender, race, or socioeconomic status. The club serves nearly 6,000 youth members through recreational and select teams in 15 regions across Southeastern Wisconsin each year, and is committed to ensuring everyone can continue to play soccer while instilling a lifelong passion for the game.

ABOUT AMERICA SCORES MILWAUKEE

Visit us – americascoresmke.org

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An affiliate of the national America SCORES network (which operates in 14 cities across the country), America SCORES Milwaukee is the community outreach program of the Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club. SCORES is dedicated to offering the children of Milwaukee's central city with after school soccer programming. Incorporated with creative writing and community service components, SCORES is providing high quality youth-development for our community’s neediest children.

ABOUT UIHLEIN SOCCER PARK

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Wisconsin's premier indoor/outdoor soccer complex was built in 1994 as a joint venture between the City of Milwaukee and the Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club. The park's many features include 13 outdoor soccer fields, two lighted stadium turf fields, three indoor fields surfaced in AstroPlay turf, full food and beverage facilities, locker rooms and more. Uihlein Soccer Park, located at 7101 W. Good Hope Road, is part of the award-winning Milwaukee County Parks System which hosts year-round Open Play hours for the community when field space is available.

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