



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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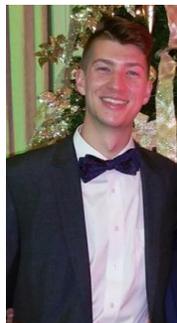
## Kickers & Our Community

MKSC Community Outreach Initiatives (December 2017 – February 2018)

MILWAUKEE, WI (March 1, 2018) – As the Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club celebrates its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2018, its “Kickers & Our Community” initiative continues to donate time, equipment and resources to benefit children and adults locally and globally.



**Make-A-Wish Wisconsin** – On December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 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 Make-A-Wish Wisconsin. Trip participants paid a fee for their bus tickets with a portion of the ticket price serving as a donation. Knezic’s efforts, combined with the generosity of Coach USA, raised over \$300 to support the organization’s mission to create life-changing wishes for children with critical illnesses.



**Young Milwaukee Charitable Organization** – On December 8<sup>th</sup>, MKSC Staff Coach Zach Soderberg donated a holiday gift and attended the organization’s holiday fundraising gala to benefit Journey House. Journey House empowers families on Milwaukee’s near southside to move out of poverty through adult education, youth development, workforce readiness and family engagement.



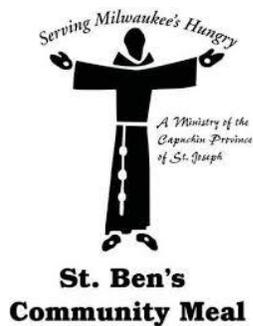
**The Salvation Army Milwaukee County** – On December 8<sup>th</sup>, members of the Milwaukee Kickers and Uihlein Soccer Park Staff donated new toys to the [Salvation Army's](#) holiday [Toy Shop](#) and gently used coats for the organization's [Coats for Kids](#) program.



On December 9<sup>th</sup>, 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 (food, clothing, shelter), employment services and emergency services for Milwaukee's youth, families and seniors. She also attended the "Red Kettle on the Red Carpet" fundraising gala on the 16<sup>th</sup>.



**GiGi's Playhouse Down Syndrome Achievement Center** – On December 28<sup>th</sup>, MKSC Coach Kylie McCormick and staff from [Ozaukee Community Therapies](#) volunteered their time and expertise to supervise and assist children with Down syndrome from [GiGi's Playhouse](#) during a free, fun soccer outing at Uihlein Soccer Park. Gigi's Playhouse works with the community to change the way it views Down syndrome through educational programs that empower individuals with Down syndrome and their families. Starting in March, Uihlein Soccer Park, in collaboration with GiGi's Playhouse and a number of partner organizations, is donating field time to host free US Youth Soccer [TOPSoccer](#) community-based training for athletes with disabilities ages 4-21.



**Capuchin Community Services/St. Ben's Community Meal Program** – On January 12<sup>th</sup>, members of the Milwaukee Kickers and Uihlein Soccer Park donated over \$200 to [Capuchin Community Services](#) to support its [St. Ben's Community Meal Program](#) which serves the hungry in the downtown Milwaukee area who are in search of a warm meal. The organization serves over 100,000 meals a year to anyone in need in a welcoming and safe environment.



**American Lung Association in WI** – On January 16<sup>th</sup>, 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 Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at the U.S. Bank Center. This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Milwaukee's Fight For Air Climb, the #1 Climb in the nation, which in 2017 had 2,761 participants and raised more than \$707,000. Ninety cents of every dollar raised goes toward research, patient education and advocacy efforts.



**VISIT Milwaukee** – On January 17<sup>th</sup>, members of the Milwaukee Kickers and Uihlein Soccer Park staff served as [VISIT Milwaukee](#) volunteer greeters at the Wisconsin Center during the [Wisconsin Association of School Boards](#) (WASB) Education Convention. The WASB is a member-driven organization that supports, promotes and advances the interests of public education in Wisconsin.



**International Needs Ghana** – From January 22<sup>nd</sup> through 31<sup>st</sup>, MKSC Coach Daniel Carpenter promoted and coordinated the donation of new and gently used youth soccer jerseys and soccer balls for [International Needs Ghana](#). In addition to collecting donations, the Milwaukee Kickers donated 20 new soccer balls to the organization structured as a worldwide partnership of Christian organizations supporting each other to transform lives, families and communities.



UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
**WHITEWATER**

**University of Wisconsin-Whitewater** – On February 15<sup>th</sup>, MKSC Staff Coach Michael King served as a mentor for [UW-Whitewater](#) students by sharing the persistence and discipline it took for him to become a dedicated youth athlete, a successful professional soccer player and a respected youth soccer coach.



**Uihlein Soccer Park** – From December through February, hundreds of adults and children took advantage of the park's year-round, indoor, open to the public weekday turf field [Open Play](#) hours.

### **ABOUT MILWAUKEE KICKERS SOCCER CLUB**

Visit us – [mksc.org](http://mksc.org)

Connect with us – [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), [YouTube](#), [Pinterest](#), [LinkedIn](#)

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 8,500+ youth members through recreational and select teams in 14 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](http://americascoresmke.org)

Connect with us – [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [LinkedIn](#)

An affiliate of the national America SCORES network (which operates in 12 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**

Visit us – [mksc.org](http://mksc.org)

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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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