



# AMERICA SCORES Milwaukee

## 2020-2021 Impact Report



Nombre: \_\_\_\_\_ Fecha: \_\_\_\_\_

Las caras de los sentimientos

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23

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The 2020-2021 school year was unlike any other in SCORES history. During this time, SCORES had to adapt the way we keep connected to our students, coaches, and the families within the neighborhoods we serve. During the initial shut down, SCORES was about to begin spring programming. Our staff quickly created online writing content and YouTube soccer videos that our students could access safely from home. While this asynchronous experience initially filled a gap, we know that nothing replaces the relationships that the students have with their peers and coaches. After a summer of socially-distanced, in-person programming, we were again faced with MPS students not returning to the classroom. Fortunately, the SCORES staff, with support from colleagues across the nation, were able to create opportunities for more than 160 students to participate in the SCORES “stay at home season” that included weekly live Google Meet writing and soccer sessions. These efforts kept youth and mentors connected, regardless if they joined from home or alternative care locations.

As we anticipate a return to in person after-school programming this Fall, now more than ever, these students need our support and access to high-quality instruction and physical activity. We are very grateful to have supporters like you who continue to see the value our work provides to the youth of Milwaukee.

On behalf of the children and families we serve – thank you!

Kate Carpenter, Executive Director



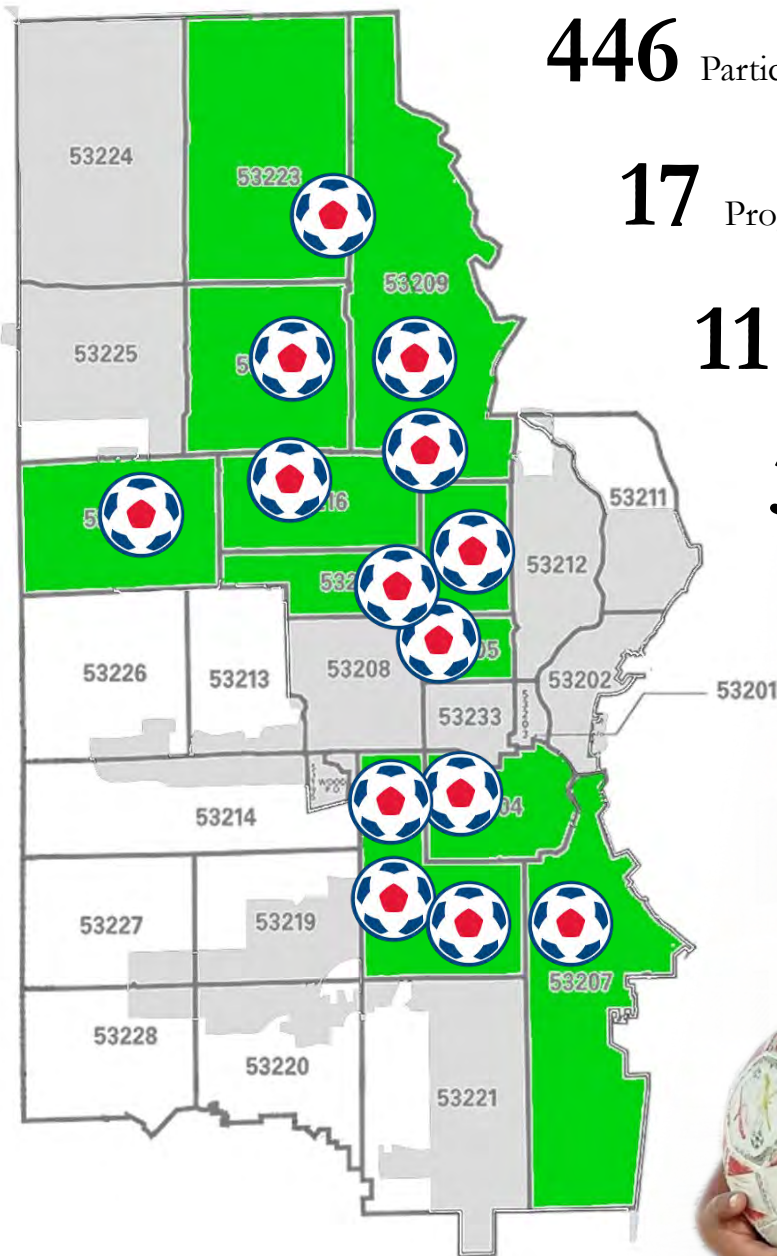
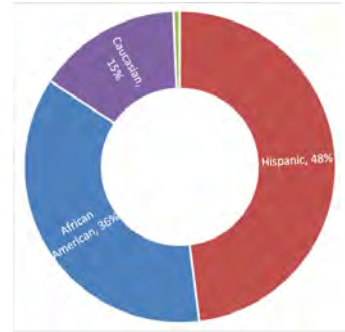
# Program Detail

**446** Participants

**17** Program Sites

**11** Zip Codes Across Milwaukee

**3** Satellite Programs State-Wide



Youth throughout the City of Milwaukee began the 20-21 school-year virtually. This setup was challenging for youth not only from an educational standpoint, but also socially, emotionally, and physically. The inability to be with friends, to have one-on-one communication, or to be active on the soccer field were detrimental to childhood development.

Knowing how much of a positive impact SCORES programming can have on youth, we adapted each of our program options so they could be run virtually, in-person, or as a hybrid model. With these adaptations, and our strong relationships with partner sites, we were able to re-engage past participants and welcome many new participants both locally and across the state. Throughout each program, our trained and caring staff provided youth with the support they needed.

# Daytime Classroom Support

Understanding the hardship virtual learning placed on families, including the need to make a difficult decision between retaining a job to pay bills, or leave the workforce (and lose any income) to provide daytime childcare, the Milwaukee Public School District partnered with community organizations to offer daytime learning support. America SCORES Milwaukee stepped up into this role to host “virtual support classrooms”.

Although participants were still engaged in virtual learning with their school day teacher, they were provided with a safe place to be while their parents worked, three meals daily, the ability to interact with peers, and receive academic support and mentorship from SCORES staff.



Through this partnership with MPS, SCORES operated from 6:30am-5:30pm Monday through Friday from September until April when schools returned to in-person instruction. This critical support was immensely supportive to both the youth who participated, and their families.

*SCORES provided more than 1,400 hours of in-person support*

## Connecting “Out of this World”

In partnership with the Afterschool Alliance, SCORES youth participated in the Million Girls Moonshot initiative which seeks to re-imagine who can engineer, who can build, who can make. The initiative ultimately aims to inspire and prepare the next generation of innovators by engaging girls in STEM learning opportunities through afterschool and summer programs.

In December, two daytime support students submitted video questions to NASA and both of their questions were chosen and answered live by astronauts in the International Space Station!



# SCORES Goes Virtual



During the initial school closure in March of 2020, the SCORES team committed to creating online content that could be accessed by youth at any time. These lessons allowed students to exercise their creativity through poetry worksheets, however they lacked connection — to peers and to positive adult mentors.

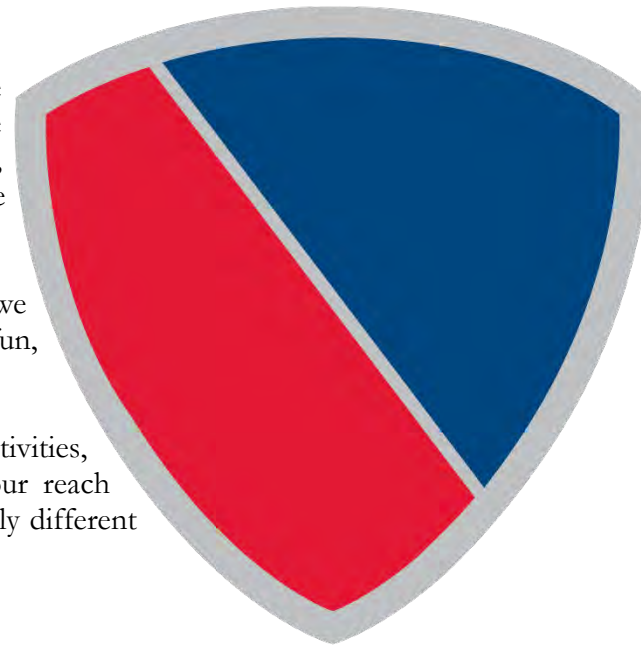
Realizing these efforts were helpful, but not sufficient long-term, we developed adapted curricula that could be used in a live virtual setting, and we partnered with the Jay's Cares Foundation to train our coaches in best practices for virtual programming.

To ensure every participant had the supplies they needed to be successful, we mailed, dropped off at homes, and provided to community meal sites, at-home SCORES kit with: soccer ball, ball pump, cones, team t-shirt, pencils, crayons/colored pencils, folder, worksheets, and a guide on when, where, and how to access SCORES sessions.

Through writing lessons, community-building games, and small-space soccer skills, we ran virtual “seasons”. Just as participants would have experienced if we were in-person, there were discussions about teamwork, leadership, and commitment, there were weekly game days, and there were numerous opportunities for youth to recite their poetry aloud.

During a time where it seemed that more “virtual” would be too much, we learned from participants that SCORES programming was unique, it was fun, and it was engaging.

One of the few youth-serving organizations to put together such activities, SCORES was sought out by schools across the state. This expanded our reach beyond Milwaukee, and provided a unique opportunity for children in vastly different circumstances to meet and be a part of one team — the SCORES team!



## **My Hero** by Yediel, Age 8

My hero  
Has a strong  
But calm voice  
My hero  
Protects us with our dogs  
My hero  
Knows how to cook  
My hero  
Always does fun art projects  
My hero  
Is my mom!



# Supporting Our Community

A core component of SCORES programming is guiding youth through service-learning projects. This program helps children become aware of the relationship between their own academic achievement and their ability to improve their lives, their families and their communities. By providing guided, meaningful opportunities to serve their communities, children develop socially responsible behaviors and aspirations at an early age. These experiences help motivate students to believe in themselves and invest in their education and community.

One example of a youth-driven service project comes from Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, where the SCORES team partnered with Sojourner Truth House. After learning that women and children occasionally celebrate their birthday while in an emergency shelter, the team decided to collect birthday party supplies. They then created 12 party kits (one for each month), so the shelter could host gatherings for everyone who had a birthday that during a given month.



# Return to In-Person Activities

One year after schools in Milwaukee closed, in-person instruction resumed in April 2021. With numerous safety protocols in place, the SCORES team once again met face to face with children across the city where we were able to see first-hand their desire to be active, to see friends, be heard, and to learn. Although group sizes were smaller than we are accustomed to, we were excited to work with participants who were a part of our virtual activities, and to partner with a number of new sites and meet many new participants during the summer months. Each child who picked up a pencil, wrote a poem, and shared it aloud, and every participant who dribbled a soccer ball, or scored their very first goal, was now a part of the SCORES team.



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