



**AMERICA
SCORES**
Milwaukee

2019-2020
Annual Report

America SCORES Milwaukee is a program of the Milwaukee Kickers Soccer Club



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Our hearts go out to those who are suffering at this time. Whether it be health concerns, economic challenges, or feelings of isolation and anxiety, we want our community to know that we are still here for you! Even in this time of rapid change, our focus remains the same: inspire Milwaukee children to lead healthy lives and express themselves creatively.

As a friend of SCORES (whether you're a former participant, parent, volunteer, school teacher, principal, event attendee, individual donor, or a foundation), we appreciate you being a part of our team and we hope you'll take a moment to read through this report which outlines how we're helping the community and some fun ways you can see SCORES in action.

Even though we don't know when things will get back to "normal", we're committed to moving forward and we're glad you're with us.



Kate Carpenter, Executive Director



SCORES' Pandemic Response

SCORES programming operates in the low-income areas of Milwaukee where families have been especially hard hit by coronavirus. With minimal resources and school buildings closed, the services that SCORES provides are more crucial than ever.

We heard directly from youth and families that our poet-athletes did not enjoy being cooped up at home without the ability to play soccer with friends, learn from their coaches, or write poetry to express their feelings. To support them during the shutdown, we strived to make this time at home a little easier for both youth and their families.

SCORES coaches developed and implemented methods of communication and connectivity to bring direct learning and support back to program participants and their families including:



We reached out to SCORES families to see how they were coping and to help connect them with much needed local resources like food banks, energy assistance, and free internet services, among others.



We added online poetry lessons, soccer activities, and external learning resources to our website. As part of the national America SCORES network, participants also had access to numerous live and recorded SCORES activities through social media.



We provided students access to IXL - an online learning platform with thousands of activities across all educational subjects. This platform automatically adapts to student's success, providing them with meaningful learning. In just a few short weeks after the Safer at Home mandate was enacted and school buildings closed, more than 12,000 activities were completed by SCORES youth!



We provided video learning content, including virtual story time. Miss B., an MPS Elementary teacher and SCORES support staff, read aloud children's books including favorites like Charlie and the Chocolate Factory on her YouTube channel.



We distributed soccer balls to community meal sites, allowing all families — not just SCORES participants — the opportunity to be active through a fun and safe sport.

Advancing through Poetry Slams

On Saturday, February 22nd, four SCORES poet-athletes traveled to Chicago to compete in a regional poetry slam alongside youth from Chicago, Cleveland, and St. Louis. After a full day of writing and performance workshops with nationally-known spoken word artists, performers took the stage to recite two of their original poems for a large audience and judges. At the end of the night, Victoria, who participated in SCORES at the Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, was selected as finalist to compete in the national poetry slam competition!



Dear Peer Pressure
by Victoria, Age 10

Dear Peer Pressure,
Sometimes it's hard to see
Are you my friend or enemy?
Because what I want
Is to be the best I can be.
In school you show your ugly side.
Asking me to listen to
Dares and challenges
Inside I question....why?
Sometimes you show me opportunity
Because the choices I make reflect on me.
You make me feel brave and strong.
Dear Peer Pressure,
I am learning right from wrong.
Peer Pressure!
You don't get the last say!
If I'm having a rough day, I remember to
L earn, be
O ptimistic
V ulnerable, and
E ager to succeed.
Peer Pressure....
You won't get the best of me!

America SCORES Regional Poetry Slam

Chicago, IL 2/22/20



Connected to Professional Sports

As part of the U.S. Women's National Team 2019 Victory Tour three SCORES participants from Hayes Bilingual, Riley Elementary and Alba were invited by America SCORES National sponsor VW to walk-in with members from the 2019 UWNT at Wrigley field on Saturday, October 6, 2019.

Carli Lloyd scored a goal during the match against Korea Republic which ended as a 1-1 tie. The day's festivities also included a ceremony for Jill Ellis, the USWNT's all-time winningest head coach, celebrating her remarkable tenure as manager of the world's No. 1 ranked team.

Participants were chosen for this unique, once in a lifetime opportunity for their outstanding leadership, teamwork and commitment during the fall SCORES season.

Additionally, through SCORES' Community Learning Center, youth participated in the NBA Math Hoops program which offers a fun and interactive way to learn math skills. Typically a board game that can be played amongst peers at school, SCORES youth received a special invitation to travel to the Milwaukee Bucks training facility for Math Hoops tournament! Participants were able to meet Bucks players, run around on their court, and hang out with Bango!



Adapting to Provide Safe Programs

After responding to the sudden shut down of schools over the spring months, SCORES was one of a few organizations selected to offer in-person programming to youth during the summer months. Through a partnership with the Silver Spring Neighborhood Center, SCORES coaches led soccer, poetry, and service-learning programming to youth grades 1st through 8th. To ensure the safety of all participants and staff, the following protocols were enacted:

- All individuals within the program space required to wear face masks
- Temperature checks prior to program start
- Hand sanitizing stations through the program space
- Limiting group sizes and promoting physical distancing
- Leading programming outdoors whenever possible

As a result of SCORES efforts to continually engage youth participants during the school year and throughout the start of the pandemic, the following outcomes were achieved:

71% of participants self-reported they felt more confident sharing their work out loud in front of others, and 47% stated they would feel comfortable helping a younger student write poetry.

Participants also improved their ability to use poetic devices such as alliteration (42% improved), simile (62% improved), onomatopoeia (82% improved), and rhyming (91% improved).

Lastly, youth surveys showed that 66% of participants “compliment other student’s accomplishments”, 80% “do my part when working in a group”, and 81% “respect others’ points of view”.



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