



30K

STUDENTS  
IN KCK

20

DIFFERENT  
COUNTRIES  
REPRESENTED IN  
KCK

63

HOME  
LANGUAGES  
SPOKEN

95%

OF STUDENTS ARE  
A PART OF THE  
FREE AND  
REDUCED LUNCH  
PROGRAM

## WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*by Josh Wikler*

Well, here we are about to close out 2020. For most of us it can't come soon enough. However, whether we want to admit it or not, we know that the calendar year changing doesn't change the world we live in. In the April 27th, 2020 NY Post it was reported relationships and interaction are what people miss the most. The same month, Young Post reported students missed teachers and the adults that mentored them outside the home. Federal, state and local governments are wrestling with decisions about schools. Are protecting students from Covid by making them learn at home, breaking them mentally?

With all of this chaos and uncertainty, it is certainly not a good time to start a non-profit soccer club in an area where the families cannot pay club fees. However, that is exactly what we are trying to do.

In 2012, I moved to Kansas City after having served as a youth pastor in Michigan for six years. I became a teacher and girls' soccer coach at Wyandotte High School. Why did I do this? I did this because God had placed it on my heart to use soccer as a ministry. In 2015 God brought Bre Brandenburgh to Kansas City, she did not know why but she followed God's leading and came and worked in a chiropractic office. I had an opening for an assistant coach and I approached her roommate, who turned it down, but told me I should talk to Bre. Bre came in and had an immediate impact on the program. The team went from winning one game and having one tie to winning seven games the following year. However, her bigger impact was the relationships she built. Being a female she has been able to have girls over and be the only constant in many of their lives. Bre came with a vision for ministry and to start a soccer club in Kansas City, KS.

It may seem that God was ready to move. However, it would take five more years, several failed attempts, a lot of heart break and frustration; but then, Covid hit. Our spring season was cancelled and when the world was saying shut everything down God was saying, "Now is the time to go." In 2012 I co-founded a non-profit, but during Covid it was given to me and KCK United was born.

We believe that now is the time to begin this club. Students need relationships, mentoring, people to help them find their purpose. They need hope, even if it has to be borrowed from those that know the true Source of hope. KCK United will be a soccer club; however, we will be so much more. Our coaches will be focused on mentoring and sharing their hope with the players. They will find out what in our community breaks their players hearts and get them involved in serving the community in that areas. Relationships are the key.

However, these relationships will not happen without your help. We are trying to provide the opportunities for these students to play soccer and more importantly have an adult that will invest in them on and off the field. For \$.0.50 a day or \$15 a month you can give one student this opportunity. By doing this you will also become part of the KCK United family. Covid has isolated us into feeling we are alone. It is time to get back to "WE".



## COACHES SPOTLIGHT

My name is Ashish Diyali and I am originally from Nepal. I came here to the United States in 2009 for the third country settlement. I got my high school degree from Bishop Ward High School and my bachelor's degree from the University of Missouri-Kansas City. I love the idea of learning so, I pick an instrument or a language or just about anything to learn. In my free time that is what you will probably see me doing is that I am always trying to learn something. I was very blessed to be born into a Christian family and to be brought in a Christ-centered family. I have always lived my life for Christ but It was when I came to the USA I gave my life to Christ. The intention and the heart of following Christ were me realizing that I have to follow Christ to live. Things that I would like to accomplish while doing coaching is that God's will be done here and not mine. Along with that will, I do pray that God is glorified by my works and to Him alone that I reflect. I pray for God to teach me how to serve and love the way He does. In God we trust.

## GIVING

- Monetary Donation
  - Fund a Team
  - Sponsor a Player
  - Purchase New Equipment
  - Become a Uniform Sponsor
- Donate Food or Healthy Snacks
- Celebrate a Team with a Team Dinner

## FORMER KCK STUDENTS SHARE THEIR THOUGHTS ON CLUB SOCCER



A special thanks to our former KCK student-athletes Semira Gebrezgahber, Manuel Escobedo, Jorge Fernandez, Van Lian, Reyna Espino, and Cheyanne Woltkamp.

## VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE DETAILS!



## PRAYER

- That God will begin the work in the hearts and lives of the students and families that we will reach.
- That God will bring servant leaders to serve as coaches and mentors to the students.
- That God will lead this ministry and provide the resources needed to bring the Source of hope to the students in Kansas City, KS.



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**