

30K

STUDENTS  
IN KCK

20

COUNTRIES  
REPRESENTED IN KCK

63

HOME LANGUAGES  
SPOKEN

95%

OF STUDENTS RECEIVE  
FREE AND REDUCED  
LUNCH

## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

*Josh Wikler*

Long ago, there ruled in Persia a wise and good king. He loved his people. He wanted to know how they lived. He wanted to know about their hardships. Often he dressed in the clothes of a working man or a beggar, and went to the homes of the poor. No one whom he visited thought that he was their ruler. One time he visited a very poor man who lived in a cellar. He ate the coarse food the poor man ate. He spoke cheerful, kind words to him. Then he left. Later he visited the poor man again and disclosed his identity by saying, "I am your king!" The king thought the man would surely ask for some gift or favor, but he didn't. Instead he said, "You left your palace and your glory to visit me in this dark, dreary place. You ate the coarse food I ate. You brought gladness to my heart! To others you have given your rich gifts. To me you have given yourself!" The King of glory, the Lord Jesus Christ, gave himself to you and me. The Bible calls Him, "the unspeakable gift!"

This story has great truths for us as we enter the holiday season. Many of us will be obsessed with making this holiday season extra special, since last year feels like a lost year. We will put up more decorations, buy more presents and fix more food!! However, what if you do try to make up for last year? What we missed out on last year was not the gifts or the decorations, but the relationships. As the poor man in the story said, "you have given yourself." This Christmas I challenge you to give yourself to others.

How and who do we give ourselves away to? First, make sure you are giving yourself to your family. Your family would much rather have time with you than an expensive gift that you have to work extra hours to be able to afford taking you away from your family. Give yourself to your friends, co-workers, classmates and neighbors. Instead of asking people, in passing, "how's it going?" and then hurrying on your way, take time to ask about specific things in their lives. If you don't know them, then ask questions to get to know them. People are not okay right now; we are all struggling. If you are really brave ask people how you can pray for them. People will answer, because we are at the end of our rope and we are ready to send prayers up to God. Finally, give yourself to strangers. I 100% believe that God puts hundreds of people in our paths daily, but we miss it because we are too busy. Pray and ask God to reveal to you people that need someone to just care about them. Is it the lady who eats by herself at lunch and everyone assumes she's a loner? Maybe it is the boy at work or school who laughs when people ask why he doesn't wear a coat and says, "It's not cold yet." When really, he is too embarrassed to say I can't afford a coat.

Maybe, you realize that giving yourself away should not be just a holiday thing and you want it to become a lifestyle. You want it to become not something you do, but who you are as a person. To be brutally honest, the only way you will be able to give yourself away to those who love you, hate you, are unlovable, unreachable and not like you, is to accept the, "unspeakable gift". When Christ came to earth he loved the unlovable, the rejects, the traitors, the unclean and the enemy. Matthew 9:12-13 says On hearing this, Jesus said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. But go and learn what this means: 'I desire mercy, not sacrifice.' [a] For I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." If you really want to make this the best holiday season ever, I challenge you to give yourself away!



# Give The Gift Of Hope!



The holiday season is a time of giving. Many people give to their favorite non-profit or community organization. We all like giving to organizations that are meeting basic needs like food, clothing, shelter, etc. The organizations that do these things are amazing and please keep giving to these organizations, but please consider that a basic need of all humans is hope. KCK United is not just a soccer club. Soccer is our tool, but we develop relationships with our players and then their families to develop a community of hope.

When you give to KCK United you are providing:

1. A student with a connection to an adult that cares in our great team of coaches.
2. A community organization with volunteers. Community organizations are hurting for volunteers right now. However, every player with KCK United serves with a local community organizations.
3. An opportunity for students to hear about the Source of hope and outreaches to their friends.

Please consider giving of our time as a volunteer or resources with a financial gift!



## From The Players



### DO YOU HAVE ANY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS?

"My sister and I go to my aunt's house and eat typical Thanksgiving foods like turkey, stuffing and green beans."

-Vasily U15 Girls



### WHAT ARE YOU THANKFUL FOR?

"I'm thankful for being on KCK UNITED and all the games we've been in together. If we lost or won we were happy to play for KCK UNITED. I'm thankful for all the coaches that helped us develop new skills."

- Johnny - U14 Boys



### DO YOU HAVE ANY HOLIDAY TRADITIONS?

"In the morning mom prepares food. When clock hits 1 PM everyone must take showers and dress very good to visit our friend's house or our friends come over to our house. When they come over we eat and play outside. You must look very good on Christmas day; however, we call this day bonane bonifete."

-Ungaobe U16 Boys





# PRAYER REQUESTS



- God will work in the hearts of the players and their families.
- Pray for the coaches that they will continue to build relationships with the players.
- Pray for more coaches as we are turning away players because we don't have enough coaches.
- That 2022 will be a year defined by God sized ministry accomplished in Kansas City through KCK United.



## Club Needs:

