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January 2010

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From the Executive Directors



Happy 2010 Urban Initiatives supporters! We are thrilled about the New Year and all that it will bring. First, we must take a moment to look back at our exciting conclusion to 2009. The fall season was an incredible success. In total, 340 first through fourth grade boys and girls from 11 schools committed to the Work to Play Program for the entire eight-week season. The program had an attendance rate of 87%, which displays our participants' incredible

dedication. We are proud of our student-athletes and the personal gains they have made in the areas of physical fitness, health education, academic engagement, and character development. We look forward to continuing to offer opportunities for youth to reach their full potential.

As many of you know, January is always an exciting time at Urban Initiatives . . . SOCCER BALL SEASON! The Fourth Annual Soccer Ball will be held on Friday, January 29 at Salvage One. It's our biggest fundraiser of the year and the hottest party in the city. Over the last four years, funds raised at The Soccer Ball have helped us expand into seven schools, a huge accomplishment for such a terrific party. Our Host and Planning Committees have been hard at work to ensure that this is our best event to date. Come join us and have a ball! Tickets to the event are \$100 in advance and \$110 at the door. This event has sold out every year so don't delay - [click here](#) to purchase your tickets now. We hope to see you there!

~ Jim & Dan

Recent Happenings at UI





Worthy of Praise - Corporate Volunteerism

Urban Initiatives is grateful to have the best partners around! This fall Urban Initiatives hosted group volunteer days with several notable organizations. The groups take a few hours out of their busy workday to volunteer their time and energy at one of our schools. Every volunteer makes a direct impact on the children we serve. During the fall

season:

- Our incredible supporter and Champion Partner **Storck** came out to Jenner Academy in Cabrini-Green for a day of soccer and hosted a healthy picnic for our participants. The participants are still talking about the delicious snacks they had with Storck that day. One player even said it was the best meal he'd ever had.
- **Credit Suisse** - always philanthropic and eager to volunteer - visited Chicago Indoor Sports to help with an Urban Initiatives game day. The day marked their fourth group volunteer day with Urban Initiatives. They are such a fun and energetic group that our participants regularly ask if they will return.
- **Clif Bar** visited Sherman School in Englewood to see our program in action and brought their delicious and nutritious Clif Bar Kids products for our participants to enjoy. In addition, they donated enough of their bars and fruit twists that we were able to distribute them across all eleven school sites.
- The **Manchester United** coaching staff visited Prieto in the Belmont Cragin community (new school to the Urban Initiatives program) and put on a soccer clinic with over 65 students and their families. The kids were thrilled to be learning such advanced skills so early in the season and appreciated the coaches time and expertise.

We are forever grateful to our incredible supporters. Thank you for volunteering in addition to everything else you do for Urban Initiatives! If you would like to join Urban Initiatives for a group volunteer day, please e-mail jim@urbaninitiatives.org.

Fundraising Fabulousness to Close Out the Year

The final months of 2009 brought a flurry of fundraising activity to Urban Initiatives. We mailed the Annual Appeal in September and received a tremendous response. In addition, we hosted over 400 people for the Halloween Party at Ohm Nightclub. Furthermore, Urban Initiatives Urban Achievers President, Colin McCourt, hosted her second annual fundraiser at Tory Burch in November. In total, the Annual Appeal, the Halloween Party, and the Tory Burch fundraiser, brought in an estimated \$25,000. Thank you to everyone who helped to make these events a success and to all of our supporters! We could not do it without you! Special thanks to the Urban Initiatives Urban Achievers for their hard work.

The mission of the Urban Achievers is to raise funds and awareness for Urban Initiatives. If you are interested in getting involved with the Urban Initiatives young professionals board - the Urban Initiatives Urban Achievers - as a Sustaining Member please contact dan@urbaniniatives.org for

additional information.

Buy Your Tickets for the Ball

Time is running out! Buy your tickets to the Fourth Annual Soccer Ball Benefit

Please join us at Salvage One (1840 W. Hubbard) on Friday, January 29 for the Fourth Annual Soccer Ball. Tickets are \$100 in advance/\$110 at the door and include drinks, appetizers by J&L Catering, dancing, and a silent auction. This year Ron Huberman, CEO of Chicago Public Schools, will serve as the honorary chairman of the event. [Click here](#) to buy your tickets.

How You Can Help

Donate Now

Urban Initiatives' goal is to offer our Work to Play Program in fourteen schools by the end of the 2010-2011 school year. There is popular demand for our program and we would love to have your support while we expand into three more schools. Rest assured, there are terrific kids in Chicago who will benefit as a result of your generosity. [Click here](#) to donate now.

Volunteer Winter Season 2010

Please join us as a volunteer for our upcoming winter season starting February 1. We need people to assist with our Work to Play Program. Volunteers are vital to our organization. In just one hour, you can help 30 children in at-risk communities better their lives with physical activity, health education tutorials, and character discussions. Please e-mail julie@urbaninitiatives.org for further details.

With Appreciation



- We are continually grateful for **all of our supporters** over the past seven years. While we remain dedicated to the Urban Initiatives vision, it is the support of our financial contributors and volunteers that allows our vision to flourish. We thank you so much for your continued support and we promise that we are devoted to helping children to reach their full potential.

- Thank you to our **Soccer Ball Sponsors** for their generous support of our Fourth Annual Soccer Ball benefit: Robin & Tony Armour, Armstrong-Hackley & Partners, Athletico, Bansley and Kiener LLP, Blue Star Properties, BMO Capital Markets, Cindy & Peter Chelovich, Chicago Indoor Sports, Devers Group, DJ Duncan, Ellen & Richard Douglas, Lauren Florian, Goose Island, J&L Catering, Erika & Jamie Nied, Kim & Scott's Gourmet Pretzels, Kirkland Ellis LLP, Lakeside Bank, LISC Chicago, Rita & Pat McCourt, McDermott Will & Emery, Mental Karate, Neoteric Design, Gina & Richard Ney, Nike, Optimus, Purcell & Wardrope, Cecelia & Tom Ricketts, Robertson Ryan & Associates, Shefsky & Froelich Ltd, The Springboard Foundation, Storck, Stacy & Rob Stutz, and Visible Vote. Your support will serve as a foundation for funding our program for the rest of the year. Please consider calling on our corporate sponsors for their business.
- Thank you to our **Soccer Ball Host and Planning Committees** for their hard work to make the upcoming event a success. You folks make it happen!
- Thank you to the **generous individuals** who have donated to the Soccer Ball. While your presence will be missed at the event, we appreciate your support.
- Thank you to all **Urban Initiatives Coaches**. It's because of you and your consistent presence in their lives that our participants continue to grow. Thank you for your commitment to our health and education soccer program!
- Thank you to all of our supporters who served as **Principal for a Day** on October 29: Paul Armstrong, Maggie Belliel, Anne Driscoll, Ralf Hilpuesch, Neil Hirshman, Kim & Scott Holstein, Doug Mabie, The Springboard Foundation members, & Ron Redd. The Chicago Public Schools seek to establish relationships with the Principals for a Day by which the individuals, their companies, organizations or associations stay involved throughout the year with the school they visit. We were thrilled to have you participate!
- Thank you to the **Wilmette Wings** for hosting another incredible Crosstown Classic. The Wings have hosted nine Crosstowns over the past six years. They have been paramount to our success. We are unbelievably grateful to have the Wings support and encourage other soccer clubs to host tournaments in their cities.
- Thank you to **The Blue Man Group** for generously donating tickets to Urban Initiatives so that our participants and their families could attend their wonderful show.
- Thank you to **Stacy Stutz** for coming out in the rain on multiple occasions to photograph our program participants. The pictures turned out to be amazing!

Spotlight on Chicago Indoor Sports



Chicago Indoor Sports is Chicagoland's premier indoor sports facility. With accurate field markings, interchangeable goal functions and hard wearing tempered glass around the fields, they are able to accommodate a



variety of different sports. Despite their busy schedule, Chicago Indoor Sports remains committed to giving back to at-risk youth from underserved Chicago communities.

For the past three years, Chicago Indoor Sports has generously sponsored the Urban Initiatives program by providing indoor play space free of charge during the winter months and when it rains. They are largely responsible for enabling Urban Initiatives to keep the Work to Play Program running throughout the school year and for providing consistency for our participants. Every Friday during our program seasons, General Manager, Mike Widell reserves three fields and welcomes our participants into Chicago Indoor Sports. We are grateful for their sponsorship and their role in helping us provide youth with the opportunity to exercise when it's freezing outside and there is snow on the ground.

We recommend that you visit Chicago Indoor Sports and see firsthand the destination that has become a favorite for many of our participants. Urban Initiatives is extremely grateful for Chicago Indoor Sports' generosity. Thank you Chicago Indoor Sports for all that you do! If you are interested in learning more about Chicago Indoor Sports visit their [website](#) or contact info@chicagoindoorsports.com.

Quote of the Month

"I just wanted to take the time to thank you for picking our school to be a part of your program. The kids love it, it is fun and they learn a lot. This is my 4th year at Reavis and I have never seen so much parent involvement with sports than I have at every soccer practice and game. At our first game we had over 40 parents out to watch their kids play in pretty cold and rainy weather. Anyway, thanks again to Urban Initiatives!" ~ Coach Berger, Reavis School.

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