



Soccer Without Boundaries

COVID-19 COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Origins of Soccer Without Boundaries

Issues in the community

- ▶ 2010 I was living in social housing
- ▶ Many children in the community were high risk for dangerous behaviour
- ▶ Gangs, drugs, alcohol, vandalism
- ▶ Youth were bored and looking for ways to be engaged

Solutions in the community

- ▶ I took a bag of soccer balls to the park and invited youth to join my soccer practice
- ▶ This became a weekly gathering
- ▶ Social issues decreased in the community

Soccer Without Boundaries 2020 Community Programs

- ▶ Saturday Soccer Club – our original program is 10 years old
- ▶ Soccer Camp – an annual week-long camp experience
- ▶ NE Expansion – A new program for youth in the NE of Calgary



Soccer Without Boundaries 2020 Community Programs

- ▶ Community Connect After-School Program – 3 days each week during the school year, offers sports, music, and math programs
- ▶ Women's Group – a safe place for women to meet and create community
- ▶ Youth Mentorship Program – 14 to 18-year old teens learn entrepreneurial skills in this 5-day camp program





COVID - 19 Shut Down Soccer Without Boundaries Response

2 major issues in the community became apparent during COVID-19

1. Food Security

- ▶ Families were more vulnerable to food insecurity
- ▶ Single parents struggle to go to the grocery store without their children
- ▶ Social housing = high density housing
- ▶ Providing hampers increases food security and allows community members to practice physical distancing
- ▶ There is a gap in the food security system that ignores the culture of African families resulting in repetitive diets and waste of food bank provisions

Soccer Without Boundaries Response cont...

2. Education

- ▶ Students already struggling with schoolwork are more disadvantaged
- ▶ Students with parents who don't speak fluent English struggle to complete assignments in the home
- ▶ School laptops were not allowed to stay at home
- ▶ Children in low-income homes often don't have access to a computer outside of school



Good News: We Can Help!



SOCCER WITHOUT BOUNDARIES IS PROVIDING TUTORING ONLINE AND WITH PHYSICAL DISTANCING THAT WILL CONTINUE THROUGH THE SUMMER



WE HAVE RECEIVED DONATIONS OF LAPTOPS SO 10 STUDENTS HAVE ACCESS TO THEIR EDUCATION AT HOME



WE CAN BUY BASIC LAPTOPS FOR ~\$400, GIVING STUDENTS FROM LOW-INCOME FAMILIES A MORE EQUAL FOOTING IN THEIR EDUCATION