

www.starfinderfoundation.org



A Passport to Excellence

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Encouraging children to strive for academic and personal success.



Starfinder Foundation

The Starfinder Foundation is a dynamic youth organization utilizing soccer as a vehicle for children's personal growth and development through recreation and education. Starfinder coaches and teachers strive to be an important influence on the lives of children, as they are coached in soccer and encouraged to build a strong moral character, achieve academic excellence, and live with a positive approach to life.

Over the next three years, Starfinder plans to engage over 4,000 urban Philadelphia youth in various multi-staged programs that integrate soccer instruction with a learning curriculum emphasizing character development and academic achievement. Starfinder goals include:

- Providing urban Philadelphia youth participants the opportunity to become the next generation of leaders and role models in their communities.
- Encouraging children to strive for academic and personal success.
- Connecting diverse groups of children from urban and suburban communities to promote cultural acceptance through education, soccer and community service.
- Providing opportunities for children to reach their maximum soccer potential regardless of their ability and their socio-economic status.

Starfinder Curriculum

Education is the core of each of the Starfinder programs and makes them unique. The Starfinder curriculum is woven into each program, geared toward children ages 6 -12, and is comprised of two sections, both of which use soccer as the medium to spark the imagination of the Starfinder children:

- "Character Counts": This part of the curriculum is geared toward encouraging children to make the right decisions in their lives. Topics include: communication, attitude, persistence, leadership, overcoming adversity, resisting peer group pressure, conflict resolution, and truancy prevention.
- "Learning Through Soccer": This academic portion of the program uses soccer to reinforce traditional academic concepts the children are currently learning in school. Academic areas include: English, geography, math, art, nutrition, science, and history.



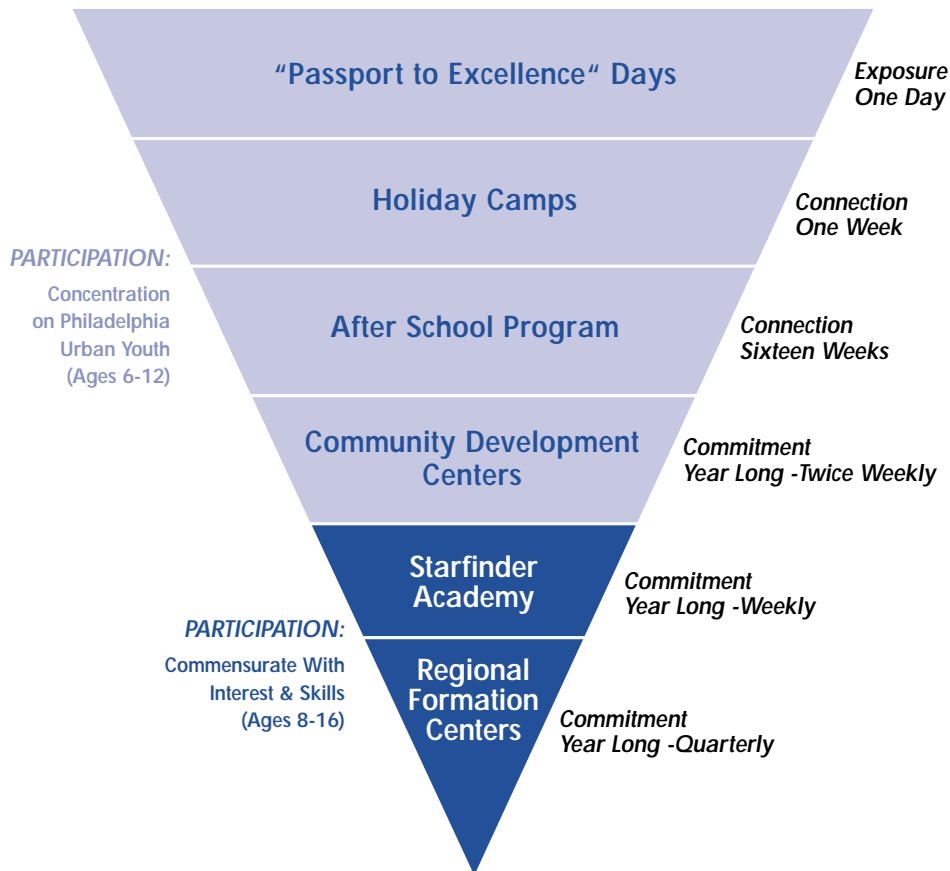
*Tony Williams, Founder and President,
Starfinder Foundation*



"There is no better example of building character through athletics than the Starfinder Foundation. The children touched by this program will make a positive difference in our community for generations to come."

*Joseph T. Cox, Ph. D.
Headmaster of The Haverford School*

PYRAMID OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT



Program Evaluation

The Starfinder curriculum and programs will be evaluated with Dr. Peter Jones, Professor at Temple University. Dr. Jones has designed an evaluation program for Starfinder that includes the use of pre and post-session surveys of educators, parents and the children involved in the programs. This will allow Starfinder to more closely meet the needs of the youth involved in the programs with access to the input of leading educators and child psychology experts.

Program evaluation will be implemented for Starfinder's four core programs concentrating on Philadelphia urban youth. Starfinder considers "Passport to Excellence" Days, Holiday Camps, and the After School Program as entry points for Community Development Centers to be established throughout the city. In its first full fiscal year 2003 ending June 30, Starfinder served 780 children in its urban programs detailed as follows.

"Passport to Excellence" Days

This program provides urban children with the opportunity to travel outside their neighborhood to engage in a one-day learning experience as they embark on a simulated journey around the world. Each participant is given an individualized passport which is stamped at each "country" or learning station. Stations include soccer instruction and elements from the "Character Counts" and "Learning Through Soccer" curriculum. Urban youth interact with suburban children in this unique approach to sharing cultures and backgrounds. A total of 90 children were involved in the two "Passport to Excellence" days held in Spring 2003 at the William Penn Charter School and The Haverford School

Holiday Camps

Starfinder will provide fun and educational soccer programs during the times that children are not in school. During the spring 2003 school break, Starfinder held a 4-day non-residential camp for North and West Philadelphia participants at the Shepard Recreational Center in West Philadelphia. One hundred and thirty children participated in this very successful camp.

The holiday camps last six hours per day, with two-thirds of the time spent on soccer instruction and one-third of the time devoted to the "Character Counts" curriculum. As part of the program, children are divided into small groups to discuss issues of importance at school, home and in their community.



Starfinder at The Haverford School



In the summer of 2002, Starfinder held its initial camp for 30 children at the Roberto Clemente School in North Philadelphia.

After School Program

This highly regarded program was implemented during the 2002-2003 school year in five elementary and middle schools in North Philadelphia. With funding from City Year Greater Philadelphia and support from Congreso de Latinos Unidos and the Department of Human Services, 11 City Year Corps Members worked with children to strengthen their academic, social and soccer skills.

During the academic year, 180 children participated in this program; 45 children in four 8-week cycles. During two afternoons per week, the children received soccer and education instruction using Starfinder principles. In addition, the City Year Starfinder team tutored 350 children during school hours.

Encouraging literacy is one of the fundamental elements of the after school program. Each child is given a book about a great American hero. By the end of the cycle, the child is responsible for having read the book and preparing a report which focuses on the values and life skills exemplified in the book. They are encouraged to discuss how they can integrate these positive values into their own lives.

"Fantastic program! It should be in every school. I wish more people would participate and get involved to support the students."

Dr. Sergio Rodriguez, Principal Potter Thomas Elementary School

"Starfinder was a great experience for the kids and the rest of the program. The City Year Starfinder team had such warm and positive energy. It's only been a week since they've left and our students already miss them. They are welcome to return at any time."

Mark Martinez, Site Coordinator Congreso North Star Program



Allan Greaves, Director of Community Development, and City Year Starfinder Corps Member Joe Staszak lead a group of students in a lesson about communication



Brian Early, Managing Partner of the Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, presents the award for the Best Book Report to Darnell Martin. Northwestern Mutual sponsored a group in the second cycle of Starfinder's After School Program.

Community Development Centers

After completing one of the aforementioned programs, children may continue in Starfinder with the intended goal of pursuing soccer skills as well as enhancing academics and character development. For students willing to make a strong commitment, the Community Development Centers will be easily accessible from their neighborhoods. Participants will also have the opportunity to compete in intra-city soccer league games to further enhance their skills. Starfinder will open Community Development Centers in North and West Philadelphia in FY 2004.

Starfinder will expedite the enrollment of Philadelphia urban participants in two additional programs that are already established and self-funded:

Starfinder Academy

Participants are those students who demonstrate superior soccer promise. Players meet for one session per week during the school year at Philadelphia suburban training centers. Every session concludes with a "Character Counts" lesson.

Regional Formation Centers

These quarterly residential programs for the most talented young players are held at private schools or sports centers, generally over a weekend. Approximately 25% of the children reside in urban areas between New York and Washington D.C. "Character Counts" is a major curriculum element.



Tony Williams and Johnny McAllister, the first urban participant of the Starfinder Academy

Public Sector Partnerships

Starfinder plans to engage over 1600 urban youth in FY 2004 as it expands from North to West and South Philadelphia. A major factor enhancing this expansion will be a strong collaborative effort involving public sector partnerships:

City Year Greater Philadelphia

School District of Philadelphia

Congreso de Latinos Unidos

Department of Human Services

Philadelphia's Promise

To Our Children's Future With Health

Philadelphia Cares

Philadelphia Safe and Sound

Philadelphia Reads

The Lighthouse

Youth United Way

"The character education that you find at Starfinder is certainly unique. I haven't seen this in any other soccer program and I have been a soccer mom for years. Character education is definitely a confidence builder. It has a ripple effect on their lives. It goes to school, it goes to integrity, and it is very, very important because when you are on the field, it's a kind of microcosm of life."



Marilyn Harris-Davis, Parent of Mario & Max, Regional Formation Center Participants

"City Year Greater Philadelphia is proud of our highly successful partnership with the Starfinder Foundation. Starfinder's focus on character development and its innovative approach of offering a wide variety of programs through athletic enrichment makes it a highly effective and engaging program. Starfinder helps to build community and private partnerships and in doing so generates measurable outcomes that improve the lives of children and youth."

Jim Balfanz, Co-Executive Director, City Year Greater Philadelphia



"By far the greatest gift a child can receive is a connected childhood. Five steps - connection, play, practice, mastery, recognition - evolving in the commitment to any sport can create and sustain lifelong joy for children. Most importantly, this process strengthens the capability of children at risk to overcome adversity. The Starfinder Foundation represents a sterling example of using these five steps to enhance character development and citizenship in the next generation."

Edward M. Hallowell, M.D., is an instructor at Harvard Medical School, child psychiatrist and author of "The Childhood Roots of Adult Happiness" www.drhallowell.com



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