



LOUDOUN SOCCER CLUB

DEVELOPING **CHAMPIONS** FOR LIFE!

Loudoun Soccer Families:

This is an amazing time for soccer in the United States. Interest in our game has never been higher. From the World Cup Champion U.S. Women's National Team, to international and domestic leagues, to youth participation at all levels of play, soccer in this country is flourishing. Right here at home, Loudoun Soccer continued to cement its place as one of the leading youth soccer organizations in the state, and the nation.

The Loudoun Soccer Board of Directors has established a vision for the future of our Club that calls for continued growth in our program offerings, excellence on the field, and an extension of our presence and service to the local community. We're pleased to say that the Club exceeded our goals in all these areas in 2015.

As Loudoun Soccer members, your continued passion and support were vital as we delivered on our mission of Developing Champions for Life! Thanks to your generous contributions, we were able to offer more than \$127,000 in need-based assistance to enable children in our community to play soccer this year. Just this month, you donated nearly \$5,000 to provide 77 children with soccer equipment for Christmas as part of our Cleats for the Holidays drive with Dick's Sporting Goods. Your commitment to the Club also showed up:

- In your support for Team Mathias' fundraising efforts for childhood cancer research,
- In donations to the Food for Hunger program in partnership with Loudoun Interfaith Relief,
- In the nearly \$50,000 we raised at the First Annual Loudoun Soccer Gala, and in countless other kindnesses, large and small.

In addition to expanding our impact in the community, our Club had another remarkable year on the field. No other club in Virginia matched the four State Cup championships won by Loudoun Soccer (01G Red, 99B Red, 98B Red, and 98G Red). The 98B Red team made it to the semifinals of the national tournament. Our Travel Director, Mark Ryan, was named the U.S. Soccer Competitive Boys National Coach of the Year. Goalkeeper Coaching Director John O'Hara was selected as part of the U.S. National Youth team coaching staff on three separate occasions. A record 13,832 kids played in one of our recreational programs, and we fielded 81 travel teams with more than 1,200 players. One of every six children in Loudoun County participated in one of our Club's programs in 2015.

Our emphasis on player and coach development also continued to bear fruit in 2015. More than 60 Loudoun Soccer players were accepted into the Virginia Olympic Development (ODP)



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program, and 25 players were invited to U.S. Soccer National Training Centers. Sam Golan, a defender on our 98B Red team, was signed by English Championship professional side Brighton and Hove Albion. More than 600 recreational coaches were trained as part of our coach meeting series, and all coaches were provided access to online training plans via our new CoachFX platform. We continue to offer our players the highest quality training, as our professional staff now boasts ten US Soccer 'A' licensed coaches, and nine coaches with 'B' licenses, more than any other club in the state. Twelve rec and travel players received college scholarship grants from the Club to cover tuition and books. And 31 Loudoun Soccer players signed commitments to continue their soccer careers in college next year.

Last year, we told you that we were committing as a Board to improving access to high-quality playing surfaces in Loudoun County. While there is much work to be done in this area, we're pleased to note that improvements including installation of wells and irrigation systems, regrading, and new sod were completed at Farmwell Station MS, Ashburn ES, Balls Bluff ES, Legacy ES, and Stone Mill MS. Byrnes Ridge Park now has lights, and both Byrnes Ridge and Conklin Parks have new bathroom facilities. Finally, a new Bermuda grass field was opened at Eastgate Park in South Riding. Many of you had the opportunity to join us in discussing the importance of field access with candidates for the Loudoun Board of Supervisors in advance of the election. We received very positive feedback from the candidates, and expect to have more opportunities to communicate with the Supervisors in the new year.

As we pause to reflect on another busy and successful year for our Club, we know that there are lots of wonderful options in soccer and in other activities for you and your children in our area. We're grateful for your continued support, and we thank you for the vital role you play in the growth and success of our Club.

We pledge to continue to live our mission, Developing Champions for Life!, and to operate the Club according to our core values: Fun!, Integrity, Fairness, Teamwork, and Stewardship. As soccer continues to thrive in America, we strongly believe that our message of inclusiveness, professionalism on and off the field, and growth as players and people will enable us to continue to be one of the mid-Atlantic region's leading youth sports organizations. In our 2015 member survey, nearly 90% of you indicated that you'd be willing to support the Club's community outreach efforts with your time or money. Next year, we will have a number of new opportunities for you and your family to participate in our efforts to give back to the local community. Be on the lookout for exciting new initiatives on and off the field.

Wishing all of you a very happy holiday season, and a healthy and prosperous 2016,
The Loudoun Soccer Board of Directors