

Announcement: Article for Publication

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## ***Sports Organizations Teaching More Than Just Athletic Skill***

Across the U.S., parents spend their weekends and evenings cheering on their sons and daughters in organized sports leagues. These organizations provide an opportunity to build character, socialize with friends and build a sense of community by learning skills on and off the field. Programs often start at the age of five, and continue in community, school, or club leagues through the high school years. Often kids outgrow their uniforms, athletic shoes and equipment before they are worn out. If we merge the benefits of a strong sports program with a growing desire amongst communities to help anyone who desires to learn the game, you develop a new way to decrease the pile of cast away outgrown equipment heading to landfills, and turn it into a young person's dream.



*PROJECT LIBERTY FC - Together We Can Help the World*

HlpSum1 recently encountered Project Liberty FC, a new initiative of Liberty Football Club, a northeast Ohio based soccer club founded by Octavian (“Tavi”) Muresan, founder of the club and

Director of Player Development. Project Liberty encourages their club families to donate worn soccer equipment that still has use, and to purchase as a donation and display proudly their Project Liberty T-shirts.

Growing up in Romania and immigrating to the United States in 2003, Tavi will never forget his roots, and understands how communities in other countries often struggle with adequate resources for sports play. “I am grateful for how this Northeastern Ohio community has embraced me and my family, and share in our love for the beautiful game of soccer”, Tavi explains. “We also desire to not only teach our players about the skills and strategies needed for the game, but be a part of their growth and development through these formative years”.

It is also an opportunity for emerging leaders , such as Vlad Muresan, Soccer Coach of the U15 & U18 Boys teams, to create a moment for mentoring outside the soccer field. He wants to maximize the impact he has on his team, and encourage team camaraderie. The club members participated in packing events and the U15 & U18 Boys teams will proudly display their TShirts at the Ohio Elite Showcase in Cincinnati, Ohio this weekend. Overall, Liberty FC wants their members to understand the value of standing up for something, and helping others. And as a result of these values, the club has grown to over 250 members.

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Other organizations echo these remarks. HlpSum1 found many organizations around the country like Liberty FC with similar plans to encourage their young players to get involved. Some of them have established a national and international presence, collecting equipment across the U.S. and distributing through individuals with connections to third-world countries. Sports Gift is one such national nonprofit organization, headquartered out of Dana Point, California.

“My family volunteers their time collecting and distributing sports equipment to help disadvantaged kids play sports locally and internationally and promote community service.”



says Claire Baxter, executive director of Sports Gift. “Our program encourages approved organizations to pick up donated equipment and hand carry it to many countries and into remote villages to play soccer or other sports with disadvantaged children many who have never seen a real soccer ball before.” Sports Gift is an all-volunteer charity with national recognition who is helping one community at a time, to provide resources for youth that participate in soccer, and other organized play.

These organizations align strongly with HlpSum1, Inc.’s goal of highlighting individuals and families, going about their daily routines, who still take time to help others.

Contributions to Project Liberty can be made by visiting the club website [www.libertyfc.org](http://www.libertyfc.org). We also encourage you to contact your local soccer, basketball or baseball community leagues and inquire about their local charitable initiatives.

For more information about how to support Sports Gift and their mission, please visit their website at [www.sportsgift.org](http://www.sportsgift.org)

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