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## **News for Immediate Release:**

### **Louisville Soccer Community Outreach Program**

The Louisville Soccer Alliance in 2009 started our local community outreach program. The program first began with all of the Louisville Soccer members donating used gear to the players in the under privileged parts of the city.

In 2010, Jeremy Hedges decided that we need to bring soccer to the children at the local residential treatment facilities. The first year we invited Brooklawn Residential Treatment Facility and Bellewood Treatment Facility to our fields to participate in soccer training clinics for an hour and a half, once a week for a month. The children that participated in the clinics received shorts, jersey's, shin guards, cleats, balls, etc. all donated by Louisville Soccer families. We had about 10-15 volunteers from Louisville Soccer that assisted with the training events.

Since 2010, we have run training clinics for residential treatment facilities every summer and continued to provide used equipment to the community. Every session we have about 60 players and 10 – 15 volunteers participating in the clinics.

To extend our outreach program in the Fall of 2012 we added our TOPSoccer program. TOPSoccer (The Outreach Program for Soccer) is a community-based soccer program that is designed to meet the needs of children with physical and/or mental disabilities. Player participation and development are key elements of the program as players are placed on teams according to ability and NOT by age. TOPSoccer is designed to improve the overall fitness, self-esteem and social skills of special children. We run 4 week TOPSoccer sessions every season with an average of 10-15 participants and 5-10 buddies.

Our community outreach programs are a great way for us to give back to the community and continue getting the word out about the game we all love.