



Unity Futbol Training

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Wondi Ali, and the founder/executive director of Unity Futbol Training, a yearly soccer program which aims to give all underserved children access to quality soccer programs that promotes our kids identity, as well as providing a quality program. In 2019, I started a non-profit, Unity Futbol Training, to give kids and families a place to belong, a place where they can play for free, a place where they don't have to make hard decisions financially, and lastly, it keeps children out of trouble. The program is built to become the bridge for those that cannot afford it and those that can afford it. We currently have over 70 plus youth participating in our yearly soccer program. I believe every child deserves a chance to make better choices in life and I am using my love and passion for soccer to do so.

Before diving into our year round soccer program, here's a brief soccer background about Wondi Ali and why I am passionate about advocating for change in the Portland community. Since migrating to Portland Oregon in 2001, soccer has become my way to navigate life in this country and build lasting relationships along the way because it allowed me to meet people from all backgrounds. Although I was passionate to thrive through soccer, my family's priority was to figure out a way to make ends meet so they didn't have the capacity to have faith in me finding joy in playing soccer or supporting my journey even when I came home with the Rookie of The Year award in 2009 playing at the NAIA college level. That same year, I got invited to play semi-pro soccer and the coaching staff met with my parents to ask for their permission for me to stay with the team in Salem, OR but they refused. That was the tipping point for me, and I became self dependent sleeping on people's couches for years in hopes of building friends and community through soccer. I made many mistakes along the way trying to fit in or looking for a place to belong but soccer has always been my safe haven, escape, and love. I would make my ends meet playing in Sunday leagues and tournament invites. Even though I went through trials and tribulations in life, soccer has been my testimony for the good. Today, I am using my journey to uplift families and communities through soccer by educating the importance of health and wellness. People from low-income and immigrant families can not afford to give their children an option to learn, build, and grow in the soccer community because it is

very expensive.



Our mission is to improve the quality of life through soccer for youth and families of underserved communities. At Unity Futbol Training, we hope that by helping youth increase their creative and cognitive skills, we are encouraging our participants to develop personal responsibility, while working towards an overall positive self-image. Soccer is a sport that has become expensive here in Portland. The increase in the cost of joining soccer clubs and leagues make it difficult for low-income families to afford; and even that much harder for immigrant families due to language and financial barriers. Truly the hope and dream is that by providing children in our communities with a place to have an outlet, as well as connecting with others from their communities and native continent. With our weekly routines of practices and games, we provide this group of children with additional social skills, new experiences, team building, self confidence, positive play, positive modeling of leadership and collaboration for the younger generation. We believe that Unity Futbol Training is instrumental in helping improve our neighborhoods and strengthening our communities by offering an affinity space that promotes community and collaboration.

We currently have more than 100 underserved youth and families participating in our yearly soccer program and counting. With more community support, our goal is to reach 200 youth at minimum by the end of the current year. To ensure the long-term sustainability of our programs and encourage staff participation, we are planning to increase our operational and administrative support. It is a year round soccer program and our start date for this fiscal year is January 1, 2025. This will involve various expenses such as field rentals, sport equipment, league participation fees, uniforms, traveling expenses, and a traveling van. In terms of supporting activities, we plan to join and participate in the Portland Youth Soccer Association for different age groups from March 2025 to December 2025. This will provide our participants with additional opportunities for growth and development. Furthermore, we intend to participate in spring and summer tournaments.

During the summer break from June 2025 to December 2025, we will strive to increase service hours for youth, allowing them more opportunities to train and play. Additionally, from June 2025 to August 2025,

We will establish connections with local libraries to collaborate on summer reading programs, promoting literacy and engagement among our youth.

November 2025, we will rent a community room to host events focused on health and wellness. These events will include inviting guest speakers and hosting a Thanksgiving event, annually.

Lastly, we aim to renew our contract with the R P La Canchita Indoor Soccer Center on an annual basis. From October 2025 to December 2025, we will actively search for and cultivate partnerships with other organizations throughout the year.

At Unity Futbol Training, we want to create opportunities and transform communities by inspiring and encouraging growth through sports and wellness. Also, we want to improve and expand our programs, ultimately reaching a larger audience and making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.



We strongly believe in bringing together the wider community beyond just our students, teachers, and administrators. To achieve this, we have formed partnerships with various organizations and community groups. One of these organizations is the African Family Holistic Health Organization (AFHHO), which focuses on improving communities through health and wellness education, as well as increasing access to mental health resources. Through our collaboration with AFHHO, we can work on initiatives that promote the overall well-being of the community.

Additionally, we have established connections with the Portland Oromo Community Association (POCA) to reach out to families and encourage their participation in our year-round soccer program. By utilizing the resources and networks of POCA, we can engage a wider range of community members and provide them with opportunities to be part of our program.

Furthermore, Unity Futbol Training has developed relationships with local elementary schools such as Margaret Scott Elementary School to organize after-school soccer activities. This allows us to extend our reach and involve students from schools, fostering a sense of unity and community engagement.

To build bridges between families from different communities through soccer, we are collaborating with the African Family Holistic Health Organization (AFHHO). By using soccer as a platform, we can promote cultural exchange, understanding, and unity among diverse groups within the community.

Lastly, UFT has partnered with the Portland Community Football Club (PCFC) to provide our youth with the opportunity to join the Oregon Youth Soccer Association soccer league. This collaboration ensures that our youth can meet the requirements and limitations set by the league, allowing them to participate and benefit from the broader soccer community.

Overall, our program actively engages and involves the broader community through partnerships with organizations, outreach to families, collaborations with schools, and connections with local soccer associations. Our aim is to create a more inclusive and unified community through the power of soccer.

What does success look like? Soccer is one of the strongest unifiers of the global community. Soccer is a way to communicate across tribes, languages, and countries, is a vehicle for social change and provides the underserved with the tools to overcome adversity. We want to build lasting relationships with intentional foundations like yourselves as well as above mentioned organizations to overcome many obstacles and strengthen our communities for the better on and off the field.



Thank you for your consideration! With your help, we will be able to create more room for growth through joining league plays, participating in tournaments, having a proper practice facility, renting community space for events, creating after school reading and math programs, purchasing a van and more.

Sincerely,

Wondimagagn Ali
Founder/Executive director

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