

Dear Friends and Supporters,

A year ago, we established the Corte Madera FC Scholarship Fund with a heartfelt goal: to support young, aspiring soccer players in need. We sensed a significant unmet need within our community and believed in the generosity that resides here to meet it. Today, we are thrilled to share the wonderful outcomes from our first year.

Our Journey So Far

We are proud to report several key achievements:

- Established a dedicated board of directors.
- Partnered with the Corte Madera Community Foundation as our fiscal sponsors.
- Defined a comprehensive approach to scholarship awards.
- Developed an application process in collaboration with Parks & Rec and Corte Madera FC.
- Raised over \$14,000.
- Allocated \$13,500 in aid to athletes in need of financial support.

The History of Corte Madera FC

Corte Madera FC was established in 2013 by a group of soccer parents who wanted to offer local competitive soccer alongside the thriving recreational program. The club founders partnered with the Town of Corte Madera to build the competitive structure, hiring professional coaches and kicking off with seven teams. Working together, the club and the Town's Parks and Recreation department (CMPR) have seen the club grow tremendously over the years, with 30 teams set to take the field for the fall 2024 season. Because the club runs its finances through CMPR, which collects club dues and pays the coaches and staff, the club cannot solicit donations directly.

The Birth of the Corte Madera FC Scholarship Fund

We created the Corte Madera FC Scholarship Fund to act as a distinct entity capable of soliciting and collecting donations for soccer scholarships. We are honored to support Corte Madera FC, a town program that embodies community development as a core value. As a separate entity, we operate under the fiscal sponsorship of the Corte Madera Community Foundation, enabling us to collect tax-deductible donations. These funds are then paid directly to the Town of Corte Madera Parks and Recreation department on behalf of families, ensuring that all scholarship awards are need-based and impartial.

How We Operate

Athletes' families submit applications for financial aid before tryouts. Once an athlete receives a team offer, scholarships are awarded based solely on financial need. Our fund does not influence team placements or take them into consideration in offering awards.

Our Supporters and Sources of Funds

In our first year, we raised over \$14,000 through fundraisers and the generosity of individual donors, corporate sponsors, and grants:

- 41.05% from Fundraisers
- 39.31% from Individual Donations
- 14.16% from Corporate Sponsors
- 7.08% from Grants

Our fundraisers are more than just a means to raise money; they are opportunities to strengthen our community. Supported by local parents and kids, events like the raffle at our All Club Picnic, the pretzel booth at Corte Madera Oktoberfest, the Snack Shack at our U8 Monster Mash Tournament, and an adult-only wine tasting event helped us connect with the broader Corte Madera community.

A special thanks to SoccerKids for being our corporate sponsor this year. We are fortunate to have an incredibly strong and diverse group of supporters who donate funds as well as time and expertise to help us achieve our goals. We are deeply grateful for all of you.

Supporting Our Athletes

Our scholarship eligibility aligns with the Town of Corte Madera. To be eligible, families must qualify for public assistance or through their income. We support families at or below the "low income" level as defined by the [State Income Limits](#). For 2023, this equates to \$149,100 or less for a family of four.

For the 2024 season, we are thrilled to support 17 athletes with assistance toward their competitive soccer expenses, which can be as much as \$3,000 per player, depending on age. Those expenses include:

- ~\$1900 Club Dues - coaches, staff, equipment, registrations and administrative costs
- ~\$400 Team Fees - tournament and referee expenses
- ~\$400 Travel Expenses - hotels, gas, etc. to travel tournaments/games
- ~\$200 Gear - \$113 uniform + personal equipment/cleats

The Scholarship Fund's contributions will cover, on average, 45% of the club dues for these athletes. In addition, the Town of Corte Madera provides scholarships of up to \$500 per person per year for Corte Madera residents and staff and youth in the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District.

When combined with funds from the Town of Corte Madera scholarships, approximately 58% of the club dues are covered. While we are thrilled with this level of support, our long-term goal is to cover 70-90% of club dues, as well as tournament fees and uniform costs.

Additionally, we have found that, along with financial support, some athletes' families benefit from social support as they learn about and navigate the competitive soccer structure. We are working to help make these aspects of registration and team communication and expectations more accessible as well.

Looking Ahead

As we look forward, we plan to build on the successes and lessons from the past year. We will repeat our key fundraising events and aim to increase the percentage of fees covered for our athletes.

We are also excited to welcome Ashley Bird as our 5th board member and to announce that SoccerKids and Seadrift Realty have pledged corporate sponsorship for the upcoming season.

We are immensely grateful for the support and generosity of our community. Together, we are making a significant impact on the lives of young athletes and fostering a sense of community and belonging. Thank you for being a part of this journey.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Alden Miles

President
Corte Madera FC Scholarship Fund