

# THE SANNEH FOUNDATION



August 2013

## The Sanneh Foundation Partners with Starkey Hearing Foundation to Launch Deaf and Hard of Hearing Soccer Camp

The Sanneh Foundation opened a free weeklong Deaf and Hard of Hearing soccer camp last month at St. Paul's McMurray Park & Recreation in partnership with Starkey Hearing Foundation to meet the demand for free summer programming for DHH students.

The camp took place Monday through Friday July 22-26, and served nearly 150 kids ages 6-16 including: over 30 DHH kids, the 18 players from the Sanneh Foundation's Haitian Initiative program, and dozens of local soccer players. The Sanneh Foundation, in conjunction with Starkey, held a training session for all coaches last week will have four sign language translators onsite.

"This is a wonderful new initiative for us and fits right in with our mission is to empower kids, improve lives and unite communities," Foundation COO Jennifer Ridgeway said.

Sanneh's staff conducted the camp along with support from the women's soccer teams at the University of Minnesota and the College of St. Catherine's.

"It was a total team effort and we all worked together to give these children a multi-cultural experience, while providing healthy snacks, physical training and leadership/mentoring programming," added Ridgeway.



Starkey Hearing Foundation focuses on hearing challenges to demonstrate caring and to improve the lives of individuals, families and communities around the world by helping them reach their full potential. In 1984, the Foundation started with a simple premise: "Alone we can't do much. Together we can change the world." Founder William F. Austin built the organization upon his vision - So the World May Hear. Today the foundation is sustained by the efforts of thousands of volunteers and sponsors around the world.

## **Attendance at Sanneh Soccer Camps Reaches New Highs**

From June 10 through August 16 the Foundation held 36 free and low cost soccer camps throughout the Twin Cities. Attendance far exceeded previous years, with 2025 campers ages 6- 12 participating in the fun.

The purpose of the camps is to provide a safe, healthy and fun environment for children to learn soccer, leadership and lifestyle skills. Led by new Program Manager Dave Golan, 125 volunteer coaches from local clubs/high schools/and colleges helped deliver the camps.



The Foundation is grateful to our community partners around the Twin Cities, especially Minneapolis and St. Paul Parks and Recreation, for providing fields and facilities for the camps:

Coon Rapids

Pearl Park

Huset Park

Matthews Park

Waite Park

Bottineau Park

Washington Park

Hancock Park

McDonough Park

El Rio Vista Park

Hazel Park

Brooklyn Center

Phalen Park

Battle Creek Park

Sibley Park

Kenwood Park

Fairview Park

Powderhorn Park

Hayden Heights

Newell Park

McMurray Fields

Merriam Park

East Phillips Park

Eagan (Partnership with Coerver Camps)

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## Littlest Supporters Raise Money for the Haitian Initiative

Kefelen Martin, Charlie Iyegha and Ruthie Iyegha love to play soccer and this summer they got to play with two boys visiting Minnesota as part of the Sanneh Foundation's Haitian Initiative (HI). The kids immediately liked Guyverson and Marc Arthur, who had incredible soccer skills and ran the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> graders through organized drills without the ability to speak the same language.

Kef (8), Charlie (8) and Ruthie (6) couldn't believe it when they learned these talented, smiling teenage boys were from Cite Soleil in the outskirts of Port au Prince, one of the worst slums in Haiti and one of the most violent and poor places in the world. Kef, Charlie and Ruthie knew they had to help!



"They came to me with an idea to do a lemonade stand to support HI so more kids can stay in school, play soccer and have healthy food in Cite Soleil," said Kef's mom Jennifer Shinn Martin. "I was so proud. We actually had a brainstorming meeting with Charlie and Ruthie's mom where we came up with the idea to do something active with soccer instead."

The kids literally took the ball and ran with it. The plan would be to dribble their soccer balls one mile around Central Park in St. Anthony, MN to raise money for the program that helps kids in Haiti like Guyverson and Marc Arthur gain a better life. The event happened on August 18<sup>th</sup>

and a total of \$1,895 was raised for the Foundation.

"We set up an online crowdrise page, but most of the funds came as a direct result of the hard work of Kef, Charlie and Ruthie," said Jennifer. "They called on friends and family, handed out flyers and went door-to-door seeking donations."

Foundation CEO and founder Tony Sanneh wasn't going to let that hard work go unnoticed as he and members of the Foundation staff participated in the dribble drive. "When they connected with us and told us about what they were doing, it brought tears to our eyes in office," Sanneh said. "These three young people inspire me to be a better person and do more for the children of this world."

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## Upcoming Events



Mark your calendars for this years Give to the Max Day! Last year the Foundation exceeded all our goals and expectations, from your outpouring of support ! Let's do even more for the kids we serve this year!



### **Donate**

Please consider sharing your gifts with the children and communities we serve in the Twin Cities and around the world.

[Please make a tax-deductible contribution today.](#)



### **2012 Annual Report**

Your support makes The Sanneh Foundation healthy and strong. That is why it is so important for you to see how your support is invested in serving audiences, and how your gift makes such a difference.

We are excited to provide you with the [online version of our 2012 Annual Report.](#)

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