



2022

SWB HUB REPORT

Maryland Edition





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**I feel like soccer brings all of us together,
and we trust each other**

-Lalia, SWB Maryland Participant

About Soccer Without Borders



Our Mission

To use soccer as a vehicle for positive change, providing under-served youth with a toolkit to overcome obstacles to growth, inclusion, and personal success.

Our Vision

A more inclusive and equitable world where all young people have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Our Culture

Our six mantras – Leave Your Shoes at the Door, We're Glad You're Here, Know the Thingy Thingy, You Play Best When You're Smiling, Get Them to the Field, and Celebrate the Pass More than the Goal – guide us to prioritize what matters most. [Learn more!](#)



About SWB Maryland

SWB Maryland directly serves newcomer refugee and immigrant youth in Baltimore City and County through out-of-school-time programs during the school year and summer.

Some students have been in the country for weeks, others for years, and together they make up a dynamic community of youth, each with their own unique story. With a focus on English language development on and off the field, SWB Maryland supports newcomer youth grades K-12 to build a sense of agency, belonging, and contribution.



What We Do

Our Sites

All programs take a holistic approach to youth development through sport, combining soccer, education, and community-building led by trained, caring coaches. SWB Maryland current program sites include:

- Baltimore City High School
- Dundalk Middle School
- Lansdowne Middle School
- Owings Mills High School
- Parkville High School
- Patterson High School
- Patterson Park Middle School League
- Vanguard Middle School

The Team

- Soliana Abrham
- Brenda Arevalo
- Nick Brooks
- Molly Cox
- Luke Frey-Wedeen
- Ryan Gitonga
- Max Graves
- Blaise Makano
- Carson McFadden
- Kat Sipes
- Larree Strickland
- Xavier Woodward

Our Programs

- **TEAM Programs:** Combining soccer, education, and community-building, each TEAM program is uniquely tailored to meet the unique needs of the specific community.
- **Summer Programs:** Soccer activities, English language instruction, and academic support keep youth engaged with learning and connected to a community of teammates while out of school for the season.
- **Camps & Clinics:** Each camp is purposefully designed to support the 'whole person' through a range of activities that starts with soccer, but can also include art, dance, music, cultural celebrations, yoga, and more.
- **Leagues & Tournaments:** More than lifting a trophy, these programs are designed to strengthen community cohesion, teach social-emotional skills, and raise awareness and knowledge about specific social issues.



In the Media

Our work in Baltimore was [recently featured](#) on AOL and on local ABC news stations around the US. The feature gives an inside look at SWB Maryland's high school girls program and shares how soccer can be a vehicle for positive change.

Feature Story: The Value of School-Based Partnerships at SWB Maryland

At Baltimore's Vanguard Collegiate Middle School, as soon as the last bell rings, there is an excitement that fills the halls as students pour out of their classrooms. The volume spikes as hundreds of conversations happen simultaneously. Students head for the exits, and just as quickly as the volume spiked, it dips back down as the halls empty. All is quiet, except for the Media Room. The Media Room at Vanguard is filled with music, laughter, and Soccer Without Borders (SWB) participants as they wait for the start of programming for the day.



Throughout the 21-22 school year, SWB Maryland offered programming to 180 middle grades students through our school-based programming model. English language learners (ELLs) at Lansdowne, Dundalk and Vanguard Middle Schools engaged in 700 hours of after-school soccer practice and academic enrichment throughout 36 weeks of the school year.

Partnerships directly with schools are an effective way to meet newcomer students where they are. By providing food and minimizing the need to travel, school-based programs are able to reach even the newest newcomers, who may not yet have the language skills or social confidence to navigate between activities. Embedding Soccer Without Borders at a school provides easier and more frequent communication between students and coaches, as well as between coaches, teachers, and other school support systems, allowing for closer supervision and intervention when required.

For a lot of newcomer students, school can be an exciting but stressful place. Newcomer youth are navigating a new education system and social structure at school, all while learning English. Soccer Without Borders programming is designed to create a safe, inclusive, and welcoming space where students can express themselves with or without words. Having a Soccer Without Borders program present at a school helps to extend that space into the school environment, during and after the school day. Students can drop in and chat with a coach about how their day has been, what they are excited about and what they need help with. It shrinks the time lag between something happening at school and turning to a SWB Coach for support.

The typical after-school routine at Soccer Without Borders is to play soccer, eat supper, and then do homework or practice English with the support of volunteer tutors and mentors. Because we are present within the school and aware of each individual's academic needs, we are able to leverage this time more effectively to provide targeted academic support and enrichment to participants. Coaches can follow up with teachers and together make sure that every student gets the additional support they need to achieve growth and success in the classroom.

Just like soccer, youth development is a team sport. School-Based Programming allows SWB to leverage its relationships with teachers, school administrators, nurses and counselors to better serve newcomer students. The result? While just 45% of Baltimore City Schools English language learners graduated high school, 98% of English language learners participating in Soccer Without Borders graduated on time.

Adapted from a blog article written by SWB Maryland's Ryan Gitonga.

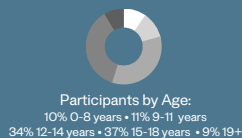
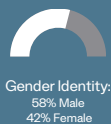


SWB Maryland by the Numbers

Along with all SWB hubs, SWB Maryland delivers holistic, youth-development programming throughout the year, and are designed to 'get them to the field'. We work to eliminate obstacles that too often keep under-served youth from participating in the game they love: all of our programs are free of charge, transportation is provided, and all of the necessary equipment is supplied. Learn more about the types of programs offered at SWB Maryland on [our website](#).

Participant Numbers

(Fiscal Year 2022)



Our Outcomes

Our program model combines soccer practices and games with educational support and community-building activities focused on whole person youth development. Our programs are trauma-informed and designed to create a sense of belonging, build individual agency, and provide avenues for every youth to feel valued and contribute. Learn more about [Our Methods here](#).

In Maslow's hierarchy of needs, safety and belonging are essential basic needs. This means that in order to optimize education outcomes and personal goals, we must first make sure that youth feel safe, welcomed, and experience belonging.

Sport is a powerful intervention to support healing from trauma and to build positive mental health. Not only is exercise beneficial to combating anxiety, but the relationships with peers and mentors allows youth to feel safe instead of dysregulated. In a safe and supportive environment, participants build a healthy identity and gain the social capital and skills they need to confidently take the next step in their lives.

Youth Survey Results

(Fiscal Year 2022)

English Language

"I feel comfortable using English at SWB."

95%

Program Connectedness

"I feel like I am part of the SWB community"

94%

Cross-Cultural Understanding

"I make new friends from other cultures"

97%

Safe Space

"I feel comfortable being myself at SWB"

91%

Safe Space

"I feel safe at SWB."

91%

SWB Maryland Hub Highlights



ESOL Success at Baltimore Schools

Meaningful partnerships with local schools are an absolutely crucial component of ensuring that our participants have all the resources they need to reach their greatest potential.

This year at SWB Maryland, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) students at Lansdowne, Dundalk and Vanguard Middle School received over 700 hours of outside-of-school soccer programming and academic enrichment.

Get a first-hand glimpse of our summer ESOL programs by [watching this video](#) produced by Baltimore County Public Schools.



Baltimore's Mayor Supports SWB

The administration of Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott included SWB as a recipient of the second round of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant awards. The grant, [presented by the Mayor's Office of Recovery Programs](#), was awarded to nonprofit organizations serving families, youth and vulnerable communities throughout the City of Baltimore.

It didn't end there, though. In August, Mayor Scott provided SWB high school participants with an opportunity to join him at a Premier League friendly match at Baltimore's M&T Bank Stadium. It was truly an unforgettable evening for all!



The College Access Program

SWB Maryland's College Access Program was established in 2021 and continued to make an incredible impact throughout 2022. On Saturdays throughout the school year, high school participants gather at the SWB office to learn all about college opportunities and how to navigate the application process.

Students receive support from SWB volunteers and coaches who guide them through the college application process, including essay writing and financial aid applications. This program exists to help to bridge the opportunity gap and create a more equitable future for Baltimore's youth.



Team Spotlights



Nick Brooks Named Director

In FY22, we were thrilled to welcome Nick Brooks as the new Director of SWB Maryland! A Baltimore County native and passionate soccer player, Nick brings a wealth of youth direct-service programming experience and strong connections within the Baltimore community. Nick's familial ties to the city run generations deep and he looks forward to helping create community for the newcomer population that SWB serves.

[Learn more about Nick!](#)



YouthWorks Baltimore

In 2022, SWB Maryland continued its partnership with YouthWorks Baltimore to provide summer employment opportunities for more than 40 of our SWB high school participants. Our youth workers supported summer programming by coaching on the field and supporting teachers in the classroom. More than just a summer job, YouthWorks students were able to gain valuable experience and workforce readiness skills.



Staff Spotlight: Kat Sipes

SWB Maryland Program Manager Kat Sipes started her relationship with Soccer Without Borders as a volunteer during her time as an undergraduate at Towson University, where she played Division I soccer. A Baltimore native and one of our longest-tenured team members, Kat joined SWB Maryland full-time in 2014 and has coached virtually every age group and gender at SWB.

[Learn more about Coach Kat!](#)



Stay in the Know!

Get the latest news around SWB Maryland and all SWB hubs by visiting the "[Stories from the Field](#)" page of our website!



Our Local Partners



Official Uniform & Apparel Partner



Official Game Ball



The Harry and Jeanette Weinberg Foundation

Abell Foundation
 Baltimore City Community College
 Baltimore City Public Schools
 Baltimore County Public Schools
 Baltimore Ravens
 Baltimore Women's Giving Circle
 BGE
 Blaustein Foundation

Crane Foundation
 Dick's Sporting Goods
 Family League of Baltimore City
 France-Merrick Foundation
 Goldseker Foundation
 Harry & Jeannette Weinberg Foundation
 International Rescue Committee
 Leveling the Playing Field
 Living Classrooms

Madeline Foundation
 Marion I. & Henry J. Knott Foundation
 Maryland Office for Refugees & Asylees
 Meyerhoff Family Charitable Funds
 The Macht Fund of THE ASSOCIATED
 Schusterman Foundation
 T. Rowe Price Foundation
 Under Armour

Our Volunteers

70

SWB Maryland
 Volunteers in FY22*

"This is the second year I am volunteering with SWB in Baltimore and it is one of the best parts of my week! I enjoy joining the students for their academic time after soccer practice to work on homework and just talk to them about their day. It is the best feeling when I see a student improve in school and they build up their confidence. SWB does a great job in making sure the students and volunteers are supported. I look forward to continuing to support SWB!"

- 'mrichezza', from GreatNonprofits.org

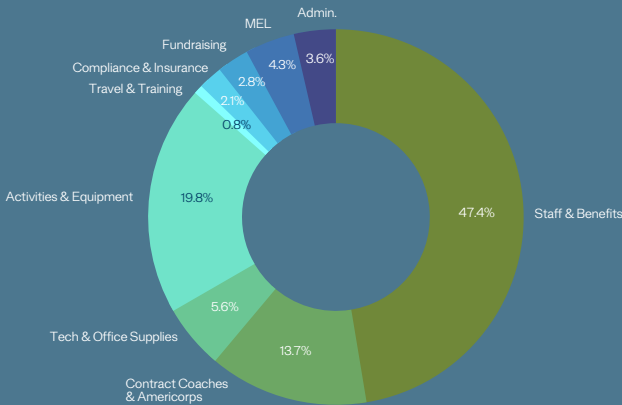


Financials

SWB Maryland has been embedded in the Baltimore community since 2009, and is local Hub of Soccer Without Borders, EIN 20-3786129. We operate as a shared service organization with centralized administrative functions, sharing the costs of these typically higher-priced functions, optimizing collective learning, and creating an economy of scale that gets more of every dollar to the ground.

*These financials encompass Aug 1, 2021- Jul 31, 2022.
Organizational financials are independently audited by Daniel Dennis & Co.*

SWB Maryland Detail Expenses: \$721,727



Top 5 SWB Maryland Revenue Sources

Board of Education Baltimore County
The Harry & Jeanette Weinberg Foundation
Abell Foundation
Marion & Henry Knott Foundation
Family League of Baltimore City

SWB Organization Expenses: \$3,188,847

Direct Program: \$2,682,003 (84.1%)
Administrative: \$346,451 (10.9%)
Fundraising: \$160,393 (5.0%)

SWB Maryland Advisory Board

Our advisory board are local professionals who are passionate about the mission of SWB and work hard to bring their individual and collective expertise to support our SWB Maryland leadership team.

- Ali Andrejewski
- Rosina Koehn
- Daniel Solomon
- Trey Greiser
- Runit Kumar
- Abhishek Yonghang
- Eloise Grose
- Lindsay Monti
- Matthew Warner



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Soccer Without Borders
3700 Eastern Ave
Baltimore, MD 21224 USA
(857) 264-0097

Soccer Without Borders is a 501c3
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soccerwithoutborders.org/maryland
baltimore@soccerwithoutborders.org