



2022

SWB HUB REPORT

Massachusetts Edition





“

The people [are my favorite part of SWB], everyone treats me amazing and they feel like family. We all respect one another and it is a great community that I like to be involved in.

-Dayani, SWB Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts

Through in-school, after-school, weekend, and summer programs, Soccer Without Borders Massachusetts supports newcomer and immigrant youth to overcome barriers to participation in sport, to gain a sense of belonging, and to build social capital. SWB delivers year-round TEAM programs and intentionally-designed leagues across Eastern Massachusetts, as well as summer programs in cities such as Springfield to support specific newcomer populations. SWB actively participates in the Massachusetts sports-based youth development community, partnering to ensure that every youth has a safe environment to play, learn, and grow.



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 Massachusetts current program sites include:

- Chelsea
- Somerville
- East Boston
- Springfield
- Everett

The Team

- Bruno Contreras
- Michael Rendon
- Karla Gutierrez
- Caitlin Saupe
- Muriel Mena

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

SWB Massachusetts was awarded as recipient of the City of Boston's FY22 Youth Development Fund Grant. The full press release was featured in the Boston.gov website and can be read [here!](#)

Letter from the SWB Massachusetts Hub Director

Dear Friends,

The year 2022 symbolizes an important time for our program. Ten years ago, SWB Massachusetts (MA) decided to accept an invitation from East Boston Neighborhood Health Center and its Let's Get Movin' program to start a free soccer program for the East Boston and surrounding community. Since then, we have served nearly 2,000 youth from 36 different countries. Over the years, our participants have spoken a total of 16 different languages, 275 volunteers have joined our team, an average of 95% of our senior participants have graduated from high school each year, and over 90% of our participants have reported that they have made new friends and feel safe at SWB.

Soccer is a team sport and we recognize that it takes all the players, on and off the field to advance our work. 2022 marked a milestone for SWB MA with the expansion of our program to new communities where we plan to apply the lessons learned from years of serving newcomer youth in East Boston and applying it to our new locations including Somerville in collaboration with the Winter Hill Community Innovative School; Chelsea, through La Colaborativa, Chelsea Public School, and The City of Chelsea; and lastly, Springfield, through our friends at Jewish Family Services of Western Massachusetts.

Also, SWB MA will continue to diversify its mission by running an indoor soccer league for underserved girls in East Boston and Chelsea. We will also run clinics and camps during winter and summer break in Everett, Somerville, and Springfield. Another crucial topic that we are committed to is advancing gender equality, SWB MA has continued integrating the Coaching Boys into Men – a 12-week curriculum to promote respectful behavior among athletes during the soccer sessions – into our work with male participants. Engaging boys in conversations of gender equity is fundamental to our program but will also help our male participants to navigate these topics with compassion in their lives off the field.

Although ten years have passed, our mission and passion to make a more inclusive and equitable world hasn't changed. What has changed is our capacity to make an impact. Today, our growing team is able to help flip the script for even more newcomer youth and underserved girls from a place of uncertainty, fear, and depression to a place where they feel valued, included, and can build a new life for themselves in this country.

Thank you for your allyship!
See you at the field!

Bruno Contreras
Bruno Contreras
SWB Massachusetts Director





SWB Massachusetts by the Numbers

Along with all SWB hubs, SWB Massachusetts deliver 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 Massachusetts on [our website](#).

Participant Numbers

(Fiscal Year 2022)



511

Registered Program Participants



100%

HS Graduation Rate of Regular Participants



20

Countries Represented



6

Languages Spoken



50%

of Coaches Identify as Women



Gender Identity:
58% Male
42% Female



Participants by Age:
10% 0-8 years • 11% 9-11 years
34% 12-14 years • 37% 15-18 years • 9% 19+

Our Impact

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"

96%

Cross-Cultural Understanding

"I make new friends from other cultures"

97%

Safe Space

"I feel comfortable being myself at SWB"

100%

Safe Space

"I feel safe at SWB."

100%

SWB Massachusetts Hub Highlights



Global Goal 5 League Arrives in Boston

For the first time, SWB Massachusetts hosted their very own rendition of SWB's Global Goal 5 (GG5) league.

The GG5 League provides an opportunity for girls and non-binary youth of all skill levels to participate in a safe and welcoming space where they can grow in confidence, develop leadership skills, and build community—all through the power of soccer!

The SWB Massachusetts edition of the league was made possible with partnerships with South End Soccer and Boston Scores and included five high school teams made up of 34 girls from across the Boston region.

New Sites Making an Impact in 2022

In 2022, by strategically launching new program sites around the Boston area, SWB Massachusetts was able to fill gaps and meet the needs of local communities throughout the region.

In partnership with Somerville School District, a new program site was opened in Somerville for the first time, offering newcomer youth with the opportunity to participate in SWB's school-year programs.

Additionally, new summer programs were launched in Springfield, Chelsea, Somerville, and Everett – enabling SWB to reach more than 200 participants!

SWB Mass Awarded Sports 4 Life Grant

SWB Massachusetts was honored to be awarded a grant by Sports 4 Life. Cofounded by the Women's Sports Foundation and espnW, Sports 4 Life was created upon on the knowledge that, while sports participation offers tremendous life-long benefits, young girls of color are disproportionately excluded.

The grant award – made possible by the Women's Sports Foundation, espnW, and Gatorade – supported the efforts of SWB Massachusetts' to improve the health and development of underserved girls in MA through our trauma-informed soccer and education programs.



Featured Spotlights



Summer Soccer Clinic with JFS

In June, Jewish Family Services (JFS) of Western Massachusetts partnered with SWB Massachusetts for the 2nd Annual Summer Soccer Clinic. Over the course of four days, more than 90 participants aged 6 to 18 had the opportunity to have fun while building their English skills, grow as leaders, bond as teammates, and to find belonging. Thanks to JFS for the support and Springfield College for providing a playing field for the program!



Partner Spotlight: Wellington Management Foundation

Our partner Wellington Management Foundation funds "programs that provide youth from traditionally under-resourced communities with access to high-quality academic programs and educational opportunities". The foundation extended it's support of SWB Massachusetts in 2022, contributing to the work to use soccer as a vehicle for positive change to newcomer youth and marginalized girls in the Greater Boston Area.



Alumni Spotlight: Coach Brian

At SWB, we aim to make our teams feel like family. This means that, even after participants graduate and move on to pursue the next step in their adult lives, they will always have a home within the SWB Community. Now a SWB Massachusetts coach, Brian is a program alumnus whose supportive attitude and positivity continues to make a positive impact on his teammates, coaches, volunteers, and our participants on the field and on the sidelines.



Stay in the Know!

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



Our Local Partners

THE ANNA B. STEARNS
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION, INC.



Anna B. Stearns Charitable Foundation
Bethany Christian Services
Boston Parks and Recreation Department
Cabot Foundation
Dircks Family Foundation
East Boston Ecumenical Council
East Boston Family Engagement Network
East Boston Neighborhood Health

Center/Let's Get Movin'
East Boston Social Center
Everett Youth Soccer Club
Excel Academy Charter School
Falmouth Road Race Charity Program
Kids in Need of Legal Defense
Nesworthy Charitable Trust
New Balance Foundation
Procter & Gamble

Roy A. Hunt Foundation
Salvadorian Consulate in East Boston
Stop and Shop
The Donald McKay School
Up2US Sports
Veronica Robles Cultural Center
Wellington Management Foundation
Women's Sports Foundation

Our Volunteers

42

SWB Massachusetts
Volunteers in FY22*

SWB is fun, engaging, gets our kids active and away from technology. Also it provides a safe and fun way to socialize and increase their confidence. For our kids in our community that might not have the opportunity due to lack of economic resources, these are the programs needed for our kids to grow up with self esteem, mentors met along the way, and to believe in their potential.

—Candida, SWB Massachusetts Advisory Board Member

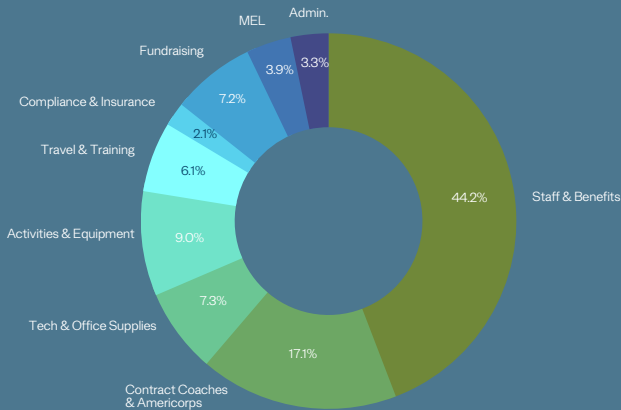
Financials



SWB Massachusetts has been embedded in the Greater Boston Area since 2012, and is local Hub of SWB, 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 Massachusetts Detail Expenses: \$289,344



Top 5 SWB Massachusetts Revenue Sources

Wellington Management Foundation
New Balance Foundation
Everett Public Schools
East Boston Neighborhood Health Center
City of Somerville Schools

SWB Organization Expenses: \$3,188,847

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

SWB Massachusetts 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 Massachusetts leadership team.

- Abdoulaye Balde
- Larkin Brown
- Allison Horwitz
- Alanna Hughes
- Touriya Kebass
- Gabrielle Krause
- Saf Momen
- Shalini Patel
- Natasha Qidwai
- Amanda Tan
- Mercedes Valdes
- Jacoba Van Heugten
- Taylor Willey



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