



MEDIA ALERT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 28, 2013

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H.P.A.R.D. Soccer for Success Program Hosts U.S. Soccer Foundation C.E.O.

U.S.S.F. Officials to See Soccer Classes in Action

Students registered with the Houston Parks and Recreation Department's Soccer for Success program will demonstrate the athletic skills they have developed through the program for officials with the U.S. Soccer Foundation at 3:45 p.m., Friday, March 1, 2013, at Sanchez Elementary School, 2700 Berkley, Houston, TX, 77012. U.S. Soccer Foundation President and C.E.O. Ed Foster-Simeon and Wylie Chen, the group's Director of Programs and Grants, will observe a training session and hear from program participants, their parents, school administrators, and H.P.A.R.D. staff about Soccer for Success's benefits for the students and their families and schools.

- WHO:** Ed Foster-Simeon, President and C.E.O., U.S. Soccer Foundation
Wylie Chen, Director of Programs and Grants, U.S. Soccer Foundation
Mayra Ramon, Sanchez Elementary Principal
Enrique Cruz, Southmayd Elementary Assistant Principal
Kenneth Allen, H.P.A.R.D. Assistant Director
Hector Avila, H.P.A.R.D. Soccer for Success Program Director
Arthma Torres and Mark Salazar, Soccer for Success Participants
- WHAT:** Houston Soccer for Success site visit by the U.S. Soccer Foundation
- WHEN:** Friday, March 1, 2013
3:45 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. Soccer for Success Session Observation
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Presentations by H.P.A.R.D. staff, program participants and parents, and school administrators
- WHERE:** Sanchez Elementary School
2700 Berkley Street
Houston, TX 77012

Soccer for Success is a partnership program between the Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.), the U.S. Soccer Foundation (U.S.S.F.), the Houston Dynamo and Dynamo Charities, and the Houston Independent School District (H.I.S.D.). Through the program, over 1,000 low-income youth at ten schools learn soccer and long-term life skills through an after-school recreational soccer program. There is no charge for participation.

Soccer for Success is partially funded by a grant from the U.S. Soccer Foundation. In 2012, the Houston Parks and Recreation Department was awarded a two-year, \$230,000 grant from the foundation for Soccer for Success. The grant award was one of thirteen U.S.S.F. Social Innovation Fund Sub-Grants, totaling \$3.6 million over two years, to support the implementation of Soccer for Success nationwide. The funding came from the Corporation for National and Community Service, which seeks to utilize public and private resources to grow promising, innovative community-based solutions to improve the lives of those in low-income communities.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department (H.P.A.R.D.) stewards and manages over 37,832 acres of parkland and greenspace for the City of Houston and develops and implements recreational programming for citizens of all abilities. For more information on the Houston Parks and Recreation Department, call (832) 395-7022 or visit www.houstonparks.org.