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Dear Friends,

Recently, we received a note from a former Soccer Without Borders participant named Tresor. He wrote: “Thanking SWB [Soccer Without Borders] will never have end, I was shown a lot of love and given an opportunity to make friends from all of the place in this planet. SWB expanded my family tree. To show my appreciation I decided to give other kids who are in need of the opportunity that I had. As a coach of this team that has no name yet, I would humbly ask for you permission to use Soccer Without Borders as our team name.”

Tresor is a refugee from the Democratic Republic of the Congo who was resettled in Baltimore. He joined Soccer Without Borders (SWB) in 2012 and participated actively on his SWB team. He signed up for a mentor to help his family navigate their new city, he attended our English lessons and academic support, and he set his sights on college. However, Tresor and his family soon moved West in search of a lower cost of living. In his new community, Tresor encountered other refugee youth trying to acclimate to their new surroundings, but no Soccer Without Borders program to help them. So he formed a team, one that he hoped to name SWB.

Tresor’s story reminds us that every young person deserves a community of support— an extended family of friends and advocates— to open doors of opportunity and be a source of comfort and safety during difficult transitions and obstacles. Now more than ever, refugee and immigrant youth like Tresor need to know that their generosity, their contributions to their communities, their potential, and their humanity is seen, heard, counted, and valued. There is no better medium than soccer to accomplish this goal. Together, our universal language can elevate our shared humanity above our differences, building more welcoming and inclusive communities.

To this end and following our largest-ever surplus in FY16, in FY17 we expanded our budget by 48%. This meant an investment of nearly $500,000 of additional resources in our programs, our participants, and our preparedness to meet the overwhelming need for services to support newcomer youth, underserved communities, and marginalized girls. Against a backdrop of complex political and cultural challenges directly affecting our participants and their families, we doubled down on our commitment to each and every individual in our global family, expanding training for our direct service staff, increasing the number of program hours throughout the year, building new feedback avenues and measurement systems, and growing our collective impact and voice. There was no more important time to make such a significant investment in our participants, both present and future.

In the year ahead, our growth plans include a new Soccer Without Borders city in a new region, a 15% expansion in the number of SWB teams, two new summer programs, and the launch of Women's Sports Corps in partnership with Women Win. These opportunities would not be possible without our extended family of advocates, our partners, supporters, ambassadors, volunteers, and friends. Thank you for playing for change with us toward a more inclusive world.

With gratitude,

Ryan Hawke & Mary McVeigh
Board President & Executive Director
The Soccer Without Borders mission is to use soccer as a vehicle for positive change, providing underserved youth with a toolkit to overcome obstacles to growth, inclusion, and personal success.
Soccer Without Borders

Youth participants from 60 countries speak 30 different languages.
**BY THE NUMBERS**

**WHAT WE DO**

SWB has programs in Maryland, Massachusetts, California, Colorado, Nicaragua, and Uganda

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of primary, secondary, university scholarships provided</th>
<th>Number of leagues and tournaments SWB participated in</th>
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<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>48</td>
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<table>
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<th>Pieces of equipment distributed every week</th>
<th>Number of leagues and tournaments SWB participated in</th>
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**OUR COACHES**

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<th>Number of leagues and tournaments SWB participated in</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<th>Number of SWB coaches</th>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Number of female coaches</th>
<th>Number of SWB coaches</th>
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<td>44%</td>
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<th>Number of SWB coaches</th>
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<td>16%</td>
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<th>Number of SWB coaches</th>
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<td>26%</td>
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<th>Number of coaches are SWB alumni</th>
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<td>26%</td>
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<tr>
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<td>26%</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of full-time coaches and coordinators retained</th>
<th>Number of SWB coaches</th>
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<tr>
<td>95%</td>
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<table>
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<tr>
<td>26%</td>
<td>43</td>
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OUR PROGRAMS

Oakland, CA
- Held its 11th Annual Refugee Community Summer soccer camp, supporting 250 refugee youth from ages 5-21
- Worked in partnership with Alameda County Social Services to support 5 teams for Unaccompanied Minors in Oakland and Hayward
- Expanded programming to include two new middle school teams serving 54 additional newcomer boys and girls

Greeley, CO
- Provided free transportation for participants to 9 different Colorado counties for games and team-building
- Increased summer programming with 3 week-long camps for elementary-aged youth
- Led programming with an average Head Coach tenure of 4.5 years with Soccer Without Borders

Nicaragua
- Recorded the program’s highest-ever academic pass rate of 97%
- Expanded school scholarship program to include elementary, secondary, and the first-ever university scholarship
- 3 participants were named to the Nicaraguan national team and competed in the CONCACAF U-15 championships in Orlando, FL

Boston, MA
- Launched high school programming for boys and girls, serving 69 participants
- 100% of participants rely on transportation by SWB to get to away games
- Expanded academic and life-skills support through monthly extravaganzas
Baltimore, MD

- Expanded summer employment to 46 participants
- Provided over 11,500 healthy meals to middle school participants
- Maintained a 100% high school graduation rate

Uganda

- Served 359 out-of-school refugee youth in Kampala as many refugee-serving agencies shifted their resources to the border settlements to support the 1 million people seeking refuge in Uganda in the face of South Sudan’s famine and conflict
- Increased girls’ participation to 43%
- Held 1,018 English and life-skills classes, averaging 4 per day, with 98% of participants reporting that they learned new English words and phrases at SWB

We are honored and humbled to have our work recognized this year by these organizations.
OUR IMPACT

Soccer Without Borders uses innovative monitoring, evaluation, and learning tools that help us improve and iterate our process, respond to feedback, and capture outcomes. Our programs are designed to support participants to advance academically, gain English language skills, build social capital, lead healthy lifestyles, and develop personally.

External Evaluation
A Palo Alto University dissertation study found that Soccer Without Borders participants have fewer absences, less truancy, and higher social self-efficacy than their non-program peers at the same school.

Youth Survey
In our externally-validated youth survey, administered in 8 native youth languages, youth demonstrated meaningful connections to coaches and teammates, with more than 90% of youth reporting sentiments such as: "My coach in this program is a good role model."

Comparative Data
Our veteran programs in Oakland, Nicaragua, and Baltimore averaged a 98% high school graduation rate in the Class of 2017. The average graduation rate in the U.S. states where we operate for Limited English speakers is 61.4%.

The things I learned from this program & my coach will help me in my life.
External Evaluation
When we have the opportunity, we work with academic institutions to measure specific outcomes.

Comparative Data
We track relevant external data such as school grades, attendance, graduation rates, and college matriculation.

Coach Quality
Our FAMILY Framework details dozens of specific, observable coach behaviors across 6 domains to create an inclusive, skill-building environment. We evaluate this through daily coach self-assessments and monthly peer observations.

Outputs
We register participants and track daily participation through the UpActive (www.upactive.com) mobile app, analyzing trends and comparing results by age, gender, language, and participation level.

Youth Survey
We conduct an annual student survey using an externally-validated survey on the High Impact Attributes, as well as additional program feedback.
COACHING FOR INCLUSION

Our staff collaborated to create the FAMILY Framework, a coaching framework and assessment tool that aims to transform the soccer field into a welcoming and inclusive space where youth are supported to reach their full potential. The Framework includes 48 specific, observable coach behaviors across 6 domains that are assessed on a 1-4 scale, with tools and trainings for each.

Facilitation refers to the demeanor and approach of the coach in relation to the players during the session.

Activity includes the content of a session, including soccer, team-building, and physical fitness activities.

Management skills are those things that happen behind the scenes before and after the session to ensure it runs smoothly and safely.

Identity refers to individual and team identities that are fostered through an inclusive and welcoming environment.

Learning refers to strategies and content for teaching skills that participants can use on and off the field.

Youth-centered space refers to the way that the coach meets youth where they are, prioritizing their needs, questions, and suggestions and creating a space for meaningful relationships to form.

Social capital and English language skills are the two strongest indicators of immigrant success in America.

George Mason University Study
We are more than a team... we are each other’s family.

SWB Greeley Colorado Participants, Middle School Girls Team
By integrating language learning into practice, we aim to create learning opportunities that are frequent and relevant.
COACHING FOR LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Did you know?

Research has consistently demonstrated that students learn a language best when they are motivated to learn, have the confidence necessary to take risks, and have ample opportunity to practice each day.

Outside of SWB Nicaragua, nearly 100% of SWB participants are English Language Learners (ELL). With support from the Ray Solem Foundation and FIFA Football for Hope, our programs collectively worked to develop an English Language-Integrated Coaching Toolkit and Activity Bank, a resource with 40+ sample soccer activities re-designed for English language development.

These resources use soccer to accelerate language development, tapping into young people’s love for soccer to build a bridge between the game, the classroom, and their new community. By integrating language learning into practices, we aim to create learning opportunities that are frequent, offering multiple opportunities to practice new language in low-stress environments, and relevant, offering vocabulary and programming that meaningfully connect youth to the content.

"When I first came here from Afghanistan, I was lonely because I didn’t know how to speak English and I knew no one. They gave me friends and let me practice my English. I feel comfortable with my teammates and my coach and know I will always have them. I hope I don’t move again so I can keep playing with SWB. SWB is like my family.”

Hasibullah, age 16, is originally from Afghanistan

The 2016-2017 average high school graduation rate for Limited English Speakers in the states where our programs operate was 61.4%

90% of participants report that practicing English at SWB helps them feel more confident using English in other places

97.5% of participants at our two veteran programs - Oakland and Baltimore - graduated from high school

81% of those graduates from Oakland and Baltimore went on to attend 2 and 4 year colleges
OUR FAMILY CELEBRATES
PERSONAL SUCCESS

In 2017, we awarded our first-ever university scholarship to Hasly - an 8 year veteran of Fútbol Sin Fronteras (SWB) and program graduate. Hasly is now pursuing an engineering degree at the Universidad Nacional de Ingeniería in the capital city of Managua, and serves as an assistant coach and tutor at SWB.

"I consider Soccer Without Borders to be the program that has opened many doors to many things, not just soccer. I have learned many things that have been important to my development. With the girls in the program I can express myself well in front of a group, and have confidence in myself that YES I can do it. I have learned to work as a team with any person no matter the language, I can communicate more fluently with the people around me. Additionally, the program has helped me with my academic development with a scholarship since I was in secondary school and now through University."  // Hasly

With the support of the Tom Pope Fund and Girls Rights Project, our Nicaragua Education Program continues to progress and grow. This program provides an all-around academic support system that includes daily tutoring hours, computer access, college preparatory workshops, and scholarships for school fees, school supplies, and uniforms - in addition to soccer training, games, and general SWB program activities.

According to UNICEF, in Nicaragua:

- The primary school enrollment is 95%, but just 56% of these students move on from primary school.
- The secondary school enrollment is just 49%, and of these only 47% attend regularly.

Soccer Without Borders has a 97% academic pass rate overall, including 96% for secondary school (up from 86% last year). We continue to see uncommon outcomes among our participants, a tribute to their hard work and perseverance, and the investment that our staff mentors, coaches, and tutors have made in addressing the barriers for each girl at each stage.
OUR FAMILY CELEBRATES ALL FAMILIES

Our holistic, long-term approach means that we often get to work with different members of the same family over time. In 2016, Merry, Medhane, Daniel, Feruz, Sara, and Tekhle, moved to Baltimore from Eritrea (via Sudan). Since then, all six siblings have joined SWB Baltimore, and their family joined our Family Mentor program.

Middle-schoolers Merry and Medhane regularly attend daily after-school programming with SWB at Vanguard middle school. Their commitment to practicing English on and off the field has enabled them to place out of the ESOL program (English for Speakers of Other Languages) at their school. The youngest two, Sara and Tekhle, joined SWB in the summer, while the oldest two, Daniel and Feruz, have participated on SWB’s boys and girls high school teams respectively, where they were able to make new friends who understand their experience as refugees.

This family’s participation in Soccer Without Borders is not uncommon. Our work with one sibling often motivates participation of other siblings, and the strength of our SWB family is inextricably tied to the support and participation of our participants’ families. **SWB programs meet youth where they are and support them as they grow** - whether they come to us in childhood or in adolescence.

**FY18 UPDATE:** In 2018, upon graduating from Vanguard Middle School, Medhane received the Leadership Award and was selected as one of the Baltimore’s YouthWorks students. Feruz graduated from high school, and she is now attending Saint Mary’s College on a full scholarship.
SWB programs meet youth where they are and support them as they grow.
OUR FAMILY CELEBRATES MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS

At Soccer Without Borders, our coaches are valued members of our teams. They have the skills, passion, and commitment to transform teams into family.

Based on our Youth Survey results, 89% of SWB participants expressed that their coach is someone they go to for help or advice. SWB head coaches have an average tenure of more than 3 years, allowing them time to build meaningful, trusting relationships with youth. They are equipped with Trauma-Informed Coaching principles and language-integrated strategies, ensuring that when players join an SWB team, they are safe, supported, and included.

In addition to ongoing staff, coach, and volunteer trainings at each program location, we organize cross-program trainings to facilitate exchange of skills, experience, and culture. This year’s Program Leadership Institute was hosted by SWB Nicaragua and included 24 SWB Program Directors and Coordinators - our largest leadership training yet.

As a refugee from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Coach/Teacher Jules has been living in Uganda for more than 7 years. He found SWB as a 15 year old English language learner in 2011 after his family moved to Kampala from the Nakivale Refugee Settlement in Western Uganda. A quick learner, he started volunteering a few hours per week as a teacher with the program by mid-2012.

By 2014, Jules was an official staff member, even staying on after the rest of his family made the difficult decision to move back to the Nakivale Refugee Settlement. Now the Advanced English Class teacher and U16 boys football coach, Jules exemplifies the best of SWB Uganda’s young leaders.
Across all of our programs, our youth teams are the vehicle through which we achieve our greatest impact. Our teams create an environment where youth lift each other up, elevating opportunities for growth and success.

This year, more than 90% of SWB participants reported through our annual Youth Survey that they:

1. Feel safe at SWB
2. Accept people who are different from them
3. Made new friends from other cultures

“SWB has been a second home for me; a place to learn, share my experiences and ideas, and have fun!” // Jules

Fithawit & Aya
Age 13, Eritrea & Iraq

“SWB brought us together, taught us to be strong women and to not give up, and made us more confident.”

Fatima
Age 15, Senegal

“I was not supposed to play soccer in my country, so I was too scared to touch a ball. I started playing soccer with SWB when I came here 7 months ago. I have learned so much about myself!”

Luis
SWB Boston

“You feel like you are in a safe environment. The players are like your brothers, the coaches are like your fathers.”

“SWB has been a second home for me; a place to learn, share my experiences and ideas, and have fun!” // Jules
OUR FAMILY CELEBRATES
COMMUNITY

Soccer Without Borders programs aim to engage our surrounding communities to amplify the values of welcoming, inclusion, equity, and cross-cultural understanding.

Across all of our programs, our 415 SWB volunteers have dedicated 26,000+ hours to coaching, event-planning, fundraising, transportation and much more. Our work would not be possible without the commitment of these community members.

Shalini, one of SWB Boston’s veteran volunteers, has been an assistant coach of the middle school girls team since 2014. Her longevity as a volunteer has created lasting relationships with participants, making her a valued mentor and role model for her team. Shalini’s experience as a coach inspired her to get more involved behind-the-scenes as a Development Committee member, planning and implementing SWB Boston’s major fundraising events and providing support and guidance to the Director.

"I've been coaching for a while, so I've seen the girls not only improve their soccer skills, but grow personally. The girls who have been with our program for years have grown to be leaders amongst their team and have worked hard to achieve the goals they have set for themselves. It’s great to see those that are new to the team or those that may be younger lean on those that have been on the team for some time. As a coach, that’s always something you hope for." // Shalini
This year, through **80 events** led by SWB’s **76 Ambassadors**, our community reached across **12 U.S. states**, all while mobilizing **2,500 youth** in front of a total audience of **37,000 young people**. Our Ambassador Program is an opportunity for supporters of SWB to make a difference by organizing their own fundraising event or plugging into an existing one.

**The Ambassador Program**

From coast to coast, SWB’s Ambassadors and participants teamed up by hosting soccer tournaments that built bridges, raised awareness, and expanded our family of friends, advocates, and supporters. Ambassadors took the field with SWB participants in the Global Games at SWB Boston and the Games of Hope at SWB Oakland.

Our partnership with **Positive Tracks**, a national, sports-based youth development organization, has propelled Ambassadors who are age 23 and younger to reach new heights as they “get active and give back.” Positive Tracks offers free programs, curricula, and hands-on mentorship, and matches the dollars raised by those youth. This year, **Positive Tracks matched $25,000, resulting in a total of $57,000 raised** through our Ambassador program.

Siblings from New Jersey, the “Three Soccer Sisters” (pictured above) worked together to organize events that collectively raised over $2,500, which was matched by Positive Tracks.

“It is so inspiring to be a part of Soccer Without Borders with my two older sisters, Bridget and Charlotte. I’ve loved the experience throughout the entire thing. **Even as a kid you can do something big in the world to change people’s lives.** From picking up trash, to traveling across the world; just to help those in need, we can all make a difference. Thank you all so much!” // Lucy
Soccer Without Borders is proud to participate actively in the global sport-for-development community. Through international exchanges, conferences, and symposia, the Soccer Without Borders family extends across the globe.

**Team Leaders**

Team Leaders Zoe Jackson-Gibson and Katie Ponce joined SWB Nicaragua and SWB Uganda, respectively. Both brought expertise from experience playing on their colleges’ varsity women’s soccer teams, Zoe at Hobart & William Smith College and Katie at Towson University. As critical members of SWB staff, Team Leaders are year-long volunteers who support the daily operations and implementation of on- and off-field programming for youth at their program site.

**Cultural Exchanges**

Through SWB Nicaragua’s TEAM Camp, Seminar & Culture Exchange, and University of Illinois Women’s Soccer Trip, and SWB Uganda’s Youth Festival, international exchanges offered an opportunity for volunteers and participants to engage in meaningful cross-cultural learning, skill-building, and fun. This year, SWB hosted more than 50 volunteers at our international programs in Nicaragua and Uganda through these exchanges.
FIFA Football for Hope Forum

Co-Founder Mary McVeigh was one of 20 global representatives selected for the FIFA Football for Hope Forum in Kazan, Russia to discuss the future of football for development and its contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals.

Symposia & Conferences

SWB leaders and staff traveled across the country and world to participate in and learn from symposia and conferences related to our work, including:

- FIFA Football For Hope Forum in Kazan, Russia
- US Soccer Foundation Symposium in Washington, DC
- Welcoming Interactive in Atlanta, GA
- Sport & Trauma Conference in Boston, MA
- Beyond Sport United in New York, NY
- Streetfootballworld General Assembly in Lyon, France

“My year in Kampala was more than a great experience, but what I consider the foundation to what I want to do as a professional. The role gives individuals the freedom to bring their own strengths to an already incredible program. This freedom brought on many responsibilities that allowed me to grow and learn in multiple capacities.” // Katie Ponce, SWB Uganda
IN THE NEWS

Coming Home: How Soccer Without Borders Is Building A Bridge To The Next Generation

Soccer Without Borders thrives on the universal language of sport

Refugees on the playing fields of America

Soccer helps young refugees take a shot at new life in the U.S.

Newcomers to USA get a boost from Soccer Without Borders: Meet founder Ben Gucciardi

‘Soccer Without Borders’ Helps Refugee Children Feel At Home In Boston
“Time and time again, we see our graduates go on to not only be successful for themselves, but to think of giving back to the community. Since so many of them have been through great challenges, when they begin to have some success, they always want to help others navigate their own struggles.”

“All of the families that our kids are coming from have made so many sacrifices to have their kids achieve a better life,” Thomas said, emphasizing that education is hugely important to the families. We, in turn, definitely prioritize supporting the academic success of our kids.”

“The players on the field have escaped everything from poverty and discrimination to war and famine. For them, soccer has become a shared passion, a sport that builds community as well as character.”

“Soccer is a powerful motivator in itself, too. The draw of traveling to a soccer tournament with your team is important leverage to focusing more on studies and making the right decisions in other areas of life. The results speak for themselves.”
A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

Dear Supporters,

As a direct-service organization, our staff is out on the field, in the classroom, and in communities implementing our mission every day. We are incredibly fortunate to have support from thousands of individuals who have donated their time, talent, and treasure to make this work possible. Over the last 24 months, Soccer Without Borders has doubled in size in response to an overwhelming demand for our services. In the final month of FY16, we were honored to win the $250,000 Lipman Family Prize from the Wharton School of Business, accelerating our timeline for growth and enabling us to build our capacity to better meet this growing demand.

To align with our strategic goals and ensure responsible growth at a steady pace, we were able to Board-restrict this funding and release it to be spent over three fiscal years: FY16, FY17, FY18. However, according to GAAP, we had to recognize 100% of that income in FY16. This led to expenses in FY17 without the matching revenue, which created the slight deficit you see presented here.

While we will continue to publish our financials in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and IRS regulations, including the publishing our our Fundraising and Administration expenses, we encourage all of our supporters to consider the narrative behind the numbers. We also recommend reading the Open Letter released by Guidestar, the Better Business Bureau, and Charity Navigator about the misconceptions surrounding this ‘overhead’ ratio: www.overheadmyth.com.

Two-thirds of our fundraising expense and over 80% of our administrative expense is the portion of our hardworking staff members’ time that is devoted behind-the-scenes to the safe, efficient, and effective delivery of our core mission, and lawful operation of our organization and programs. To ensure that we are cost-effective, we operate as a shared service organization, with all programs operating under a single 501(c)(3) while sharing professional services that are higher cost such as auditing, financial management, human resources, operations, technology, insurance, and M&E.

Thank you for your continued investment in work supporting underserved youth reach their full potential.

Tammy Reeder
Board Treasurer
# FINANCIALS FY17

8.1.16-7.31.17

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Please see [www.soccerwithoutborders.org/partners](http://www.soccerwithoutborders.org/partners) for listing of the organizations who help make our work possible!

These financials were independently audited by Kevin R. Martin & Associates. FY17 was our 5th consecutive independent audit with no findings.
OFFICIAL PARTNERS

Up2Us  
up2us.org  
The Up2Us Sports Coach and VISTA Programs have been a key source of support for SWB staff and coaches since 2010.

Positive Tracks  
positivetracks.org  
Positive Tracks helps kids get active to make change by sweating for good, and is the official partner of our SWB Ambassador Program.

Ruffneck Scarves  
ruffneckscarves.com  
As the official scarf of the MLS, USL, NCAA, and U.S. Soccer, Ruffneck Scarves has been the official scarf of SWB since 2015.

Senda Athletics  
sendaathletics.com  
Senda’s vision is to make the highest quality, ethically made gear in the world. Senda’s fair trade soccer ball has been the official game ball of Soccer Without Borders since 2016.

Global Rescue  
globalrescue.com  
Global Rescue is the world’s leading membership organization providing evacuation, medical, security, and travel risk management services.

Afghanistan Women’s National Team  
Serving as the team’s fiscal sponsor, SWB supports the Afghanistan Women’s National Team by providing an avenue for tax-deductible donations for travel, training, and equipment.
Annual Report 2017

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