



**Schneider Park Improvement Project
as presented by The Toledo Celtics Soccer Club**

Applicant:

Toledo Celtics Soccer Club

Project Contact:

Yousef Aliakbar

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Project Name:

Schneider Park Improvement Project

Location:

Schneider Park

Grant Request:

\$19,000

Total Project Budget:

\$18,163.78

Brief Description of the Project:

Data shows that at least one child fatality and 200 injuries from tipped soccer goals are reported each year, with over 40 lethal cases since 1979. In these cases, these tragic incidents are the result of tipping goals that are unsecured, improperly placed, or do not have the new safeguards. The goals at Schneider Park are always well secured by the Celtics staff, however the goals at Schneider Park are outdated, difficult to store, and have fallen into disrepair. Additionally, they are difficult to work with, due to the decreased functionality of the goals, effectively limiting the ability of staff and players to perform certain tasks with ease.

Purpose/Need:

This improvement project is intended to increase the safety, functionality, and aesthetics of the Schneider Park Soccer Complex, owned by the City of Toledo. The funding being requested is to purchase new goals at appropriate sizes for the varying aged players that practice, train, and play at Schneider park. With the advancement of technology, new goals have additional safeguards to help prevent major, avoidable incidents. These goals will provide a safer place for the players, have greater functionality due to their portable design, and will improve the overall aesthetic of the park. Additionally, this request will fund a storage container to place the goals and complex equipment during the winter months to maintain and ensure the longevity of the equipment, and avoiding a decline in their condition.

Objectives for this project include:

Ordering a set of 8'x24' goals for players aged 13 to adults

Ordering a set of 7'x21' goals for players aged 9 to 12

Ordering a set of 6.5'x18.5' goals for players 11 and younger

*Note that these goal sizes are designated by United States Youth Soccer Association

Training all Toledo Celtics staff on the proper use and set up of the new goals

Ordering a large storage container for all equipment

As stated above, the need that is addressed in this improvement project is an increase in safety, functionality, and aesthetic at Schneider Park. Over the 8 years, a portion of Schneider Park, has been premitted for use by the Toledo Celtics Soccer Club. Accounting for the 200+ players that play with Toledo Celtics, the dozens of teams from the area that travel to play the Toledo Celtics, and 1000+ players that play with the club's recreational affiliate, the Toledo Leprechauns, Schneider park is accessed well over 2000 players. Additionally, the portion that is permitted for use by Toledo Celtics has had shared access with various other organizations, such as Bowser High School and the Special Olympics organization, as well as members of the public looking to enjoy the soccer park. The participants that will benefit from these improvements are very wide reaching.

Property Location: District 2

The location of this project is Schneider Soccer Park. The address is 2698 Schneider Rd #2648, Toledo, OH 43614. This property is owned by the City of Toledo and is overseen by the City of Toledo's Division of Parks, Recreation and Forestry.

Support and Sustainability:

Additional potential funds to complete this project:

Allocation funds from the Toledo Celtics Soccer Club's budget

Allocation funds from the Toledo Celtics Leprechaun's budget

Requesting funding from individual donors.

The Toledo Celtics Soccer Club will provide in-kind, ongoing maintenance for this project, and the equipment associated with this project, for at least the five years required by the Toledo City Council District Improvement Grant.

Organizational Background:

The Toledo Celtics Soccer Club was founded with great vision and influential perspective by Dr. James King and Lee Aliakbar in 1987. As the club started out and began to establish a foothold within the Toledo and Northwest Ohio soccer community, the teams were primarily focused on the older, high school aged age groups to grow the game in these age groups. But as both Dr. King and Lee soon realized, there was so much more that they could offer to the Northwest Ohio soccer community and decided to expand the club to incorporate a full lineup of teams from all age groups.

In 1991, the Club made the old DeVilbiss High School stadium their home field. This facility was furnished with lights in 1992. After the club was able to acquire Celtics Stadium and stabilize its facilities, the Board of Directors decided to establish a youth program in 1994 and success came rapidly. As the club success and impact began to grow through the fall of 1995, the club directors decided to establish the Toledo Leprechauns recreational soccer program, which is designed to allow all children ages of 3 -14 an opportunity to learn, grow and develop at the grass roots recreational level of soccer. Since its inception, the Toledo Leprechauns has proudly worked with thousands of youth players across the Northwest Ohio area, and has coupled with the Toledo Celtics Soccer Club to offer all levels of soccer to the community.

As club offerings expanded to both the boys and girl's youth soccer and instruction, rapid success soon followed, and the club quickly established itself as one of the pillars of the competitive soccer not only in Northwest Ohio, but also across the state and Midwest region. With the new standards of success leading to new offerings and opportunities for players and coaches in the area, the board then decided to venture into the adult amateur and semi-professional ranks, and became the first organization to offer professional development level soccer in Toledo since the long defunct Toledo Pride professional indoor soccer team.

The board decided to purchase a United Soccer Leagues franchise and brought the Toledo Slayers – a USL PDL team – into existence in 2003 and immediately offered the best pathway for the Toledo area and nationwide youth to work their way into the professional soccer landscape. From there, club and community inclusive youth USL Super-Y league teams were formed and offered to all interested and operated in successful coordination with the Toledo Slayers PDL team for the next 4 years. Ultimately, the franchise operation and growth costs proved to be too much in a

market that just wasn't quite ready to embrace those visions of soccer at the time, and the Toledo Slayers franchise was forced to cease operations after 5 years of successful and meaningful competition for the Toledo community.

Even with facing this setback, the Toledo Celtics continued to pursue the pathway for success for the area soccer community and has surged with success once again up to the present day. Some of the highlights of this success include being a participating

member of the best local, regional and national conferences and competitions in the country, and the countless success of so many of our teams, character and personal accomplishments of so many of our club alumni. The club has achieved success at every level possible across the country, qualifying for the USYS and Super Clubs National Championships, 11 USYS and US Club Soccer Regional Championships qualifiers, won 10 Ohio North State Cup Championships, and countless state finalist, semi and quarterfinalist teams. The Toledo Celtics have helped to foster and develop players and teams that have achieved numerous awards and recognitions, from top 5 national rankings to individual accolades including All-American, All-Region, All-State, All-District and All-Conference teams, and have helped hundreds of aspiring youth soccer players to reach their goals in the collegiate and professional arenas.

The club has been able to feature, compete and succeed at the highest levels of competition across the country, with participation and championships at major events such as the Dallas Cup, USA Cup, Disney Collegiate Showcase, Jefferson Cup, Las Vegas Mayors Cup, Annandale Premier Showcase, Crossroads of America Showcase, Blue Chip Showcase, St. Louis Cup, Memphis Invitational and Best of the Midwest just to mention a few. On the international stage, the club has taken upon itself to participate and fully compete and win at world renowned tournaments such as the Gothia Cup in Sweden, Dana Cup and Cup1 Cup in Denmark and Holland Cup in the Netherlands, electing to provide actually meaningful international games and competition for our teams, not just arranged friendlies.

Toledo Celtics has been a part of the Toledo community for the past 33 years and is truly the definition of a resilient Toledo entity who fully believes in that "You Will do Better in Toledo". We take great pride in the city of Toledo and have worked tirelessly to give our time to enhancing the game of soccer for the youth in the greater Toledo area. The Toledo Celtics fully believes in promoting the positive aspects of what the city of Toledo has to offer and have endless belief in the abilities that our Toledo area youth possess.

Organizational Structure:

Key Staff Members include:

Chief Executive Officer - Lee Aliakbar

Director of Coaching - Kirk Brazeau
 Office Manager - Carla Weltin
 Director of Youth - Yousef Aliakbar
 Coaching Staff - Nate Baer
 Coaching Staff - Art Johnson
 Coaching Staff - Sam Awad
 Coaching Staff - Yadi Aliakbar

Implementation:

Contingent upon acquiring grant funding through the District Improvement Program, the Toledo Celtics will implement and execute the objectives immediately. It is the organization's hope that the equipment and storage be outfitted at Schneider Park, and the staff is fully trained by March 1, 2020. However the Toledo Celtics are prepared to transition the equipment, arrange a storage area, and train its staff as early as November 1, 2019 should the grant be acquired earlier.

Budget:

Source of funding	Target amount	Amount Pledged
Toledo Celtics Budget	\$500	\$500
Toledo Leprechauns Budget	\$500	\$500
Individual donors	\$250	\$250
Total		\$1,250
Expenses	Average Cost	Expected Cost
Kwik Goal Brand Soccer Goal - Sized 8'x24'	\$3,049.99 per goal	\$6,099.98
PEVO Brand Soccer Goal - Sized 7'x21'	\$1,699.99 per goal	\$3,999.98
PEVO Brand Soccer Goal - Sized 6.5'x18.5'	\$1,499.99 per goal	\$2,999.98
Kwik Goal Soccer Goal Net 3.5 mesh 8' x 24'	\$134.99 per net	\$269.98
Kwik Goal Soccer Goal Net 3.5" Mesh 7' x 21'	\$114.99 per net	\$229.98
Kwik Goal Soccer Goal Net 3.5" Mesh 6.5' x 18.5'	\$108.99 per net	\$217.98
Delivery of 3 Sets of Goals and Nets	\$1,295.90	\$1,295.90
Weather Proof Storage Container	\$2,500 per container	\$2,500
Delivery of Storage Container	\$550 per Container	\$550
Total		\$18,163.78

Note: We do not pay sales taxes as 501(c)(3)

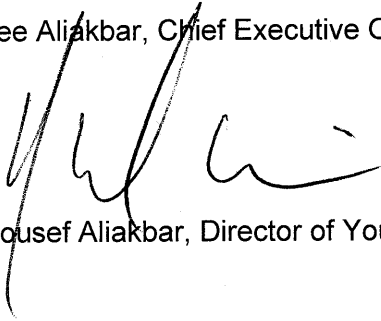
Note:

All estimates are based on extensive research done by the Toledo Celtics Staff. All selections of expenses meet the intended goal of increasing the safety, functionality, and aesthetics of the Schneider Park Soccer Complex, but also reflect and consider price appropriateness.

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lee Aliakbar', written in a cursive style.

Lee Aliakbar, Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Yousef Aliakbar', written in a cursive style.

Yousef Aliakbar, Director of Youth