

# Soccer Shots



Director's Newsletter

Fall 2020

Vol. 2



**THANK YOU!**



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## LOOKING BACK AT SUMMER

*By: Andee O'Brien, Administrative Assistant*

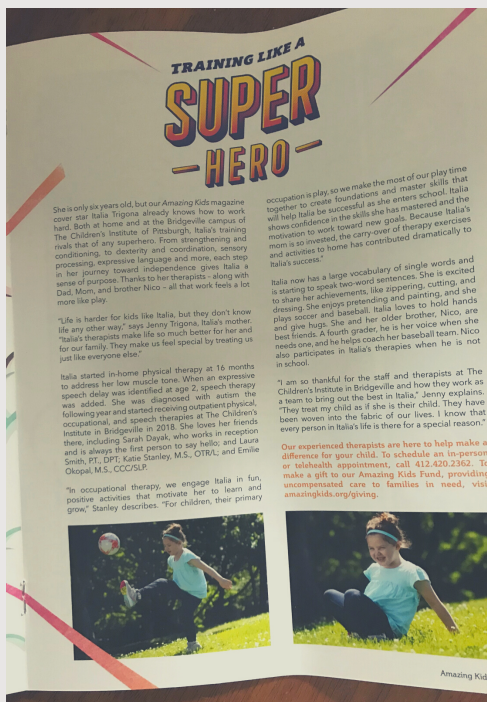
After a full virtual season in the spring, our soccer friends were finally able to lace up their shoes and fill up their water bottles for the long-awaited return to Soccer Island! This summer, Soccer Shots was able to return to in-person programming and each week participants met on the field for a high-energy, fun-filled session. From a weekly theme of "pets" to "castles", players were engaged and learned new skills such as the "step-over" and the "pull-back". Players also learned new character words weekly, including "respect" and "confidence".

Through our modified curriculum and procedures, Soccer Shots was able to provide a quality, educational, and safe experience. We are so glad that we were able to return to play in a responsible way and we couldn't have done it without our valued Soccer Shots friends and families. As always, an excellent season can't be fully complete without a 1... 2... 3... Soccer Shots!

## STORY OF IMPACT

*By: Phoebe Hopkins, Operations Coordinator*

Soccer Shots star, Italia Trigona (age 6), was featured on the front cover of the 2020 Children's Institute Yearly Magazine. The article explains that "For children, their primary occupation is play" and it highlights how sports, including soccer, have helped Italia confidently master skills and work towards new goals. Nico, Italia's brother and a Soccer Shots alum, has also learned similar lessons from sport. He now plays recreational and travel baseball. Their mother, Jenny Trigona, says "Soccer Shots has been such an important part of our family for almost 8 years now...[and] Soccer Shots has played an enormous part in the success of both of our children." At Soccer Shots, we are grateful to have the opportunity to work with Italia, Nico, and have a positive impact on them and thousands of other children throughout the years.





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## A NOTE FROM THE OWNER

*Anthony Calvano, Owner of Soccer Shots Pittsburgh*

Hi, I'm Anthony Calvano, the owner for Soccer Shots Pittsburgh. I have 3 kids in our Soccer Shots age range, an 8 year old girl, a 6 year old boy and a newly 5 year old boy.

Before starting Soccer Shots, I coached all sorts of camps, leagues and teams and I fell in love with coaching! It was great to be able to pair my love of soccer with my elementary education degree to work with kids and have a positive impact on them. I particularly enjoyed working with the younger age groups because I felt I had more of a chance to have an impact. One of the things I noticed when I first got into coaching was that the younger kids were often looked over and that the best coaches worked with the older groups. Soccer Shots strives to flip that around and have the best coaches for the younger ages. I was fortunate enough to work with one of the founders of Soccer Shots and I saw firsthand what a difference great coaching at an early age can make in a player's development.

After my professional playing career was winding down, I immediately thought of Soccer Shots. I had seen what the organization was capable of and I really believed (and still do!) in the Soccer Shots core values. I decided to start a Soccer Shots franchise here in Pittsburgh, and now, almost 10 years later, I'm still very grateful for the opportunity to do what we do every day. We were able to work with over 6,500 kids in 2019 and in 9 years have positively impacted over 25,000 kids. We have awesome leadership and coaching teams that really care about the kids and live our core values. I am excited to continue to improve and grow our program and make a difference for the kids in the greater Pittsburgh area!

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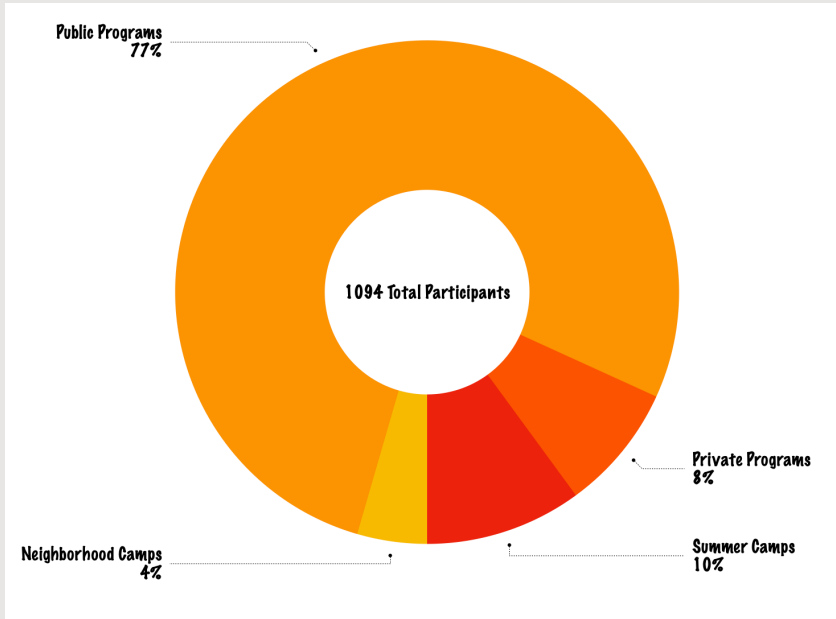
# SOCCER SHOTS BY THE NUMBERS:

## SUMMER 2020



	Public Programs	Summer Camps	Private Programs	Neighborhood Camps	Total
Mini (2-3)	297	-	7	6	310
Classic (3-5)	492	36	56	29	613
Premier (6-8)	57	74	26	14	171
TOTAL	846	110	89	49	1,094

### PARTICIPANTS BY PROGRAM TYPE



This summer Soccer Shots offered many different types of programming to our players.

**Public Programs:** Any program in which the general population can register. This also included our virtual program, Soccer Shots On The Go LIVE!

**Private Programs:** Any program held at a childcare center or preschool, where only those who are enrolled at the center can participate

**Summer Camps:** One week half-day camps, held at various locations and some other various programming only held in the Summer

**Neighborhood Camps:** A new program this summer, neighborhood camps are programs that occurred in the backyards of participants for their specific group of friends

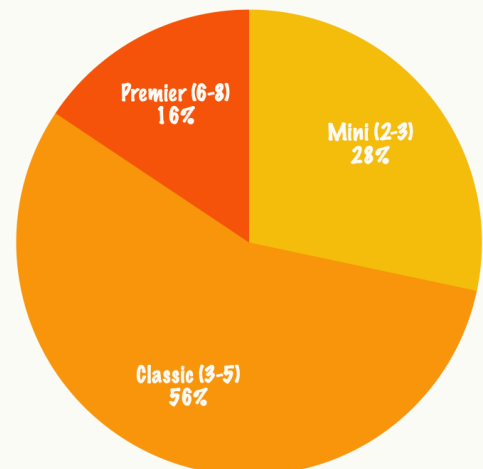
Soccer Shots breaks down our programming by the age of the participants because we know that kids of different ages don't learn the same. We have 3 different curriculums that we use -- Mini, Classic, and Premier.

**Mini (2 - Young 3):** This Mini program offers an introduction to soccer and movement, with an emphasis on balance, coordination and confidence. Repetition, high energy and celebrating achievements are critical to the this program.

**Classic (Older 3 - 5):** The Classic program teaches the technical skills of soccer and encourages greater confidence with ball control by using both feet, starting and stopping and changing directions by incorporating basic moves. Through creativity, positivity and fun, we encourage new challenges and increased confidence in this program.

**Premier (6-8):** The Premier program reviews and refines individual ball control and technical skills, while also introducing children to the tactical elements of the game. There is a strong emphasis on scrimmaging and teaching game concepts, and therefore, teamwork and sportsmanship are important components of this program.

### PARTICIPANTS BY AGE GROUP



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## KIDS OUT AND ABOUT: FAVORITE PLACE FOR SPORTS/PHYSICAL EDUCATION

*By: Phoebe Hopkins, Operations Coordinator*

Soccer Shots was named the "2020 Favorite Place for Sports/Physical Activity" by KidsOutandAbout.com readers! The website put out a survey and asked its readers to rank their top choices in six categories. Soccer Shots Pittsburgh was the winner for category "Favorite Place for Sports/PE". We are honored to have been chosen by Pittsburgh families!



### IMPORTANT DATES

Monday, August 31: Fall Kick Off

Monday, November 2: Fall 2.0 Kick Off

Saturday, January 9: Winter Kick Off

### PREPPING FOR WINTER

As we get our Fall season off the ground, we will begin moving our focus to the Winter. In the coming weeks, you can expect to hear from us to check in and set up your Winter season.



### QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, CONCERNS?

Reach out to Cassidy at [cassidygraham@soccershots.org](mailto:cassidygraham@soccershots.org) or 412-589-8928 and we will be more than happy to assist you.

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