

# NorthStar Soccer Ministries

**NORTHSTAR SOCCER  
MINISTRIES**  
**promotes opportunities for  
investment in the lives of  
urban youth in  
Birmingham by providing a  
high quality Soccer Club  
within a holistic, Christian  
environment**

## PROFESSIONAL PLAYER SPEAKING AT CELEBRATION!

The NorthStar Celebration is Thursday, November 17. Texas native and Liverpool player Satara Murray will kick off her visit to NorthStar Soccer Club by speaking at our annual banquet. Murray grew up in a single-parent home in Texas and will share her experiences and the value of sport in shaping lives.

Murray grew up in the Lonestar Soccer Club before playing at the University of North Carolina. After college she spent a year with the Washington Spirit before earning a spot with Liverpool Ladies.

Guests at the NorthStar Cele-

bration will have the opportunity to win a training session with Satara (all training sessions will be Sunday afternoon, November 20).

Satara will spend time with NorthStar Leadership Academy players and lead them in producing a clinic for NorthStar players.

We are pleased to have her with us as a trainer, role model, and inspiration!



*Satara Murray—starting defender for the Liverpool Ladies*

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## PERSPECTIVE

2016 marks 20 years of ministry for 'NorthStar'. A lot has changed over those years. When we started I had no idea that we would be doing youth soccer at all, much less that it would eventually become our primary focus and we would even change our name to reflect it.

What has not changed over those years is the burning desire to see impact on lives within a community of need—impact that has its root in

Christian discipleship understood broadly to touch on every aspect of life.

I look back on the many challenges we have faced over the years and I am amazed that we have made it this far. When I think about giving up on the whole enterprise I see faces of young kids and I think about their need. I see faces from the past and think about impact we have made together.

Your financial contribution and/or volunteer time will

expand our capacity to reach more kids and to invest in them more deeply. I hope you will join or re-commit to the team with whatever resources you have been blessed with.

I hope too that you will make plans to CELEBRATE! with us on November 17—and bring a friend. There are many opportunities for coaching, tutoring, and mentoring.

*Paul Neville*

## U12 'BOYS' COMPETITIVE TEAM WINS BIRMINGHAM BASH!

Throughout the past fourteen years we have grown from fielding a team or two per season to a full fledged Club with our own intramural program for younger ages and recreational teams through U12.

We have 'graduated' close to 20 youth on to competitive teams with other clubs. This year we have reached a new milestone. For the first time ever, NorthStar has fielded our own competitive level team (for those in the know on soccer lingo—our team is playing this fall in group D in U12 boys state league.)

Fielding our own team makes the experience more accessible for more of our kids. When we send our kids off to other clubs we lose some who have the skill but for whom logistics are a challenge. Socially it can also be a challenge and we have seen players we sent solo to other clubs drop out for that reason.

Fielding our own team also makes continuing the off the field impact we want to make easier. Coach Matt Miller has been with the core group of boys on the team

for the past couple years and led the team through devotionals and mentored them. This summer we added a few players from other NorthStar teams—including two highly skilled girls to form this new competitive-level team.

Raymond Butler—who has experience coaching teams at this level—signed on as head coach this fall. Raymond is simultaneously coaching a Briarwood Soccer Club u12 boys team and is taking advantage of the opportunity for joint practices, spiritual impact and social events. NorthStar & Briarwood players frequently guest play on each other's team and are attending tournaments together. We believe the impact of coaches who are solid mentors coupled with the richness of the cross-cultural experience will have



*Members of NorthStar Ambassadors team with coaches after winning championship game at Birmingham Bash Tournament!*

strong, life-long impact for players on both teams.

The first ever NorthStar competitive team was already a huge success from multiple stand points. We were delighted to add to those broader measures of success the experience of winning a tournament. It's only their first season and the first ever NorthStar competitive team already has championship medals to their credit!

*"Mentoring coupled with rich cross-cultural peer relationships will have positive life-long impact for both teams"*

## THE FUN STARTS AT U6!



NorthStar U6 teams practice once during the week and then come together for Saturday games. This fall we had 4 teams on the west and 4 teams on the east so we scheduled a round robin 'league' composed of these eight teams.

U6 is a great time for these young players (and their families) to try out the game of

soccer.

**U6 is also a great opportunity to jump in as a volunteer even if you have limited soccer knowledge.** It's 'PE with a soccer ball' and at NorthStar we add weekly devotionals led by coaches. Contact us if you would like to try it out for the spring season!

## LIFE IMPACT STORY BY TINA ROBERTS, PROGRAM COORDINATOR

For being so young, Isaac's story is already a very powerful one. Isaac is six years old, and has experienced deep pain from abuse, neglect, and abandonment. As a result, Isaac is currently in a foster home that, along with other resources, has introduced him to NorthStar Soccer.

He came to us in the Spring of this year, and has come to LOVE soccer so much! Anyone that knows this precious boy well knows two things: that the deeply-rooted heartache



has repercussions that take consistency and patience to heal, and that being a part of that healing is worth it.

Isaac's foster parents take him to church with them every Sunday, and recently his Sunday school teacher taught Isaac's class the Lord's Prayer from Matthew 6.

Isaac will now proudly and confidently pray the Lord's Prayer, and according to his coach this season, Isaac volunteered to pray after practice one day and recited the entire Lord's Prayer in front of his team. The rest of the

kids didn't even know what it was.

Through Isaac's example of prayer, Coach Greg then had the opportunity to share with team Blizzards how Christ has modeled prayer for us in his Word. Despite where Isaac has been and how deep of an impact that has had on him, he is seeing and hearing the love of Christ that is deeper than his hurt. As staff at NorthStar, we are so thankful to see and experience the Lord's great love for His people and His powerful presence through the ministry.

## HOLISTIC IMPACT

At NorthStar, we take our soccer training very seriously but, soccer for us is a tool for investing in the lives of youth—not an end in itself.

We use the game itself to teach confidence, perseverance, sportsmanship, team-work. We also take the relationships we form and use them as openings to challenge and encourage players and their families.

This past summer 30 kids participated in our summer learning program. We host tutoring and book club programs at Princeton Elementary School. Staff members are a weekly presence at our primary target schools: Princeton & Tuggle on the west side; Cornerstone & Oliver on the east side. After school hours staff members are also spending time in small group bible studies with players (in addition to devotional sessions that are a part of prac-

tice).

**Mission – NorthStar Soccer Ministries** promotes opportunities for investment in the lives of urban youth in Birmingham by providing a high quality Soccer Club within a holistic, Christian environment.

**"We use the game itself to teach confidence, perseverance, sportsmanship & team-work"**

## FROM COMPETITION TO RELATIONSHIP BUILDING



To the left are a few members of our U10 Academy program (we have 18 Academy players total) with a group of Academy players from Briarwood Soc-

cer Club.

Providing new experiences for our players and our partner clubs alike is one of the key by-products we are seeking to develop through our soccer program.

Our U10 girls are fairly competitive in play across the region. We are thrilled to see

them growing in confidence as they develop their skills.

The 'holistic impact' article above describes some of our 'off the field' efforts with these girls. But, more than just soccer skill development is happening 'on the field' as the picture at the left suggests!



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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

For more information and ticket purchases,  
visit our website: [NorthStarSoccerMinistries.org](http://NorthStarSoccerMinistries.org)

**NorthStar Celebration**  
*featuring*  
**Satara Murray,**  
*Liverpool Ladies FC*  
*(Women's English Premier League)*  
**Chance to WIN a private session**  
**for your youth soccer player!**

**Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**6:00PM**  
*Catering by Urban Cookhouse*

**Shades Valley Community Church**  
**160 Oxmoor Rd | Birmingham, AL 35209**

**Tickets \$50 per person**