

Off the Sideline Celebrates One Year of Getting Kids in the Game

In partnership with organizations like Volunteers of America, Hacienda CDC, REACH, Home Forward & Boys and Girls Club, Off the Sideline helps low-income youth participate in team sports in all seasons.

PORTLAND, Ore. — March, 2017 — Off the Sideline issued its first scholarship one year ago and has been helping kids get in the game for the past year.

During the last year, Off the Sideline helped more than 80 kids in grades five through nine access sports programs in their communities, encouraging at-risk youth to take part in team sports, improve their health and fitness levels, develop positive role models, hone social skills and broaden their community network. Through Off the Sideline scholarships, children participate in a variety of sports ranging from golf to volleyball. The organization even helped Rosa Parks Elementary put together two basketball teams.

“While other programs support individuals or teams with the most athletic promise, our mission is to build healthy communities and reach youth who are most at risk,” says Leslie Mestman, OTS executive director. “Our communities are stronger when kids have safe, supportive activities that build self-esteem and encourage them to make healthy choices. There are few programs that have such wide-reaching benefits across a broad spectrum as team sports.”

OTS is a non-profit that increases youth participation in sports by providing scholarships to low-income youth. With assistance from local and national groups, Off the Sideline teams up with community partners like Volunteers of America and Boys and Girls Club to serve kids living in the Portland metro area. Their scholarships enable youth to participate in the sport or program that works best for them, rather than relying on what is free.

“Hacienda CDC is thrilled to partner with Off the Sideline,” says Jaclyn Sarna, Expresiones program manager. “Youth in our community have a deep connection to sports, but their families often experience barriers to participation. Off the Sideline eases the cost burden on our families, which levels the playing field and helps our youth live healthy, active lives.”

About Off the Sideline

Off the Sideline is a 501C(3) non-profit dedicated creating strong communities by providing scholarships for low-income youth to participate in team sports when they are most at risk. For more information, visit www.offthesideline.org