

SOCCER MINI-PITCH OFFICIALLY UNVEILED AT BELLE HAVEN SCHOOL IN MENLO PARK

Menlo Park, CA – A new soccer mini-pitch gifted to the community by the family of U.S. Soccer Foundation Board Member Dr. Dana Weintraub was officially unveiled at Belle Haven School in Menlo Park this past Saturday. Joined by District and City dignitaries and representatives from the U.S. Soccer Foundation and Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula (BGCP), students from the area were part of the grand opening celebration.

“As a pediatrician, mom, athlete, coach, and BAWSI Co-CEO, I know the physical and mental health benefits of sports and that sports are one of the most powerful tools for leadership development,” said **Dr. Dana Weintraub**. “Too many kids are left on the sidelines due to lack of affordable programs and safe places to play. The U.S. Soccer Foundation is working to change this. When we give kids a soccer ball, a coach, and a safe place to play, we give them the opportunity to develop the skills to be the future leaders our community needs.”

“I’m incredibly grateful to have Dana on our board. Her contributions over the years have helped propel our programs forward on a national level,” said **Ed Foster-Simeon, President & CEO of the U.S. Soccer Foundation**. “Her effort to bring this mini-pitch to Belle Haven is just another example of the many ways she prioritizes community health and uses our sport for lasting, positive change for girls and boys.”

In addition to installing a mini-pitch at Belle Haven School as part of its [*Safe Places to Play*](#) program, the U.S. Soccer Foundation partners with BGCP to run the Foundation’s nationally recognized soccer program, [*Soccer for Success*](#), at the school as well as at BGCP’s Menlo Park site just five minutes away from Belle Haven School. Since the 2014-2015 season, the U.S. Soccer Foundation and BGCP have served over 1,000 children in *Soccer for Success* and trained over 60 coach-mentors.

At the grand opening event, local youth joined **City Councilmember Cecilia Taylor, U.S. Soccer Foundation President & CEO Ed Foster-Simeon, Dr. Dana Weintraub**, and **BGCP Co-CEO Jenny Obiaya** for a dedication ceremony followed by a “first kick” and scrimmages on the new pitch. **Mayor of Menlo Park Betsy Nash, Vice Mayor of Menlo Park Jen Wolosin**, and **Mayor of East Palo Alto Ruben Abrica** also joined in the festivities. Attendees and their families were also able to enjoy soccer activities and food from local vendor Mary’s Comida Mexicana at the festival-style event.

“Since the installation of this mini-pitch, it has been in constant use,” said **Michelle Masuda, Principal of Belle Haven School**. “Students love playing soccer in our community, and this

mini-pitch has been an exciting new way to get more students into the game and get them moving during recess.”

Ravenswood is committed to improving its school facilities and was thrilled to partner with the U.S. Soccer Foundation and Dr. Weintraub on this project. The district continues to look for new ways to improve its campuses, and the Board recently voted to place a general obligation bond on the ballot in June 2022. Learn more about Ravenswood facilities [here](#).

“Starting off as a *Soccer for Success* coach-mentor and becoming the Director of BGCP Sports Leagues, it is a worthwhile feeling knowing that our youth will have access to a safe space where they can continue to thrive and grow,” said **BGCP’s Sports League Director Chris DeTrinidad**, who is also a U.S. Soccer Foundation *Soccer for Success* National Trainer and National Training Facilitator. “This will allow for our soccer programs to extend throughout the weekend and to help bring our community together.”

To access event photos, click [here](#).

ABOUT U.S. SOCCER FOUNDATION

The U.S. Soccer Foundation’s programs are the national model for sports-based youth development in underserved communities. Since its founding in 1994, the Foundation has established programs proven to help children embrace an active and healthy lifestyle while nurturing their personal growth beyond sports. Its cost-effective, high-impact initiatives offer safe environments where kids and communities thrive. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Soccer Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. For more information visit www.ussoccerfoundation.org or follow us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

ABOUT BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS OF THE PENINSULA

Founded in 1958, Boys & Girls Clubs of the Peninsula (BGCP) is driven to help all youth grow up to lead fulfilling lives fueled by their passions, talents, and a love of learning. We aim to empower youth in our community with equitable access to social academic and career opportunities to thrive. BGCP currently serves 2,500 students (kindergarten through college) across three Clubhouses and 14 school sites in East Palo Alto, Eastern Menlo Park and Redwood City.

ABOUT RAVENSWOOD CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Ravenswood is a TK-8th grade public school district located in East Palo Alto and East Menlo Park, California. They serve 1,530 students in transitional kindergarten through eighth grade, across three elementary schools and one middle school. Ravenswood is proud of its diversity, with 99% of district students identifying as Latinx, African American, Pacific Islander, and/or multiple races. Our mission is to empower every student to fully engage critically and creatively

in their education with the skills and mindset necessary to successfully fulfill their unique potential. Ravenswood is committed to improve our school facilities, including through outside partnerships and a general obligation bond. Learn more about Ravenswood facilities at our [website](#).

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