A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

First and foremost, it is truly an honor to lead America SCORES Cleveland. Every day I am in awe at how inspiring our Poet-Athletes are. After a challenging 2020 and 2021, we were thrilled to welcome back our Poet-Athletes to in-person programming in our 12 partner schools during the 2021-2022 school year.

The road that led us here was difficult to navigate at times, but thanks to our philanthropic and community partners, America SCORES Cleveland was able to continue serving our poet-athletes through quality, accessible programming for all youth.

I am pleased to share that, as promised, our Jr., Core, and Middle School programs showed a high level of growth and satisfaction. While our 2021-2022 participant numbers reflect the unfortunate consequences of the pandemic, SCORES continued to impact the 1,850 youth we served. I hope you will enjoy seeing our overall positive impact on the youth we have reached.

As we reflect on this past year, we could not be prouder of our poet-athletes and appreciate the dedication of the staff and coaches who delivered programming. As we begin a new school year, we look forward to continuing to provide a safe space where our poet-athletes can develop their voice through poetry, practice a healthy lifestyle with soccer and connect with their community through service learning.

Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to Cleveland youth!

Alison Black, MSSA, LISW-S
Executive Director
Mission
America SCORES inspires Cleveland youth to lead healthy lives, be engaged students, and have the confidence and character to make a difference in the world.

Vision
Our vision is to engage and support Cleveland poet-athletes through high school graduation, in an effort to develop healthy, civically engaged students and leaders within our communities.

Program Model
SCORES reaches Cleveland youth through a unique curricula composed of soccer, poetry, and service-learning.

We unite children, teachers, families, and community partners to help foster a support system that nurtures learning and celebrates youths’ achievements.

SCORES meets The Ohio Afterschool Network's guidelines for providing quality afterschool programming, and all curricula is aligned to State and National Standards in language arts, physical education, and service-learning.

All programming is led by trained teachers, staff, and qualified community members.

Why soccer?
As a popular sport requiring minimal equipment, soccer is accessible to children regardless of economic status. Soccer engages youth with their peers in vigorous activity and provides a platform for teaching fitness and nutrition. Youth who play soccer also learn the values of teamwork, sportsmanship, and discipline.

Why poetry?
Creative thinking promotes problem solving and performing instills public speaking skills. Writing and performing poetry gives youth an outlet to express emotionally charged experiences that may inhibit their ability to perform academically. Creative writing also encourages a personal connection to literature, which deepens classroom engagement.

Why service-learning?
Volunteerism instills in children a sense of compassion, social responsibility, and personal worth. Through service-learning projects and collaborative experiences, children develop leadership and teamwork skills at an early age. Youth apply their knowledge to group-selected community projects, which inspires self-efficacy and pride.

Who are poet-athletes?
Poet-Athletes are the youth participating in the America SCORES Cleveland program. The term is used to signify the holistic approach SCORES uses to celebrate each participant’s creativity and physical activity.
OUR 2021-22 AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMMING LOCATIONS

**Bellaire - Puritas**
- Artemus Ward School
- Robinson G. Jones School

**Clark - Fulton**
- Natividad Pagan International Newcomers Academy (formerly known as Thomas Jefferson)
- Scranton

**Cudell**
- Marion C. Seltzer School

**Hough**
- Wade Park School

**Glenville**
- Franklin D. Roosevelt Academy

**Jefferson**
- Garfield School

**Slavic Village**
- Albert Bushnell Hart
- Warner Girls' Leadership Academy

**St. Clair-Superior**
- Willson School

**Tremont**
- Buhrer Dual Language Academy
OUR 2021-22 COMMUNITY IMPACT

- **2,068** Youth served
- **1,721** Family members attended SCORES games & events
- **12** CMSD schools served
- **102** Soccer games played
- **9** Cleveland neighborhoods
- **64** Coaches
- **24** Community partners
- **12** Youth-led service projects
- **2** Community & family events
- **3,500** Poems written

2021-22 Program Outcomes Report
OUR 2021-22 OUTCOMES

**Literacy**

96%
1st-2nd graders improved or maintained literacy scores

70%
3rd-8th graders improved or maintained writing scores

100%
Coaches agree SCORES helped improve students' language arts skills

**Physical Fitness**

52%
3rd-8th graders increased or maintained their aerobic fitness

69%
Poet-athletes agree that because of SCORES, they are trying to be healthy by eating better and getting more exercise

**Social Emotional Learning**

93%
Poet-athletes are more confident about themselves

73%
Poet-athletes feel they know how to deal with frustration in positive ways

Source: 2021-22 America SCORES Cleveland Assessments and Survey Results
METHODS OF ASSESSMENT

America SCORES Cleveland conducts comprehensive evaluations to continually assess the successes and needs of the program. All assessments and surveys quantifiably measure levels of literacy, fitness, school engagement, and social and emotional competencies. Support and feedback is given on select evaluations by Kimberly Rush, Adjunct Professor of English at Cleveland State University; Claire Rollins, Senior Project Manager at Case Western Reserve University SOM; and Gerard Banez, PhD, Program Director of the Pediatric Pain Rehabilitation Program at the Cleveland Clinic.

Literacy

Writing Assessments (Core & Middle) are administered at the beginning and end of the fall season. Poet-athletes are asked to write a poem or short story on any topic they choose. The 6+1 Trait Writing Rubric is used to score their writing samples. Rubric categories include: ideas, organization, voice, word choice, sentence fluency, presentation and convention.

Dolch Sight Words Assessments (Jr.) are administered at the beginning and end of each season. A selected list of words from the primer through third grade list of Dolch sight words are presented to youth on flash cards and students are assessed on how many words they are able to recognize at the beginning of the season versus at the conclusion of the season.

Physical Fitness

The Progressive Aerobic Cardiovascular Endurance Run “PACER Test” (Core & Middle) is an aerobic capacity evaluation administered at the beginning and end of each spring season. The PACER Test involves running continuously between two points that are 20 meters apart and has become recognized as one of the most popular and valid tests of aerobic fitness available.

Surveys & Social-Emotional Learning

Coach Surveys are administered at the end of each season. Writing and Soccer coaches provide feedback on how the SCORES program affects students’ language arts skills, levels of self-confidence, leadership, cooperation and teamwork, and general attitude towards school.

Caregiver Surveys are administered at the end of each school year. Caregivers respond to questions on their child’s experience with the SCORES program and how the SCORES program benefits their children.

Poet-athlete Surveys (3rd-8th graders) are administered at the end of each season. Poet-athletes complete a survey that measures program impact in social and emotional learning core competencies.
POET-ATHLETE HIGHLIGHT

Angela is a 5th grader at Warner Girls' Leadership Academy. She first joined SCORES in 2021 and has since shared her talents for poetry writing with international audiences!

Earlier in 2022, she was selected as Cleveland’s poet-athlete finalist to compete for the annual America SCORES International Poetry SLAM!

The international SLAM! is a friendly poetry competition bringing together all SCORES affiliates across the U.S. and Canada.

Since becoming an international SLAM! finalist, Angela continues to share her poetry with listeners here in Cleveland. In June, Angela was co-Emcee for the America SCORES Cleveland's Red Carpet Poetry SLAM! fundraiser. She presented the event beside co-Emcee and WKYC anchor Carmen Blackwell.

Angela’s favorite part of SCORES is how she gets to connect with new people and make friends!

What is Life...
by Angela, Core, 5th grade

What is life?
It’s when you achieve something
But no matter how big that achievement is
there will always be an obstacle
to stop you from
truly completing it

What is life?
Where you feel a roller coasters
of emotions
happy, sad, angry, frustrated
and so much more
where you can’t understand
 certain things for
many reasons.

What is life?
Where you see wonders
in unexpected places
wonders far beyond our reach
Like stars that are still at times

What is life?
Where there are always people
around
And all you do is think
What’s their name,
how old are they

Questions you would ask if you
knew them
But really it’s just curiosity
What is life?
This is my life
but what my real question is
What is your life like?
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For more information or to learn more, please contact us:

America SCORES Cleveland
3631 Perkins Ave., Unit 2CE
Cleveland, OH 44114
P: 216-881-7988

@AmericaSCORESCleveland
@SCORESCleveland
@Americascorescleveland

www.AmericaSCORESCleveland.org