

Arlington Soccer Association

2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT



Inspire and empower through teamwork

ArlingtonSoccer.com
[#TeamArlington](https://www.instagram.com/TeamArlington)

WHAT'S INSIDE

3

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

5

FINANCIAL REPORTS

7

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

9

YOUTH REFEREE SPOTLIGHT

10

LEGENDS SPOTLIGHT

11

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

12

RECREATIONAL COACH AWARDS

13

PLAYER SPOTLIGHT

14

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

15

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Message from the President

It is a privilege to serve as the President of Arlington Soccer's Board of Directors. The Board is committed to providing strategic advice and recommendations to ensure that Arlington Soccer carries out its vital mission of providing opportunities for young people to play soccer in an environment that helps them develop as athletes, individuals and contributing members of this vibrant community.

The Board understands the important role the Club can play in the development of a young person's life both on and off the soccer field. We are committed to providing players with a chance to grow in confidence as individuals and as part of a team. We are proud that Arlington Soccer provides an opportunity to empower young people in our community through various options such as: Girls with Goals, Real Madrid After School Program, our new Futures Program (which will focus on additional player development in kindergarten through 2nd grade students), our Recreational programming, ADP, travel soccer, and auxiliary programming and clinics. Arlington Soccer offers a program for players of any level to find success, gain confidence, and make long-lasting friendships. While each family and player can choose many pathways through our diverse programming, we remain committed to a soccer community that embodies "one" Arlington Soccer.

Our vision, to be an inclusive organization that draws people to soccer, is a powerful one. Through our dedicated senior staff and technical team, our club is dedicated to continually developing and improving our programs, activities, and facilities so participants have the opportunity to learn, have fun, and reach their full potential. For more than 50 years, Arlington Soccer has made a significant impact on families in our local neighborhoods and throughout Arlington. Our accomplishments have been nothing short of extraordinary.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of our sponsors. We are proud and grateful for our individual donors, who are so active both on and off the fields. We are also thankful for our key community partnerships, both long-term relationships with Arlington business stalwarts and new relationships with prominent industry leaders.

It must be acknowledged that this past year has provided many unique challenges. In particular, COVID-19 has dramatically impacted and disrupted youth sports. We have seen many long-serving organizations in our region cease operating, while others have been forced to merge, reduce staff, and scale back programming. However, Arlington Soccer was able to maintain diverse offerings for our community, retain talented staff, and ultimately strengthen our position through sound forward-looking leadership and disciplined fiscal management. Our volunteers stepped up, working tirelessly to offer a sense of normalcy to our children who truly needed their friends and teammates more than ever.

Our accomplishments in fiscal year 2020 - 2021 include:

- Recreational Soccer program that continued to field community-based teams across 13 neighborhood based clubs, serving approximately 5,000 players;
- Robust Arlington Developmental Program with an additional 600 to 650 competitive players; and
- Highly competitive Travel Program, with more than 1,500 players on approximately 100 teams. This past year we had nine teams win the Virginia State Cup, three teams win the President's Cup, four Regional winners, and one National Championship (our second overall).

The mission of Arlington Soccer is as critical and relevant today as it was 50 plus years ago. On behalf of the Board, I am confident that Arlington Soccer will continue to carry out its mission with the creativity, dedication, and hard work that has defined our history. We look forward to seeing you at the field, and we know brighter days are ahead.

Respectfully,

Brian C. Plesser
Board President, Arlington Soccer Association
Co-Manager, Northwest Lions Recreational Soccer Club

Financial Reports

FY '21 REVENUES

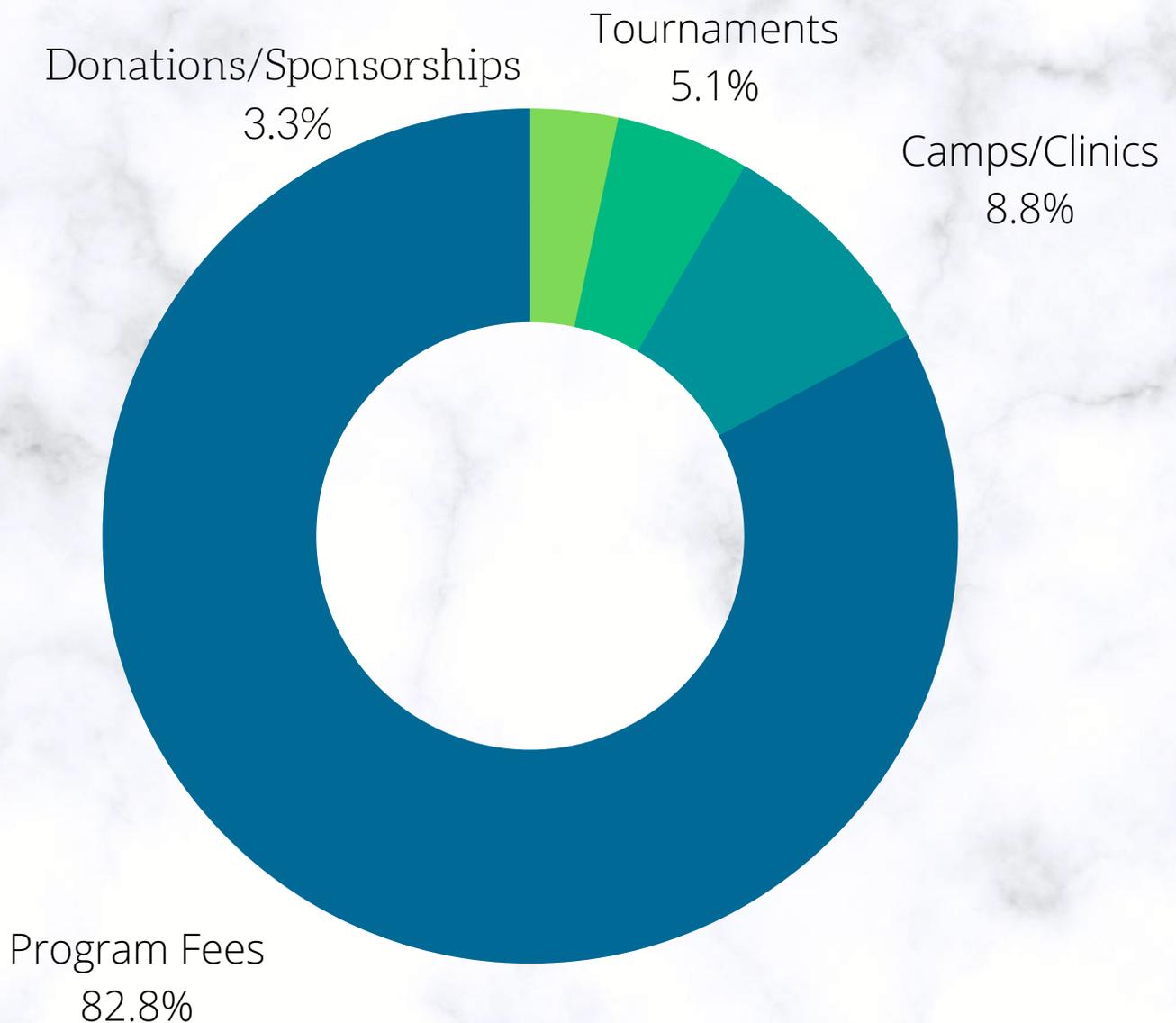
The overall club revenues for FY '21 totaled \$5,216,000. The four main buckets of revenue include:

Program Fees: \$4,318,000

Camps & Clinics: \$461,500

Tournaments: \$264,000

Donations & Sponsorships: \$172,500



Financial Reports

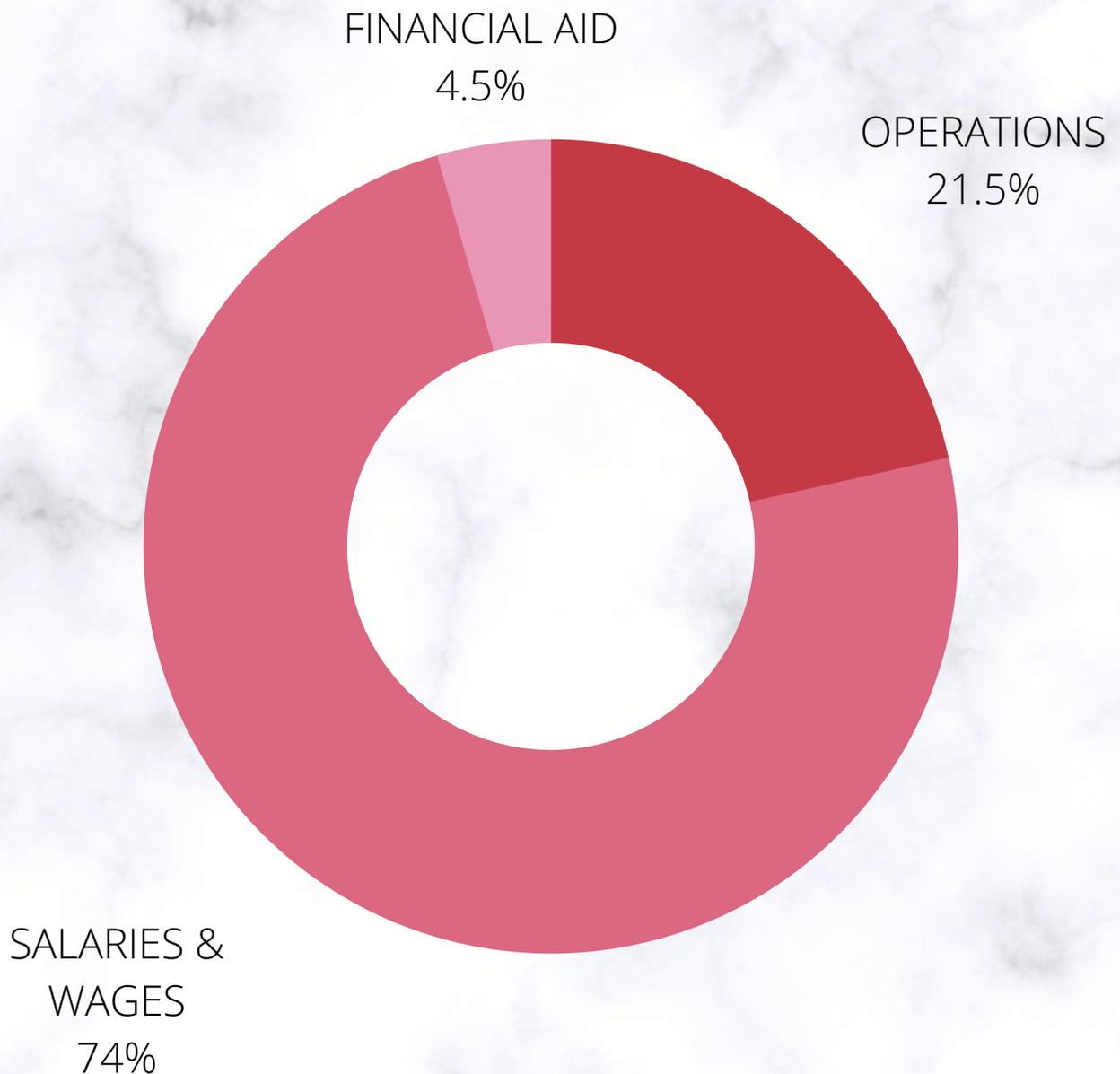
FY '21 EXPENSES

The overall club expenses for FY '21 totaled \$5,118,000. The three main buckets of expenses include:

Salaries & Wages: \$3,787,000

Operations: \$1,100,000

Financial Aid: \$231,000



Volunteer Spotlight

JOHN MINGUS



The modern 20-year anniversary gift is platinum, which is strong and enduring. That perfectly describes the relationship between John Mingus and Arlington Soccer.

In the spring of 2001, John began volunteering for Arlington Soccer as an assistant coach for his daughter Emily's first grade team. That began a 20-year journey of service to the Club and the community that continues today.

John's dedication and commitment to the Club and the game of soccer has been recognized well beyond the borders of Arlington County. In 2019, John received the VYSA Volunteer of the Year Award, the USYS Regional Volunteer of the Year Award and the USYS National Volunteer of the Year Award at the National Coaches' Convention. (See picture above)

Volunteer Spotlight

JOHN MINGUS

John's service as a coach in Arlington Soccer has become a family tradition. This fall will be the first time since 2010 that John and Emily will not be coaching a team together. Emily is a full-time teacher and is pursuing her master's degree. Not to be deterred, John is coaching 3 rec teams this fall and continues to serve as the co-manager of the NW Lions.

In addition to coaching his own teams, John mentors young coaches and served as the chair of the rec committee from 2011 to 2019. He now represents the soccer community as a member of the Arlington County Sports Commission.

John describes a young coach Mingus as "overly active on the sidelines, very vocal during games, and loud and demonstrative." His coaching style has evolved over the years as he learned from veteran volunteer and travel coaches. His current style of coaching is "practice is my time, and the game is the kids' time to play." The players on his teams now affectionately refer to Arlington Soccer's Annual Silent Soccer day as "when every other coach acts like Coach John."

John has a huge love for the game. In addition to coaching and serving on the rec committee, he still plays soccer every week and can be found in the stands at DC United and Washington Spirit games.

As a community, we are grateful for the strong and enduring commitment of John Mingus.

Youth Referee Spotlight

Last year's recipients of the Arlington Soccer referees' scholarships, Lino de Ros and Jennifer Lopez-Perez, are heading off to college! De Ros is a first-year cadet at the United States Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, while Lopez-Perez is a freshman at Virginia Tech. We are so grateful for the time they spent refereeing and playing with the Club.

Both of these talented alums covered rec soccer matches all over Arlington. De Ros began working games his sophomore year of high school and enjoyed it from the start. He started working games for players as young as second grade and eventually found his niche at 5th and 6th grade games. Refereeing helped build his confidence - an important trait now paying off at the Air Force Academy.

Lopez-Perez started playing soccer in 5th grade and continues to play on a club team at Virginia Tech. She began refereeing two years ago as a way to stay more involved with the sport. Her advice for high school students is to take the plunge and get started as soon as possible. Though her biggest initial worry was the reaction of sideline parents, being an Arlington Soccer ref became a true joy. Being in control and knowing it was her responsibility to ensure fairness was both exciting and rewarding.

Both de Ros and Lopez-Perez said that deciding to become a referee at Arlington Soccer was one of the best decisions they made. If you know someone who is aged 13 or up that might be interested in joining our talented team of referees, please contact whistle@arlingtonsoccer.com.



Legends Spotlight

MIKE WOODS, ADP DIRECTOR

JERRY ELLISON, TOURNAMENT DIRECTOR

Jerry Ellison and Mike Woods are two Arlington Soccer Legends who both hung up their whistles at the end of the 2020-21 season. This dynamic duo spent decades helping build Arlington Soccer into what it is today. Both men were long time successful travel coaches in the club before taking on additional responsibilities.

Mike Woods grew up in Arlington and started his career with Arlington Soccer as a young travel soccer player. From 1997-2021, Mike lent his talents as a coach to generations of players, coaching every age group of both boys and girls. In 2001, Mike's Boomers U12 girls delivered his first State Cup win. His later years with the club were notable not just for his coaching success, but also for his stewardship of the ADP program which grew immensely under his leadership. Mike's time with Arlington Soccer was truly a full circle experience – he leaves behind an unmatched legacy on the same fields on which he grew up playing.

Jerry Ellison spent nearly 25 years at Arlington Soccer and leaves behind an important legacy that is most tied to his role with the Arlington Spring Invitational Soccer Tournament (ASIST). Over a ten-year span, Jerry nurtured and expanded the ASIST from humble beginnings to a widely respected tournament for top-level travel teams across the region. Despite moving out of Arlington several years ago, Jerry continued to play key roles at the club, ensuring a new generation of kids experience all that soccer can provide. We will think of Jerry fondly each Spring as our teams step on the fields for the ASIST.

The retirement of these two legends will be felt throughout Arlington Soccer. Mike and Jerry provided thousands of kids the opportunity to grow and mature on and off the field. Their knowledge and love for the game is only surpassed by their dedication, patience, and passion to make Arlington Soccer better every day. We thank Mike and Jerry for their incredible service to our Club and our community. On behalf of everyone in Arlington Soccer, we hope these Arlington Legends enjoy their newfound free time on weekends.

National Championship

2006 BOYS ACADEMY TEAM SECURES THE 2ND NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP FOR ARLINGTON SOCCER



The Arlington Soccer Academy 2006 Boys won the USYS 15U Boys National Championship on July 25 with a win over National Soccer Club from Michigan. The team navigated its way through a 15-game slate in just 30 days to lift the trophy.

The team started strong with a 3-2 win in their opening match at Nationals. This led to a perfect 3-0 record in pool play. After drawing with Nationals 2006 Black in the championship, the team's 5-4 win on PK's propelled it to earn the hardware and return home as champions.

Two other Arlington Soccer Boys Academy teams represented the club at National Championship events. The 2007 Boys Academy earned a berth at the ECNL National Championships, while the 2003/02 Boys Academy team finished in the Elite Eight at the USYS National Championship.

The 2003/02 team's run to nationals marked the third consecutive appearance for the 2003/02 Boys Academy, after a finals appearance in 2019 and being named "Standout Team of the Decade" in 2020. This year's edition of the team earned a State Cup championship and an Eastern Regional championship on their path to Nationals. This team is a testament to the incredible depth of Arlington Soccer, as these successes came with the help of nine younger players from the 2004 age group.

Congratulations to all the teams!

Recreational Coach Awards

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR OUTSTANDING
VOLUNTEER COACHES FOR A FANTASTIC YEAR



Arlington Soccer is honored to announce our 2020-2021 Rec Coaches of the Year. These coaches best exemplify what it means to be a volunteer coach and serve as proud leaders for their teams and peers. We are indebted to all of our coaches and volunteers who give so much time and effort to our kids and all of Arlington Soccer.

Congratulations to our 2020-21 Recreational Coaches of the Year:

Arlington Aces	John Daly (5th grade boys)
Arlington Kiwanis	Jared Scogna & Tegan Holtzman (8th grade boys)
Arlington Optimist	Rob Saperstein (3rd and 5th grade girls)
Civitans	Jill Corrigan (kindergarten girls)
Crystal City	Becky Dines (4th grade girls)
Lightning	Adam & Toni Wexler (4th grade boys)
Northwest Lions	Nico Vroom & Andy Kennedy (8th grade boys)
PK Soccer	Bernie Woolfley (7th grade boys)
Revolutionaries	Judith Davis (8th grade boys)
South Arlington	Dan Crawford (6th grade boys)
Tornadoes	Tooshar Swain (1st and 5th grade girls))
High School	Eric Timar (high school girls)

ALL-REC COACH OF THE YEAR: Jennifer Thoman, Lightning (6th Grade boys) & AK (6th grade girls)

All-Rec Coach of the Year Spotlight: This year's All-Rec Coach of the Year winner is Jennifer Thoman. Jen coaches both a Lightning 6th grade boys team and an AK 6th grade girls team, in addition to her role as a club manager for the Crystal City Rec Club. Jennifer's calm under pressure, unending enthusiasm and patience with players, coaches, and parents make her a deserving winner. Thank you Jen and congratulations!

Player Spotlight

NORA GREEN-ORSET PREPARES FOR COLLEGE SOCCER AT WILLIAM & MARY



Arlington Soccer and Norwegian Youth National Team player Nora Green-Orset is preparing to graduate from Yorktown High School in June 2022, and has already committed to play Division I NCAA soccer at William & Mary in Williamsburg, VA.

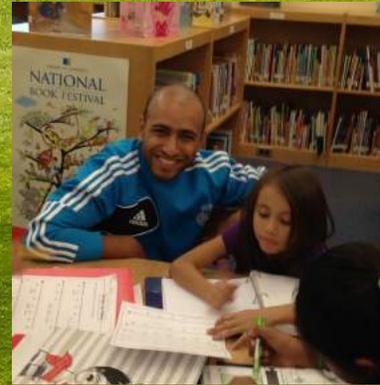
Her decision to choose W&M was led by the Tribe coaching staff's focus on making W&M soccer the best it can be, along with the college's outstanding academics. As a travel player since she was seven, the emphasis her coaches at Arlington Soccer made on teaching the game and growing as players, rather than just winning, made a key impact on Nora. The desire to grow on the field led to many friendships that she maintains to this day.

Green-Orset, a graduate of Arlington Soccer's Girls Academy, first appeared with the Norwegian U-16 team two years ago to appear in European Qualifiers. Her favorite memory on the team was sparking a comeback against the Netherlands with a goal while the team was behind, eventually leading to the win.

As she prepares to head off to college, Nora is most looking forward to playing with her new teammates and becoming a part of the William & Mary soccer family.

Congratulations and best of luck! We will all be cheering for you!

Community Programs



Arlington Soccer connects with the community through our relationships with local businesses, schools and organizations. We strive to connect with children throughout the county from all backgrounds. Of the 9,000+ kids we serve, over one-third of those players face economic hardships that can make participation in our standard programs challenging. Though we offer significant financial aid to many of our players, Arlington Soccer has also developed programming targeted towards at-risk youth.

Two programs in particular, Real Madrid and Girls with Goals, currently serve over 350 players at their home schools. Since 2012, Arlington Soccer has partnered with the Real Madrid Foundation and Arlington Public Schools to deliver an after-school soccer and character-building program. Under the guidance of specially trained Arlington Soccer coaches, these children participate each season at no cost to them.

Girls with Goals kicked off in 2019 as a partnership between Arlington Soccer, Arlington County Extended Day and 4-H. The program is offered to elementary aged girls at Title 1 schools and provides a 6-week, no cost, afterschool soccer club with professional coaching that not only build soccer skills, but also includes character building activities that reinforce fairness and sportsmanship.

In addition to our established programs, Arlington Soccer remained nimble during COVID to provide as many soccer opportunities as possible to those in need. Though school was not in session, we partnered with two schools to provide virtual soccer sessions for students. Our coaches worked with the athletes on everything from soccer skills to good nutrition habits. These sessions allowed players and coaches to connect weekly and enjoy much needed fellowship.

As schools return, Arlington Soccer looks forward to renewing all our connections with the schools, community and young players!



Corporate Partnerships

Facing new challenges and navigating health and safety protocols, Arlington Soccer Association received immense support from its corporate partners throughout 2020-2021.

The support of our corporate partners directly impacts our community by funding programs that promote healthy living, character building, and providing access to the game of soccer to build confidence and empower youth.

Customized partnerships help provide accessibility for our community's youngest members to play by funding scholarships, keeping operational costs down, and supporting community programming. In addition, our partners connect to our passionate soccer community to display their support of the Club's mission.

Seven new corporate partners joined Arlington Soccer in 2020-21, helping us reach new heights.

Sponsorship highlights include:

- New travel jersey sponsor
- Arlington Futures sponsor
- ADP jersey sponsor
- New "Inside the 18" e-newsletter format
- Community Partners page on website

**THANK YOU TO OUR
2020-21 CORPORATE
PARTNERS:**

amazon

LINDSAY
You'll Love It At Lindsay

Virginia
529

SAIC

EVERY SEASON STARTS AT
DICK'S
SPORTING GOODS

Harris Teeter
Neighborhood Food & Pharmacy

CONGRESSIONAL
SCHOOL

COLONY GRILL


THE LEWIS TRUST


WASHINGTON
FINE PROPERTIES


FAIRLINGTON DENTAL
CORPORATE DENTAL SERVICES
MICHAEL ROGERS, DDS


AUGUSTINE
ROOFING

veo


adidas

thank you

We could not serve the thousands of players and their families without the incredible support of our volunteers, donors and corporate partners. Your generous support of Arlington Soccer this past year made a tremendous difference in the lives of so many.

Together, we can provide soccer programs to Arlington's children in a safe and positive environment where young athletes can learn life skills and develop as people and players.

CONTACT US

info@arlingtonsoccer.com

www.ArlingtonSoccer.com

(703) 527-0157