

Fusion Girls Soccer - Giving back to our community (Jan, 2010)

Generosity and kindness are offered to the Fusion girls at every team-based fundraising event they host. The community buys raffle tickets and buys our famous peameal bacon sandwiches in support of these determined young players on the path for international competition. In return, the Fusion girls have committed to giving back where they can to the communities in which they live.

In 2009, the Fusion girls participated in three fundraisers:

1. [Family Day Charity Tournament at BMO Stadium in Toronto](#)

Split into two teams, the Fusion participated in the first ever Family Day Charity Tournament at BMO Stadium. With a playing format that would determine the winner by the greatest goal differential, it was the Fusion Grey who would bring home the championship. The Fusion Grey finished top of the standings with a +21 goal differential and the Fusion Blue had the best Goals Against record in the tournament finished with a +13 GD. The Fusion Blue was also the only team to defeat the Fusion Grey in the tournament. Congratulations to both Fusion teams on a very fun day and to the players on Fusion Grey for winning the tournament.

As winners of the Family Day Charity Tournament, the Ontario Soccer Association made a donation on behalf of the Fusion to Ronald McDonald House Charity. Many families travel far from home to get treatment for their seriously ill or injured children. The treatment may last a day, a month, or even longer. It's a long time to be away from home, or to divide a family. Ronald McDonald Houses around the world offer families a way to stay together, in proximity to the treatment hospital, and be comfortable and cared for during their stay.

2. [Canadian Tire Jump Start BBQ + Dunk Tank + Raffle Ticket Fundraiser](#)

In the summer of 2009, the Fusion girls took to the parking lot at the Bowmanville Canadian Tire to raise funds for their team trip to the Gothia Cup in Sweden, and for children who cannot afford to participate in organized sports. The girls sold raffle tickets, hamburgers and hotdogs, and a variety of treats to local supporters. They also offered a 'dunk for a dollar' in the dunk tank. Many brave souls stepped up to the plank for this worthy cause, including Councillor Willie Woo. At the end of the day, the Fusion girls donated \$500 to JumpStart, a community based charitable program that helps kids in financial need participate in organized sport and recreation such as hockey, soccer and swimming.

3. "Lose the Hair, Coach Dave!" Charity Fundraiser

For most, the day could not come soon enough. Coach Dave announced that he would shave his head for charity. The Fusion girls gathered donations for the Toronto Sick Kids Hospital Foundation. Coach Dave was looking to raise a minimum of \$1,000 for his charity.

Coach Dave put out a challenge to each player to raise a minimum of \$40 for the opportunity to cut a piece of his hair off. The three players who raised the most money had the honour of shaving off the remaining hair. When asked why he is going from one extreme to another Coach Dave had this to say; "Well first and foremost, it's for a very good cause. I work with kids almost every day of the week, so choosing a hospital that does great things to help children every day was a no-brainer. It also gives us (The Fusion) a chance to give back to the community. The community has been great to us over our last few fundraisers.

The support has been tremendous for our Scandinavian Tour. We're just doing our part and giving back to the community." But no sooner did that challenge go out to the players that another challenge from the players went to Coach Dave. Kaitlin and Megan challenged Coach Dave to the following: If they can raise \$1,000 by themselves, by September 4th, then they also get to paint Coach Dave's toe nails and finger nails "Fusion Blue" at next weekend's tournament in Ohio. "If Kaitlin and Megan can raise a \$1,000 in a week, it will be well worth the embarrassment I will have for the weekend. I accept the challenge!" said Coach Dave.

When it was over, the Fusion girls had raised a staggering \$1,865.00 for the Toronto Sick Kids Hospital Foundation, cut off all of Coach Dave's hair, and painted his fingers nails Fusion blue. Fun was had by all, and most importantly, a worthy cause was supported.

