





## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Second Annual Soccer Fest Offers Camden Kids Chance to Play**

CAMDEN, N.J. – The Camden Health & Athletic Association (CHAA), in partnership with the Camden Youth Soccer Club on Wednesday, Aug. 30, hosted Soccer Fest, a free skills and drills clinic featuring interactive exhibits by Philadelphia Union U on Tour.

More than 100 children participated in Soccer Fest, which provided them a chance to learn more about the sport, practice the game and register for the fall season. The event was held at Campbell's Field.

"Soccer Fest brings Camden children and families together for a great evening of fun and games," said Susan Bass Levin, President and CEO of the Cooper Foundation. "As a founding member of the Camden Health & Athletic Association, Cooper is committed to ensuring all Camden children have the opportunity to play sports and learn about teamwork, leadership and healthy lifestyles."

The Camden Youth Soccer Club offers programs for boys and girls, ages 4 to 14, to learn to play soccer, improve their skills, and play competitively with their friends.

The Camden Health & Athletic Association, through The Cooper Foundation, will sponsor each player this season with a jersey, shorts, socks and shin guards at no additional cost to families.

"We are looking forward to a successful soccer season this fall and are encouraging Camden kids to come out and play," said Al Dyer, Executive Director of CHAA. "We are also encouraging adults to volunteer. We need coaches, referees and involved parents to join our team and help teach our children the skills needed to succeed on and off the playing field."

(more)

Funding provided by





The fall soccer season will start on Sept. 16 and continue for nine weeks until Nov. 18. All games will be played on Saturday at Camden High School and Von Nieda Park. Parents may choose where their child plays and registration is just \$15.

A second registration event is planned for Sept. 9 from 10 a.m. to noon at Camden High School and Von Nieda Park.

"With the support from the Camden Health & Athletic Association, we are able to grow our soccer program and provide greater opportunities for the children of Camden," said Gerald Van Wilgen, President of the Camden Youth Soccer Club. "The sport of soccer is growing in popularity everywhere and our kids deserve the chance to take part and enjoy the fun and camaraderie of the game."

## About the Camden Health & Athletic Association

The Camden Health & Athletic Association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to expanding Camden's youth sports programs and health initiatives in Camden. The Association launched in June 2016 with a \$1 million initial investment by The Cooper Foundation of Cooper University Health Care, the Norcross Foundation and AmeriHealth New Jersey.