

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Project GOAL
2004-2014
*Celebrating 10 Years of
Student Academic Success*

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FIFA Awards RI's Project GOAL Multi-Year Funding

One of only six in US to receive funding from International Soccer Federation.

PROVIDENCE, R.I. – Project GOAL has been awarded financial support through FIFA's *Football for Hope* grant program for 2015 and 2016. The grant of \$60,000 USD will help defray operating, equipment, and capacity-building costs which will free up other funds so Project GOAL (PG) can mentor more students, on and of the soccer "pitch", for another two years. PG is one of only six U.S. organizations selected to receive this prestigious FIFA funding.

The objective of *Football for Hope* is to contribute to social change through the medium of football or soccer, especially by supporting sustainable social and human development programs run by community based organizations in underprivileged communities – such as Central Falls and some neighborhoods in Providence.

Darius Shirzadi, Project GOAL's Executive Director, exclaimed, "We could not be prouder. This reaffirms that our mission *is* important, and our results *are* significant. Amazingly, 96% of our kids graduate high school and over 90% go on to college. No organization has those numbers. And only organizations that meet *Football for Hope's* strict eligibility criteria receive this funding, so it means a lot to the program, the kids and their families."

FIFA announced that financial support of \$3.1 Million is to be distributed among 108 football-related social development programs world-wide—primarily in poor nations.

About Project GOAL: Established in 2004, [Project GOAL, Inc.](#) (Greater Opportunity for Athletes to Learn), is an after-school initiative that partners with the Central Falls School Department, SCOPE/Central Falls School District, and Rhode Island College's M.ED. in Reading program. Project GOAL's mission is to facilitate the development of New England's disadvantaged inner city youth through after-school tutoring, health education, and soccer-related programs.

A non-profit 501c3 organization, Project GOAL, Inc., is comprised of professionals from the business, academic, health and soccer communities who support the project in achieving its objectives in creating opportunities for its "GOALie" participants.

Project GOAL is an organization supported by Football For Hope™, a founding member of the Urban Soccer Collaborative™ and a North American member representative of the streetfootballworld™ Network based in Berlin, Germany.

[FIFA](#) (Fédération Internationale de Football Association) is the international governing body of association football (soccer), futsal and beach soccer.

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