



2025 FC CINCINNATI & FC CINCINNATI FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY REPORT



COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY

At FC Cincinnati (FCC), we are committed to making our community better. For ten years, our supporters have been at the heart of everything we build. As we celebrated our club's 10th anniversary, we reflected on a decade defined not only by unforgettable moments on the pitch, but by the momentum we've created together for the next generation of Cincinnatians. Across the club and FC Cincinnati Foundation (FCCF), we're turning passion into opportunity—opening doors for kids in the West End and across Greater Cincinnati to play, learn, and belong.

Our impact shows up on and off the pitch. Each year, we invest \$100,000 in West End community-building grants—now \$700,000+ since launch—to empower local organizations and strengthen the neighborhood we proudly call home. And through programs that meet kids where they are, we're expanding access to the game and growing the culture that fans have helped shape since our earliest days.

And as we mark this milestone year, the results speak for themselves. On the next pages, you'll see the impact of our shared commitment—how many young people we reached, how many hours we programmed, and how a decade of community-driven energy continues to move FCC forward.



2025

PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS



WEST END PRIDE

614 PLAYERS

ACROSS FALL AND SPRING



LEARNING IS COOL

23,099 STUDENTS

A HONOR ROLL ACHIEVEMENTS



SOCCER UNITES

12,667 CHILDREN

REACHED



STAY IN THE GAME

69,012 CHILDREN

ACROSS TEN SCHOOL DISTRICTS

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CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF FC CINCINNATI

In 2025, FCC proudly celebrated its 10th anniversary, marking a decade of remarkable growth, resilience, and community impact. Founded on August 12, 2015, the club's journey has been defined by strong fan support and an ambitious vision, beginning in the United Soccer League and making our move to Major League Soccer after just three seasons.

Over the past decade, FCC has reached significant milestones, including a USL Regular Season Championship, the opening of TQL Stadium as a world-class soccer-specific venue, and capturing the 2023 MLS Supporters' Shield, awarded to the league's best regular-season team. As the club looks ahead, the 10th anniversary served not only as a celebration of past achievements, but also as a foundation for continued excellence, community engagement, and lasting impact in the years to come.

FCC3

FCC Foundation and Pig Works proudly welcomed back the FCC3, presented by Medpace, on August 9, kicking off the 10th anniversary weekend. Runners and walkers of all ages participated in the three-mile, point-to-point run beginning at the club's first home, Nippert Stadium, and concluding at its long-term home, TQL Stadium. The event raised more than \$140,000, with proceeds benefiting FCC Foundation and Pig Works Charities.



10TH ANNIVERSARY MATCH & ALUMNI FRIENDLY

FCC dedicated its August 10 match against Charlotte FC to celebrating the club's 10th anniversary. As part of the evening festivities, the club unveiled a banner recognizing its USL Regular Season Championship. Following the match, fans were treated to the Toyota-presented Alumni Friendly, which brought 29 former FCC players back to the pitch together. The alumni competed in two 15-minute halves, celebrating and showcasing FCC players from the club's USL era through its MLS journey.



CELEBRITY GOLF CLASSIC

The 10th anniversary also set the stage for the Inaugural FCCF Celebrity Golf Classic, presented by TQL. FCC legends, technical staff, current players, and special guests spent the afternoon on the links alongside community and corporate supporters. The day was made even more special when one of the Knights of the Bailey, Aaron Seitz, recorded a hole in one, an exciting highlight that set the tone for our first Golf Classic and the many memorable tournaments still to come. The event raised more than \$140,000 in support of FCCF's new college scholarship program, supporting students from the West End looking to pursue higher education at the University of Cincinnati.



SOCCER UNITES

Soccer Unites, presented by Old Spice, is a youth development program that focuses on teaching children about soccer during In-School and After-School programming.

In-School sessions are conducted by club ambassadors Omar Cummings and Manu Ledesma, along with other FCC staff, who take over P.E. class for 4-5 days, introducing students to soccer and highlighting life skills including teamwork, respect, and sportsmanship.

After-School programming, in partnership with Cincinnati Recreation Commission, Activities Beyond the Classroom, Boys and Girls Club of Greater Cincinnati, and YMCA, provides soccer instruction after school hours to further support student engagement with soccer.

The club celebrated, in conjunction with TQL, at an End of Year celebration, honoring each student for their participation in the program. Each player walked away with their own personal soccer ball.

- 827 hours of programming across 173 visits
- 12,667 youth reached



WEST END PRIDE

West End Pride, presented by Mercy Health, offers children aged 4-14 with ties to the West End neighborhood with free access to recreation level soccer.

Teams compete within SAY (Soccer Association for Youth) East with participation in weekly practices, games, and special events. There is no cost to program participants, as FCCF provides all necessary resources including volunteer coaches, equipment, and uniforms.

Congratulations to the 2025 Fall Girls' Kickers (U13-U14) team as they became the first Girls team in West End Pride program history to qualify for the SAY East Post-Season Tournament.

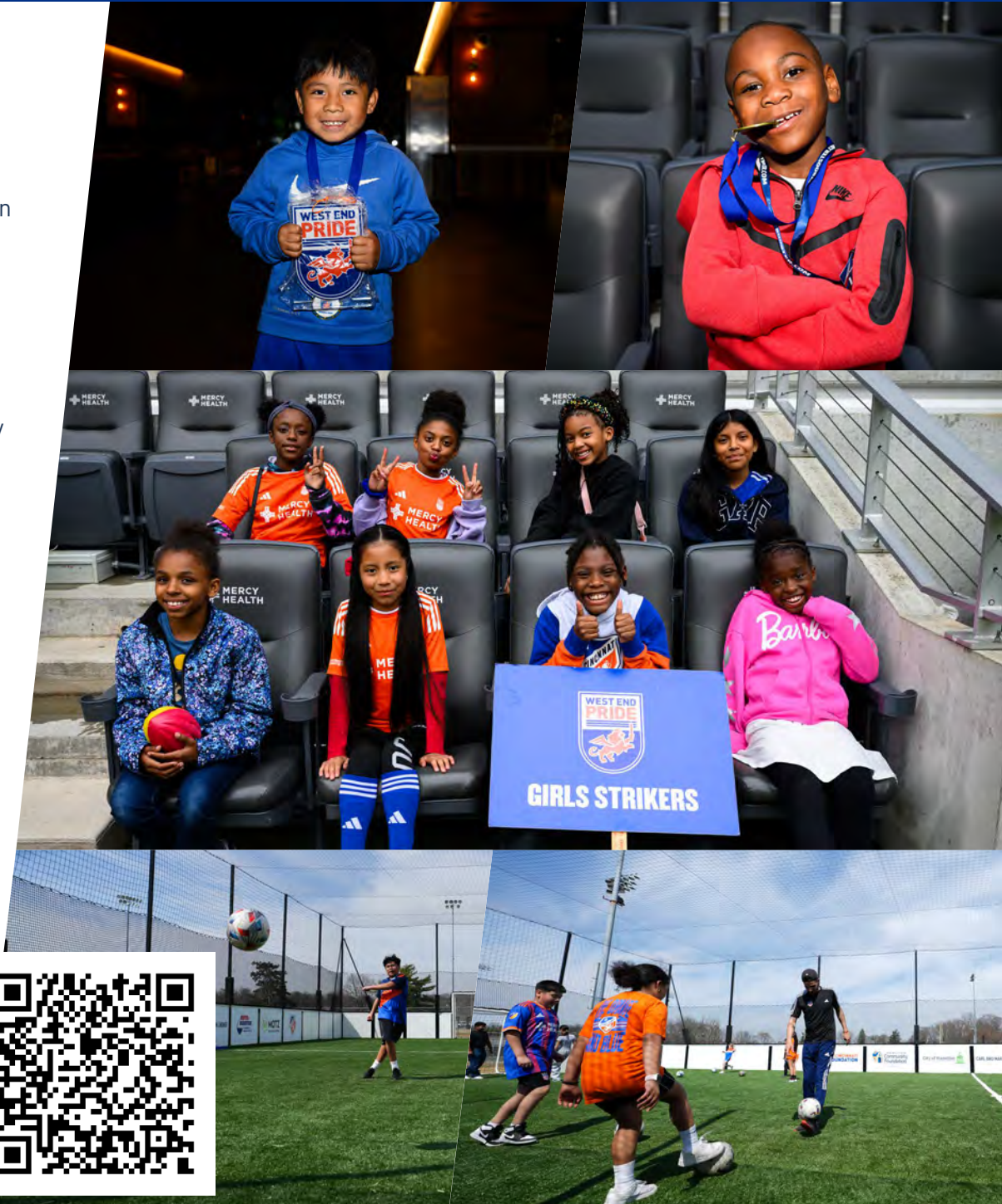
614 Players across Spring and Fall seasons

MINI PITCHES

FCCF has committed to fostering safe environments for children and individuals across the Greater Cincinnati region to learn and play soccer. FCCF has funded 11 compact soccer fields, also known as mini pitches, providing access for safe play. The eleventh mini pitch, located at the Booker T. Washington Community Center, is the most recently opened mini pitch, having opened in March 2025. More mini pitches are on the way, with the next mini pitch set to open in Milford, Ohio in early 2026.

Mini pitches host regularly scheduled programming for rec centers and non-profits and are open to members of the community. Check out a mini pitch today!

Scan the QR code to view all Mini Pitch locations.



LEARNING IS COOL

Learning is Cool recognizes and rewards students from Cincinnati Public Schools, Covington Independent Public Schools, North College Hill District and Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy for strong academic performance. The program is reintroduced at the beginning of each school year with a special kick off gift for every student that falls within the designated grade levels, posters in the classroom and throughout the schools. Each quarter students that reach the "A" Honor Roll (3.51+ GPA) receive a quarterly reward along with a congratulatory letter from Jeff Berding. Students who achieve the "A" Honor Roll at least twice during the school year are invited to attend a special Academic Achievement Celebration held at the Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden. Here, they receive their medal of achievement from FC Cincinnati players, interact and take photos with players, and enjoy everything the Zoo has to offer with their families at no cost.

- **23,099 rewards distributed**
- **7,532 students honored at Academic Achievement Celebration**

STAY IN THE GAME!

FCCF continued its alliance with Stay in the Game! Attendance Network for a second year to combat chronic absenteeism in Southwest Ohio school districts. We are encouraged by the meaningful progress these districts are making and look forward to continuing to support them, along with all districts committed to driving positive change for the youth they serve. Established in 2019 by the Cleveland Browns Foundation, Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, Harvard's Proving Ground, and managed by Battelle, Stay in the Game! works together to campaign, connect, and convene with experts and supporters to increase school attendance in Ohio. FCCF, along with the Cleveland Browns and Columbus Crew, support the Network's 230+ districts and over 610,000 students through localized, data informed attendance campaigns aimed at raising awareness of the importance of school attendance as a foundation for student success and identifying barriers to school attendance.

- **69,012 Students Reached Regionally**
- **2 of 7 districts significantly reduced chronic absenteeism in 2024-25, with one district achieving an 8.6 percentage-point decrease**



COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

FCCF has launched a new college scholarship program in partnership with TQL and the University of Cincinnati. The scholarship aims to support West End students pursuing a higher education. This year, four students each received a \$5,000 scholarship, renewable for up to three more years at UC.

Moving forward, four new incoming freshmen will be selected every year to receive this opportunity. For these students, this scholarship can truly change their future.

KICKOLOGY

Kickology: Soccer & Science, presented by the University of Cincinnati, is an exciting STEM field trip experience hosted at TQL Stadium, where students explore science concepts through the game of soccer.

Throughout the year, local middle school students participate in engaging, hands-on activities and interactive learning experiences designed to bring STEM principles to life in a real-world setting. Transportation costs are fully covered, helping remove financial barriers and ensuring schools can easily participate in this unique opportunity.

During their visit, students also enjoy lunch at the stadium and receive a take-home activity kit, empowering them to continue exploring and learning alongside friends and family long after the field trip ends.

FCC FUTURES

FCC Futures, presented by Old Spice, is a multi-tiered mentorship and professional development program designed to help students pursue a career path in sports. This support is facilitated through students' real work experience as a Guest Experience Ambassador at TQL Stadium and panel sessions with sport professionals that provide insight into working in the sport industry in various fields.

33 Students Participated



SERVED BY THE PROS

FCCF hosted Served by the Pros, presented by First Financial Bank. This unique culinary experience throughout TQL Stadium features creative tastings served by FCC players along with opportunities to "Challenge the Pro" in some friendly competitions. Guests were able to step out on the pitch to take part in a 360-degree camera experience and learn how to kick a goal from an FCC player. The evening concluded with live music, raffles, and silent auction. 650 fans joined the celebration with over \$350,000 raised to support FCCF.

LADIES LACE UP

130 women enjoyed an exciting sixth year of Ladies Lace Up, presented by Secret. Guests enjoyed bite sized dinner options and drinks before hitting the pitch at the Mercy Health Training Center to learn soccer fundamentals. Through out the event, ladies learned about soccer basics through fun activities led by technical staff along with an engaging soccer talk with Head Coach Pat Noonan. After the fun, each attendee went home with an exclusive gift bag. The event raised over \$80,000 for FCCF's programs.



TELETHON AND CLEAT DRIVE

FCCF partnered with WCPO 9, Scripps Howard Fund, and First Financial Bank to provide over 180 pairs of cleats to local kids through a donation collection throughout the month of May. With the help of FCC fan, Rory Shannon, who supported our Cleat Drive as her Bat Mitzvah project, and WCPO hosting an on-air telethon with Nick Hagglund and Roman Celentano taking pledges, altogether we raised \$10,000 to support the cleat drive.



FC CINCINNATI FOUNDATION 50/50 RAFFLE

The 50/50 raffle was hosted during each home match with half of the proceeds going to one lucky fan and half of the proceeds benefiting FCCF. For certain matches, fans had the ability to buy tickets early for specialty items such as tickets with Sideline Showcase passes and a team signed poster.



WEST END COMMITMENT

FCC is committed to serving our community and improving the quality of life in the West End. The club continues to fulfill and exceed the commitments outlined in the club's Community Benefits agreement with The Port and West End Community Council.

The agreement specifies community priorities that aim to improve the quality of life in the West End. 2025 highlights include:

- Sustained our commitment to strengthening youth soccer programs through ongoing investment in West End Pride and Soccer Unites
- Distributed seventh installment of \$100,000 in grant funding to support non-profit businesses in the West End, totaling more than \$700,000 since Foundation inception.
- Street Team and Gary the Lion attended various West End events including Ezz Fest and a CSO Brady Block Party.
- Club staff volunteered their time with Adopt a Class sponsoring four classrooms, two of which were at Hays Porter Elementary school.
- The club hosted Getting Spooky with Gary the Lion, an event for West End families to come to TQL Stadium and collect candy ahead of Halloween.
- FCC hosted a food drive in partnership with Kroger raising \$12,892.
- FCC participated in the annual Giving Tree collecting 215 gifts to support families through Saint Vincent de Paul's Christmas Together program.
- FCC staff volunteered more than 1,200 hours for events in the West End and the Greater Cincinnati area.



GRANT RECIPIENTS

FCC has pledged to invest a minimum of \$100,000 into the West End community for 30 years as part of the club's Community Benefits Agreement. To date, the club has provided over \$700,000 in grant funding to various organizations. The commitment is fulfilled by the FCCF through grants provided to non-profits located in the West End or supporting community development in the West End. 2025 grant recipients included:

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters Cincinnati:** supporting the Beyond School Walls at Taft High School, a workplace mentoring program that pairs Taft students with caring mentors from local companies.
- **Bright Star Community Church:** supporting the Summer Camp Enrichment Program.
- **Changing Gears:** supporting the Vehicle Purchase Program.
- **Cincinnati College Preparatory Academy:** supporting a new weight room for students and staff.
- **Cincinnati Fire Museum:** creating an educational fire safety video game to teach children critical life-saving fire prevention in a relatable format.
- **Cincinnati Museum Center (CMC):** provides free visits to CMC for West End students, families, and small groups.
- **CityLink Center:** supporting the Culinary Training program which helps prepare individuals holistically for a new career in the restaurant industry.
- **GRAD Cincinnati:** providing support and basic needs for students at Hays Porter Elementary.
- **Level Up:** supporting the continued growth of the West End True Gamers Community with gaming consoles and competition registration fees.
- **Marcus Martin Foundation:** funding registrations for 75 youth participants from the West End in the Flag Football Summer League at Taft High School's Stargel Stadium.
- **Our Daily Bread:** supporting operations of their Soup Kitchen, Food Rescue, and social center programs.
- **Q Kidz Dance Team:** providing consistent, high-quality dance training and enables participation in 2-3 regional competitions during the 2026 season.
- **Seven Hills Neighborhood Houses:** supporting Ezz Fest 2025.
- **Shoes for the Shoeless:** to support a school-based shoe delivery program for Hays Porter Elementary.
- **Sleep in Heavenly Peace:** funding the cost and construction for 50 or more ready-to-sleep in beds for kids in need in the West End.
- **Sweet Sistah Splash:** growing their youth entrepreneurship program for ages 7-19 in the West End.
- **Taft High School:** provides financial support for 2026 prom expenses, as well as uniforms and equipment for the women's and men's basketball programs.
- **Workforce Council of Southwest Ohio:** supporting West End residents with critical needs including bus passes and gas cards.

FCC is committed to supporting the next generation of soccer. Whether this is through FCCF programs which aim to drive exposure and safe access, to our camps and clinics which are offered to young fans of all skill levels. Highlights from 2025 include:

YOUTH CAMPS AND CLINICS

FCC Youth Camps and Clinics provide children ages 4–14 with the opportunity to learn soccer from former FCC players and club staff. These camps and clinics focus on developing fundamental soccer skills through fun, engaging activities, and hands-on instruction from experienced coaches.

Throughout 2025, 2,393 kids participated in camps and clinics spanning 26 different locations. This year, the club held an all-girls' elite camp, providing advanced soccer training for girls aspiring to compete at a high level.



FIELD DAYS

School field days became more soccer-immersed in 2025 with the help of Soccer in the Community. Staff brought engaging soccer activities and plenty of fun to six schools as part of their field day celebrations.



PRE-SCHOOL PROGRAM

New in 2025, FCC launched a partnership with local preschools to introduce young learners to the fundamentals of soccer through engaging games and interactive activities. Since the program's kickoff, staff have delivered soccer basics at five locations, with plans to expand to additional sites in 2026.



FCC strives to foster a welcoming and inclusive environment for the entire Cincinnati community by celebrating commemorative months, spotlighting community partners, and supporting diverse initiatives that cultivate inclusivity through soccer.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

FCC, in partnership with the Directing Adolescent Development (DAD) Initiative, hosted their Black Futures event at TQL Stadium. This event provides children, especially those of color, with a successful future by engaging students, families, and the communities they are a part of with quality programs, interactions, and experiences. This event brought together over 320 teen students providing opportunities to speak and learn from 60 volunteer Black professionals engaging in candid conversations about their respective paths to success.

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH: BREAKING BARRIERS

In collaboration with P&G's Always and Secret brands, FCC hosted Breaking Barriers, a career development event created to support women pursuing and advancing careers in the sports industry. More than 130 women participated in dynamic panel discussions, interactive activities, and breakout sessions led by leading female sports industry professionals from Cincinnati, all focused on career growth and professional advancement. The event also featured inspiring keynote addresses from Olympians Annette Echikunwoke and Nina Castagna. Local organizations also made an appearance at the event to connect with attendees.



GREENER GOALS WEEK OF SERVICE

As part of MLS WORKS' Greener Goals Initiative, FC Cincinnati staff participated in two meaningful community service projects:

- FC Cincinnati staff, players, and supporters partnered with Sleep in Heavenly Peace, a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to building and delivering handmade, fully furnished beds to children in Cincinnati, where hundreds of children across our communities sleep on floors, couches, or overcrowded beds. Together, participants built 60 beds, giving children a safe place to sleep, dream, and grow.
- At the same time, FC Cincinnati staff collaborated with Scrap2Home, Hillman, and Sherwin-Williams to construct benches using rescued wood that would have otherwise ended up in landfills. These benches were donated to three local neighborhood schools, creating welcoming spaces for students and staff.

ASIAN AMERICAN AND PACIFIC ISLANDER MONTH

FCC celebrated Asian American and Pacific Islander Month through several initiatives, including a visit to Asian Food Fest and a dedicated match celebration on May 10 featuring AAPI-themed activities such as Origami, along with highlighting local AAPI-owned businesses and food trucks at Washington Park, and a special half time performance by the Au Lac Lion Dance Team.



PRIDE

FCC supported the LGBTQIA+ community during the club's annual Pride match, presented by P&G. At Washington Park, P&G implemented a rainbow balloon display, where parkgoers enjoyed special activations and samples of P&G products. FCC participated in various Pride events in downtown Cincinnati and beyond, such as the Cincinnati Pride Parade and Festival, Batesville Pride Festival, and Northern Kentucky Pride Festival.



SALUTE TO SERVICE

FC Cincinnati partnered with People Working Cooperatively to help a local Army veteran with several home improvement projects, including painting and yard work.

At TQL Stadium, the club honored those who have served or currently serve our country by recognizing them through the game ball delivery and sword pull ritual. Additionally, fans were provided with the opportunity to write letters to service members currently overseas.



KICK CANCER

FCC dedicated the home match on August 23 to raising support and awareness for individuals and families battling cancer. The club honored those currently battling as well as those who have overcome this terrible disease by providing special experiences including Walkout Kids, game ball delivery, and the sword pull ritual. At the Corner Kick section, fans had the opportunity to recognize those who have survived cancer, are currently fighting against it, or have lost the battle.



BLACK HERITAGE

FCC celebrated Black Heritage with community-focused grassroots efforts, supported by the FCC Street Team at multiple local Juneteenth events including Juneteenth Block Party, Hamilton Juneteenth Celebration, and Call a Play Juneteenth Fireworks Festival.

FCC honored Black Heritage for the home match on August 30 through an exclusive Black Heritage Night poster giveaway at the stadium team store and Washington Park, along with amplifying community leaders for the game ball delivery and sword ritual.



HISPANIC HERITAGE

FCC celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month at TQL Stadium during the annual "Noche Latina" match. At Washington Park, guests could learn to Salsa, and enjoy Latin beats from Latin DJ, DJ Dariel. In the stadium, fans had the opportunity to make their own Papel Picado, a traditional Hispanic decorative folk-art banner made from tissue paper.

In alignment with the "Noche Latina" match, Soccer in the Community held a clinic that provided 70 kids from the Hispanic community with the opportunity to learn and play with FCC Club Ambassador Manu Ledesma and staff.



KIDS' CLUB

FCC Kids' Club, presented by Mercy Health, brings the fun for our littlest fans ages 2–12 through special events and benefits like player autograph signings, player Q&A Panel sessions, and exclusive swag where fandom starts early and lasts forever.



BATTALION

In 2025, FCC launched BattaLION, an all-new fan club built just for supporters ages 13–17. Like Kids' Club members, BattaLION members gained exclusive opportunities to connect with FCC through player autograph signings, career panel with FCC staff, plus cool perks like a welcome pack and ticket discounts.



FC CINCINNATI PLAYERS AND STAFF GIVE BACK

Gary the Lion, Street Team, Club Ambassadors, FCC players, and FCC2 players combined made over 550 appearances in 2025 within the Greater Cincinnati region with some appearances extending into the Dayton area.

KÉVIN DENKEY BICYCLE DONATION

In celebration of his epic bicycle kick goal versus Sporting Kansas City, Kévin Denkey partnered with FCCF to donate bicycles to Hays Porter students. The donation aligned with FCCF Learning is Cool and Stay in the Game!, supporting students who had perfect attendance, near perfect attendance, or made the honor roll. FCCF contributed 150 bicycle helmets to perfectly pair with the bicycles.

SHOP LIKE A PRO

Select students in the Greater Cincinnati area receive a once in a lifetime experience to shop till they drop at FCCF's Shop Like a Pro event. Thanks to Dick's Sporting Goods and the Motz Group, 20 students were surprised with a limo ride, provided by A Savannah Nite, to Dick's Sporting Goods where they each received a gift card to shop with Head Coach Pat Noonan, General Manager Chris Albright, FCC player Nick Hagglund, FCC legends, and Gary the Lion. Following the shopping spree, the students were provided with dinner from Outback Steakhouse, dessert from Nothing Bundt Cakes, and an FCC swag bag.



FOOD DRIVE AND GIVING TREE

FCC Staff participated in regular volunteer and collection opportunities including a Canned Food Drive and Giving Tree in support of our neighbors.

In partnership with Kroger, FCC hosted a food drive to support Findlay Street Food Pantry. Staff members across all FCC campuses brought shelf-stable canned food items or donated money in support of the drive throughout the month of November. The club collected roughly 4,000 items for the initiative, with Kroger donating \$5000. Altogether, nearly \$13,000 was raised to support families in the West End.

The club partnered with Society of Saint Vincent de Paul to provide gifts for families through their Christmas Together program, helping spread holiday cheer in the West End. FCC staff generously donated 215 items, all of which were distributed to families in the community.

TWINNING PROJECT

Soccer in the Community (SIC) launched the Twinning Project in 2025, a program that promotes soccer programming and learning at the Lebanon State Penitentiary. For 2025, SIC staff have worked with 42 inmates across the spring, fall, and winter cohorts, delivering 72 hours of classroom and soccer instruction over 24 visits.





THANKSGIVING DAY RACE

TQL Stadium hosted the 116th Thanksgiving Day Race presented by Western & Southern, one of the nation's oldest road races. The event welcomed 10,447 runners from 46 states and 7 countries, who participated in the Western & Southern 10K, Chick-fil-A 5K, and the ProAmpac Kids' Fun Run. A portion of proceeds benefit FC Cincinnati Foundation and various local charities. TQL Stadium is proud to carry on this cherished tradition.



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