



# PHOENIX PROGRAM



# LASOS FC

EMPOWER

The Phoenix Program is a mentoring program for middle and high school boys that empowers young men through social and physical activities.

## Skills gained:



Leadership



Teamwork



Life-planning



Health



## LASOS FC PHOENIX 2024 TEAM (AFTER THEIR WIN!)



## SUPPORTING MENTAL HEALTH IN YOUNG MEN

Players met at the LASOS office in Bel Air on Saturday mornings September-November 2024 to walk together to Plumtree Park, where they learned and practiced soccer skills, as well as lessons in preparedness, determination, and communication, whilst fostering positive mental and physical health. The young men set goals for themselves as individuals and teammates, are taught coping skills and conflict resolution, and realize the importance of positive self-image. The coaches of the soccer team are a Panamanian veteran and a local business owner from Mexico that volunteer their time to uplift and mentor the young men, serving as positive role models and teaching valued traits through organized physical activity. The team provides a safe and supportive space where each player is valued, accepted, and feels a profound sense of belonging. Players arrive early to practice excited to see teammates, some bringing along friends to join in the fun! Messages from players inquiring about the spring season are nonstop, highlighting their desire to not just play soccer, but to be a part of a team that welcomes and empowers them physically, mentally, and emotionally.



# PHOENIX SUCCESS STORY

2024 Season Team Captain Alex C. was referred to the Phoenix program when LASOS learned he was disconnected in school, putting his head down in class or wearing his headphones rather than participating in class, but had a passion and skill for soccer. It became apparent that Alex was invisible at school, had no adult male role models in his life, and was in need of additional support. As soon as Alex joined Phoenix, emails from teachers praising his behaviors replaced those citing issues, as his participation on the team gave him the confidence to speak up and ask for help. When he was selected as captain, Alex took on the role of team leader with pride, sending motivational message in the group chat, reminding players of practice times, and finding himself as an independent, capable young man.

## LET THE GAMES BEGIN!

After reaching out to the community in search for a team to scrimmage, friend of LASOS, Inc. Erik L. connected us with the Jarrettsville Rec Soccer coach Johnathon F., who most generously volunteered his team to compete against Phoenix! The game was held at the old Bel Air High School field on a chilly Saturday morning in November, and Phoenix won 4-0! Players received jerseys, the classic orange slice halftime snack, and the experience of a real soccer game! It was a momentous occasion for all, as players got to put their skills to good use, and were able to experience and see the benefits of their hard work! Many are now motivated to maintain the necessary grades to be able to join their school teams next fall! One player from the 2023 season is even playing for a travel team!



**OFFICIAL  
JERSEYS!**



**AFTER PRACTICE AT  
PLUMTREE PARK**

## Words from a Parent:

“What a fun soccer season with @lasosinc These kids showed up, practiced hard, learned a lot and played their hearts out winning 4-0. @melvelez you and your team have done an incredible job serving and loving families, helping them meet people who have become friends and allowing them “find their place” in this community. Never despise small beginnings. Thank you 📱📱📱📱📱📱”

This upcoming fall, the young men of Phoenix have been asked to join the Joppatowne Rec Council team, so LASOS is seeking individual sponsorships to support this unique opportunity!



## THANK YOU!



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