

Coastal Outreach Soccer to Debut Big Play Center for Excellence

The Glynn County School System has donated a 1,550-square-foot portable building to Coastal Outreach Soccer (COS) to serve as its academic hub, the Big Play Center of Excellence. The Center will be located at Howard Coffin Park. COS players will have the opportunity to come to the Center for academic support, mentoring, leadership development, and college and career exploration. This fall the Center will target kids from 6th to 12th grade to give a safe and supportive environment for them to develop. Rich Products Corporation has donated funds to purchase 20 laptops that will give players access to the technology for study aids and online college course work offered by Coastal Pines Technical College and College of Coastal Georgia. COS is currently seeking academic volunteers in all subject areas (6th to 12th grade) and college core English and math classes, from Monday to Thursday, 4pm to 6pm.

Because the area of Howard Coffin Park where the Center will be located does not have the infrastructure to support the center's operation, COS will handle the construction and renovation in two phases. Phase 1 renovation of the building will include installation of flooring, building counter tops for work stations, painting of the external building, signage, mixed furniture, building ramp and stairs, replacing the AC unit construction, underground wiring for internet, cable and phone lines and purchasing 20 laptops.

COS is currently raising funds to complete Phase 2, which will include water and sewer taps and installation, a 250-square-foot addition for bathrooms, and replacing the roof.

Upon completion of phase 1, COS will open the building for limited operation this fall. COS is excited to partner with Darius Slay, Jr., who led the NFL cornerbacks with interceptions, is a 2017 Pro Bowler and Detroit Lions Defensive MVP. A ribbon cutting ceremony will be scheduled at later date when Slay is able to return to Brunswick.

Coastal Outreach Soccer is a coordinated effort involving the Glynn County School System, Brunswick Recreation Department and local certified coaches. COS was founded in 2004 with 15 players from the Head Start program. By 2005 the program was providing activities for 60 underserved and underprivileged youth annually and has continued to grow. Educational mentoring is a core ingredient of the program and has helped COS players stay academically on track, playing a part in enabling numerous players to earn full athletic scholarships upon graduation. In 2016 its founder Shawn Williams was named 2016 Administrator of the Year by the Georgia State Soccer Association.

For more information on Coastal Outreach Soccer, contact Shawn Williams at cos-admin@hotmail.com.

