



Highlands Youth Recreation and Kentucky Refugee Ministries began a partnership in the spring of 2017 to give students who were settled in Louisville as refugees the chance to play soccer at HYR free of charge. The main objectives of the program were to give the students a physical outlet, a social framework, and a way for them to integrate with a new set of American peers.

In the fall of 2017, HYR hired a driver to shuttle KRM players to and from practices and games. For many of the older players, they quickly learned what coach, players, and team to look for on the field, and most of them were self-sufficient between games. For many of the younger players, this proved to be more of a challenge. HYR players have always had family members at the field with them at practices and games. Many of the KRM players do not have parents with reliable transportation or the availability to accompany them to the field. Many of them speak English, but for most, it is not their first language.

Starting in the spring of 2018, HYR and KRM have begun putting some definitions to a program we call Futbol Friends. The goal of that program is to ensure that KRM players under the age of 10 have a dedicated support network of HYR families and community volunteers to ensure their success and security.

HYR has created volunteer roles for the HYR families to select during registration. As well as Coach, Assistant Coach, Picnic Volunteer, etc. , there are 2 roles specific to assisting with KRM players.

The number of KRM players in HYR will be directly related to the number of volunteers.

KRM Transportation Assistance: This role means that an HYR parent volunteers to provide transportation for a KRM player from their home to the practices and games and return them to their home afterwards. This may be done as a team, as that parent may not be able to be present at every game. Most KRM players do not live in the Highlands, but live within 15 minutes of Atherton.

KRM On-Field Assistance: This role means that an HYR parent volunteers to meet the player as they arrive to practices and games. Those players may have received transportation from the HYR-KRM van or from another volunteer. While that player is at the field, the parent will ensure that they get to the correct field and return to their transportation after the practice or game.

HYR is very grateful to all of its wonderful volunteers. For more information, please contact Patrick Fitzgerald, HYR Director at 502.671.9701.