

Hero Project

“Our Mission is to provide underserved communities”

Griffin Yakich

I did Drew Dubé for my Hero Project. Drew works for the U.S Soccer Foundation. The U.S Soccer Foundation is a non profit organization that helps build mini pitches, deliver gear, and overall help underserved communities play and learn about soccer. Drew helps plan and organize the making of these mini pitches.

Drew is from Michigan. “I’m from the suburbs of Detroit Michigan, West Bloomfield is where I was born, but I grew up in Lafayette Indiana.” Drew said. “I had done a program after I graduated college called City year, and we were working in a school outside of Detroit, and it was an underserved community. It didn’t have the same resources I grew up with, and it really opened my eyes to how much need is out there.” said Drew.

“I got to do some traveling, and I could kind of see the culture of soccer internationally, especially in Madrid, Spain, and I was living there. They had a ton of these small soccer courts, and I kind of had it in my head that it would be great to bring these into the communities that I worked with back in Detroit. So I was looking for some way to be involved with sports and social impact, and I was looking at a ton of different organizations and sports franchises, and I found the U.S Soccer Foundation. The job that I do is to help build these small soccer courts called mini pitches all over the country and it just seems like a really great balance of all of the things I’m interested in.” Drew said.

“Our mission is to provide underserved communities with access to innovative play spaces, which would be the mini pitches and then evidence based soccer programs that

help youth achieve their full potential.” Drew said. The U.S soccer foundation was founded in 1994. “It started in 1994, and was born with proceeds from the 1994 Men's World Cup which was here in North America.” Drew said. “We used to just install goals and then paved the surface inside of maybe an existing tennis court, but now we have an all in one structure that includes lighting. Once kids get out of school there's maybe only an hour to enjoy the outside, so now all of our mini pitches have the option to connect lighting to them, so that extends the hours of play, and it's greatly beneficial for communities.” Drew said. “We have impacted over 700,000 children through our programing in counting.” said Drew.

Drew Dubé is inspiring because I can't imagine not having a safe place to play soccer. Drew and the U.S Soccer Foundation are trying to change that. They are trying to create safe places for kids to play outside no matter where they live.