



NAO MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

The objective of this section is to highlight representative NAO nonprofit members of various sizes, geographic locations and subsectors to showcase the great work our members are doing across Oregon!



Portland, Oregon

www.pcfc.co



What does your organization do? Who does it serve?

We provide high quality, affordable competitive soccer specifically for low-income, immigrant and refugee youth ages 3-18 years old. We believe that every child deserves the opportunity to excel in the sport they love, regardless of their family's income. We remove the barriers that prevent many marginalized youth from participating in the elite club soccer system. We are also the first youth soccer club in the region to have an open acceptance policy of LGBTQ+ players, families and coaches.

What's your organization's most recent accomplishment you'd like to share?

One of our 9 year-old players was experiencing suicidal thoughts earlier this year in addition to a strained relationship with his father. His mother was very worried and immediately came to us for support. We were able to provide support for her family as they went through therapy and very challenging times. This player is doing very well now! This story highlights the ways that PCFC is more than just a place for kids to play soccer. We are a place where marginalized people find community through soccer.

How has being an NAO member helped you succeed in furthering your organization's mission?

The access to resources and personalized support from the staff has been critical as we've grown.

Anything else you'd like to share?

PCFC is founded on the principle that a person's socio-economic status should not determine their success in soccer. Unfortunately, this has become the case in the pay-to-play soccer system. The wealthier and primarily white players have access to an elite system that opens the pathway to opportunity and success through soccer. This mirrors the inequity of access in the US education, healthcare and housing systems for marginalized populations. PCFC is here to change the status quo.

If your organization was featured in the media or you have an article to share, please provide us with a web link below.

This is a story from 2017 about when I came out to the club as transgender. It ended up being a viral video with over 100k views on YouTube. Even though it's not very recent it highlights an aspect of our club that once again sets us apart from the status quo of competitive clubs!

<https://abcnews.go.com/Lifestyle/soccer-coach-team-transgender-im/story?id=47322605>

*Special thanks to Kaig Lightner,
Executive Director, Portland Community Football Club*