



SPRINGSPIRIT

NOVEMBER 2021 NEWSLETTER



BASEBALL ALLOWS FUN AND SUPPORTIVE ESCAPE BETWEEN THE LINES

The continued pandemic has had a brutal impact on all of us, but there are two things we strive to show our participants. First, SpringSpirit will stand by their side regardless of circumstances, and second, this is a great opportunity to grow in the face of adversity.

Eleven-year-old Nolan is a member of our Toros competitive baseball program, and during the late summer and early fall, was struck hard by the ongoing social effects of COVID-19. With programming paused and school moved to a virtual format, he became anxious and withdrawn. In fact, baseball fell to the back burner for a while, as his personal stress rose. However, with the help of SpringSpirit Toros coaches Kevin and Bill, he was inspired to come back out to the fields, and has not looked back since. He even has a SpringSpirit mentor now, too! "Even though COVID has made it



difficult," his mother, Diana, adds, "he really enjoys having an older friend that's just his." One thing Coach Kevin has

stressed to him, and to all of our participants, is that baseball is there to put his mind at ease and be fun, not a stressor!

“Even though COVID has made it difficult he really enjoys having an older friend that's just his.”

- Nolan's mother, Diana

All of the coaches rave about Nolan, and they cannot say enough good things about his manners, work ethic, team-first attitude, and newfound overall positive outlook.

We're so proud of Nolan and all of our Toros for continuing to work hard and improve their skills, even—and especially—in the face of adversity and challenge!

If you are interested in becoming a part of the mentoring program, please contact Whitney Gowan at whitney.gowan@springspirit.org

FAITH AND GOD'S STRENGTH POWER PADILLA FAMILY

SpringSpirit will always be there for our families, and we believe the best gift we can instill in each of our participants is a strong faith. Love and trust in God are the foundation for transformation in everyone's life journey, and Lesly, Osman, and Montserrat, three of our most active participants, clearly have a deep, abiding faith.

The year 2020 was very difficult for many, including their mother, Carmen. Despite many health complications, she had been able to continue to provide for all of her kids. However, the pandemic caused inconsistent work opportunities, and at one point, she was diagnosed with COVID-19. SpringSpirit stood with her and the family through it all, and provided constant encouragement, prayers, and assistance. Above all, she was firm in her faith and trust in God, and the family has been able to navigate through the murky waters.



Carmen's strength not only got her through her personal difficult time, but has also begun to bear fruit in Lesly, the oldest of the three children. This spring, Lesly persevered through a series of stressful and daunting circumstances, but is proud to say that she not only **graduated from high school**, but has also **received a full-ride scholarship to Colby College through the POSSE Foundation!** Carmen and the entire family are thrilled, as Lesly will be the first in the family to graduate from high school and head off to college. We are so grateful to have Carmen and her family in our community, as they constantly set a positive example of faith and determination to those around them!

ZOOMING TO NEW CAREER HEIGHTS

In February, SpringSpirit launched our monthly Career Speaker Series, where 8th through 12th grade participants join a Zoom call to learn about a variety of career opportunities, directly from professionals in the industry. Each Series meeting lasts about an hour, and features a handful of speakers at various levels and stages in their career in the industry. They share their own stories, the ins and outs of the industry, and answer our students' questions at the end. Thus far, our students have heard from professionals in a variety of fields, as listed below, and we're excited to have even more fun guests lined up in months to come!

Here are the fields we've visited with so far:

- February - Education
- March - Healthcare
- April - Architecture
- May - Professional Services
- June - Legal
- July - Engineering
- August - Public Service
- September - Construction Science



Please make plans to join, via Zoom, with your mentee, and let us know if you would be willing to speak at one of these sessions! This is a great way to share your own story, and how God has worked in and through you and your gifts to make the world a better place

TWO SOCCER STANDOUTS EARN WELL-DESERVED PROMOTION

Recently, a couple of our soccer boys made the jump from our prospects league to our competitive team after years of hard work, determination and grit - all lessons we strive to teach our sports participants. We are very proud of them, and can't wait to see what they achieve next!



Christopher (right), who is in 8th grade, has been with SpringSpirit for about five years, and since that time, has become an outstanding defender on his soccer team. Coach Elmer, who has worked with Christopher for many years, enjoys watching him play at weekly practices and games. "He's very creative on the soccer field in finding ways to get his teammates involved," Elmer says. He adds, "Coming back from the COVID break, he has worked hard to gain stamina and is now in great shape." However, Christopher is not resting on his laurels! He wants to, "win a tournament!", as well as, "work on my shooting and defending" this fall.

Brandon (left), who is a 7th grader and an active SpringSpirit participant for the past two years, also received high praise from Elmer. "Brandon is quiet, but he is not a quiet performer on the field. He really stands out. He is diligent, and very respectful." Brandon loves the opportunity to continue to play soccer in his personal time with SpringSpirit. "My favorite thing about the program," he adds, "is we get to have a lot of fun playing soccer here."

We are so proud of these boys for their dedication to the game of soccer, but most of all, for who they are: well-rounded young men of great character!

"My favorite thing about the program is we get to have a lot of fun playing soccer here." - Brandon

*I have set the Lord always before me.
Because he is at my right hand, I will not be shaken.*

Psalm 16:8

HELP SUPPORT SPRINGSPIRIT DURING YOUR REGULAR SHOPPING

Each of the following retailers will donate a portion of your purchases back to SpringSpirit.



AmazonSmile Program: Please go to www.smile.amazon.com and click on **Spring Branch Baseball Program**.



Randall's Good Neighbor Program: Our number is **13630**. Go by the courtesy booth at the store to sign up for the program or to link your existing card to SpringSpirit.



Kroger Rewards Card: You can register your card by calling **1-800-576-4377**, pressing **3**, and selecting **SpringSpirit Baseball**.

OUR MISSION

We provide safe pathways for youth to realize life opportunities through sports,

education, and mentoring programs that are based on Christian principles.

CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE
ABOUT US AND OUR PROGRAMS



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