

# MYSA Youth Soccer Month 2009

By Shelly Orr  
MYSA Director of Member Services

MYSA's celebration of fun, friends, family and fitness through soccer was again successful. Many enjoyed the unseasonably warm weather this September and attended a game played by their favorite high school or college team. Others laced up their boots to kick around a soccer ball and still others joined MYSA for some organized fun, either playing in the MYSA Fall league or attending a special event.

Soccer plays a special role among diverse communities in Minnesota. To celebrate our sport and its diversity, MYSA attended Mexican Independence Day on Sun., Sept. 13, where more than 20,000 Latinos gathered to celebrate their culture. As part of that celebration, MYSA participated in a parade and distributed information to families about how they might get their children involved in a soccer club near them!

MYSA and the Minnesota Gophers Women's Soccer team joined forces to host MYSA Weekend at the Gophers on Fri., Sept. 18 and Sun., Sept. 20. MYSA distributed water bottles and magnets to soccer enthusiasts of all ages. Response to the fourth annual food drive for *Second Harvest* was overwhelming! Through the generous efforts of MYSA youth and loyal Gopher soccer fans, 847 pounds of food and \$260 in monetary donations were collected for families who are facing a difficult time this year. Each donor received a chance to win \$100 in gift cash to Soccer USA, the official soccer store of MYSA. The house was rocking as Friday night's attendance of 1,670 was surpassed just once before in Gopher history. We look forward to the challenge of breaking the record again next year.

Soccer remains the No. 1 youth participation sport in America and a leading contributor to the healthy lifestyle of millions of American families, including more than 52,000 in Minnesota – now that is worth celebrating!



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# Sister City Soccer Cup



By Andrea Hansen  
Special to Soccer Times

*Sister City Soccer Cup is a cultural exchange between Växjö Kommun, Sweden and Duluth, Minnesota*

The Duluth Växjö Soccer Exchange (DVSE) just completed its 11th year this summer with an amazing trip to our sister city of Växjö, Sweden! Sixty-one competitive soccer players and 30 adults from Duluth and surrounding communities traveled to Växjö for 10 days to experience the culture of our Swedish friends, and compete in the Sister City Soccer Cup.



Players involved in the exchange were housed by the families of their Swedish matches, and had the chance to see life in Sweden first-hand.

In addition to the soccer competition that was organized this year by the Swedes, traveling American parents and players got to know the Swedish families through various activities, including day trips to the Swedish Glass country, tours of Växjö and the beautiful harbor town of Götenborg, and visits to Kalmar Castle on the coast and the quaint resort town of Gränna, situated on Lake Vättern. For our entire stay, we were treated with nothing but the utmost kindness and warmth from our Swedish friends!

The Sister City Soccer Cup was held at the soccer

fields right in Växjö. We had three full days of soccer competition during our stay, with many strong teams competing from Växjö and the surrounding communities. The U.S.A. fared well, with the Girls' U16 team taking first place in their age bracket. The U.S.A. Boys U15 team ended at second place in their group, followed by the U.S.A. Girls U15 team taking third place in their bracket and the U.S.A. Boys U16 placing fourth. All U.S.A. teams played well, and represented our country to the utmost in sportsmanship and fair play.

Many lasting and lifelong friends have been made through the 11 years of this wonderful program, providing fantastic opportunities for our area youth. This upcoming summer of 2010 will mark our 12th year of DVSE. Our U.S.A. teams from Duluth and surrounding communities will be hosting the Swedish teams here in Duluth, June 26-July 9, 2010.

If you are a competitive soccer player in the Duluth area, will be in the U15 age bracket this summer and are interested in this unique and incredible opportunity, be sure to go to our website at [sistercitysoccer.org](http://sistercitysoccer.org) for further information. We would love to have you join us!

