Morris Pagniello and Ruben Corona
An example to follow!

A Youth Soccer Giant

Third Time Taking Your Child with Autism to the Dentist

Rejection
Letter from the President of Autism Soccer

First of all, I would like to thank God for this beautiful opportunity He put in my heart. He set me out to help and empower children and adults within the autism spectrum disorder through soccer.

Everything started in October 2012, when, without knowing, I rejected four autistic kids for the programs that I used to run with neurotypical children. I realized that I had to do something to help them, so I called these four families to ask them to be the first members of this soccer program.

I was commissioned in Soccer Park in Palm Springs North Florida, so I started a soccer program called Hope For Autism United For Soccer Foundation Inc. But the name wasn’t it, and a few months later I created a DBA on the name Autism Soccer. This is marking the 6th year anniversary of this project, and I am where I want to be; I’m proud of everything that has been achieved in the name of this organization.

We expect to open in 15 countries around the world to help more than 50,000 kids for the year 2021. I believe that love and passion are everything we need to make things possible; so we need your help! We encourage you to be part of the history of this organization, and a helping hand can shape a brighter future for many kids around the world.

Oscar Amuz
President of Autism Soccer

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Oscar Amuz looks as he usually does, bright-eyed and with a twinkling smile. This is the man that founded and still embodies the soul of Autism Soccer, a project that started in 2012 as a way to help the little ones at home find passion and joy in sports. But we know it goes way beyond that. The foundation started as a non-profit and stands today as the place where both children and adults with autism and related psychological or physical conditions can cohabit. For Oscar, this has become an opportunity for personal growth, guiding and enabling him to turn his efforts into meaningful and positive changes for the lives of children around the world.

“I promised myself changing the lives of these children, but the reality is that they changed my life too,” he confesses.

Although Autism Soccer’s history started small, this great idea turned into an effort so large that, even today, goes beyond all of Oscar’s wildest dreams. “At first, I wanted to help the kids,” he says, “they’ve always been relegated off sports, and many can’t fathom how they can change their lives through soccer.” The biggest moment in his life as founder and president of this organization came when he first saw its real impact. “These children can break your heart with their life stories, but at the same time, they can lift you by showing you their strength. This is why we are trying to build a path for them to give out their 100%.”

And the contribution to the physical and social development of children is just one part of what Autism Soccer does for the community. “Latinos suffer many stigmas. With our project, we’re breaking the barriers and showing that having different ways to see the world doesn’t make you a strange creature but gives you a unique point of view,” says Oscar with his signature smile. This is the mindset that helps him try his hardest to achieve his goals, the same that has brought him to this day. Unfortunately, Autism Soccer has faced some challenges since its birth and throughout its first years: they want to be big but have been relegated to small spaces, little audiences, and lack of support.

But far from being the end for the foundation, it was just a temporary setback. Oscar Amuz has knocked and opened many doors in such a professional, direct, and determined way that makes it easy to see that this goes beyond a job. All who work with him share the same regard: he’s the embodiment of effort, determination, and the spark that has initiated every action of Autism Soccer so far. To take it to new heights, Oscar determines every factor that will lead him to his next success, backed up by a team that helps him define goals and achieve every milestone of this project.
What Is Autism Soccer?

We are an organization that satisfies the needs for the development of neuroatypical children, while simultaneously cultivating their personality and character to help them achieve physical and psychological welfare. Our goals at Autism Soccer are:

- Teaching children within the AED basic norms and behaviors for soccer-practice in a supportive environment.
- Helping them develop a life-lasting love for exercise while having fun.
- Passing onto them the knowledge that with training, self-esteem, and love anything is possible.

And we are not alone! All our practices are promoted through clinics and medical professionals who provide specialized care for each child. Our health assistance includes:

- Physical therapy.
- Occupational therapy.
- Applied behavior analysis (ABA).
- Language therapy.
- Social skills training (SST).

At Autism Soccer, we don’t conduct any of the mentioned therapies but have brought into practice some techniques from them. These help the little ones develop abilities in many areas of their lives and overcome other health issues that may present during infancy, like obesity.

Over the past 6 years, our foundation has had the opportunity to help over 3,000 children and adults develop different qualities in life, improve their understanding of their conditions, and gain trust and confidence in how they interact with others. But our ultimate goal is clear: finding more volunteers to join this blossoming project in the upcoming years.

A bright future

Oscar is sure that every misstep and setback he experienced has led him and this organization to where they stand now: “I knocked on 999 doors because I knew that even if only the last one had opened, somebody was going to give me good news!”

And what he achieved is beyond anything he could’ve dreamt of: Autism Soccer has a recognized holiday in Florida, and it’s part of the select group of nonprofits supported by other foundations and international projects.

Today they are only taking one step in the path to success, one that without a doubt, will help them score a winning goal in the match of these children’s lives.
The Genova International School of Soccer is a youth soccer giant that has crossed borders around the world.

The story began in a public park in Melbourne, space in which seven children tried to improve their skills before the curious look of the spectator. This image gave way to one of the projects of recruitment and training of soccer players that have most impacted the youth sports field.

With several years dedicated to this company, the organization has managed to increase the number of children who receive technical knowledge in the discipline of football to 18,000 participants.

In this sense, Morris Pagniello, its founder, based the academy in countries such as Australia, United States, Italy, Singapore, Canada, Malaysia, and recently extended to Spain, and states: “I started with seven children, in three months 150, in one year the figure increased to 2,000.”

“The expansion plan will continue now for India and China, which welcomes in its academy boys from 15 to 22 years old, of the 90 young people who are now training with us in Spain, half are already in Spanish clubs.”

“The trainers, in turn, receive training to constantly update and improve their teaching ability. And we also teach courses for Federations and teams.”

The methodology applied in these centers includes training for five days a week, with instructors and guides of Spanish and Italian nationality in all the headquarters.

The rise obtained by Genova in recent years has placed it in the first place in the world in terms of the number of talented young people with great chances of becoming stars in the world of sports.

Pagniello states that “It is true that there is an entity, the Rush FC, which has 58,000 members, but they are a different organization since they work as a franchise for other teams. It can be said that as an Academy, we are the largest. And we can grow even more. Ronaldo (Nazario de Lima), who has a school with 10,000 children, has contacted us to join and add experience and results. We will study it.”

Connection with the greats of soccer

Pagniello plans to execute some strategic projects with soccer players
who have made history in the discipline, like Roberto Carlos, a former Real Madrid player. The idea is to open the R2 Academy together with Genova International with Roberto Carlos as a permanent ambassador.

Genova is located in Alicante and Leganés. In this sense, Pagniello adds: “where we also have residences for children. But the intention is to continue opening campuses in more places in the country… Columbus sought new lands and I new challenges.”

Who is Morris Pagniello?

Morris Pagniello had in the past a discreet career as a professional footballer but continued to be related to football from other trenches.

He is currently in charge of sports training and complements his work in management work for different teams in the Spanish League, especially in the expansion of the international market and commercial affairs.

Meanwhile, he constantly fights against the media and the rumors in which he was involved. Given this, he highlights that they were “unfair” accusations in a situation of “cheating” parties.

The coach has constantly tried to prove his innocence by presenting reports from the Italian police where he explains:

“I was falsely accused. In 2015 I found myself in the midst of a soccer scandal in Italy in which I had nothing to do. They called me to try to rig a match. I thought it was a joke and I let it go. I did not do anything. I didn’t report it because I didn’t know if that call was real.

The Italian justice alleges that its decision not to file a complaint was a total ‘negligence,’ in which case a penalty of ‘disabling of six months was applied to preside over teams.’ But I was never arrested, as has been said, nor do I have anything to do with all that. In that investigation, two people were involved whose names have also come up later on the subject of Eldense and I was falsely involved with them. They have damaged my image.

I have police reports that show that everything with me is clean. They have harmed me and I have denounced all who have unfairly accused me. I will go to the end.”

In this way, he began to integrate into the formation of new players. In the beginning, he worked by opening field and market with Rome and then founded Genova International with Cristiano Guntuli (Director of Naples). After the resounding success of this organization and subsequent expansion in many countries, Pagniello arrived in Spain.
About this route he states:
“I started working with Hercules, then I helped Jumilla, I went through León but it didn’t work out well, and now I work with Leganés, Getafe, and many other clubs. I helped Real Madrid to make the preseason in Australia, I organize the Party of the Peace with the Pope, we do international scouting, we discover players...”

Spanish soccer classes in China
China has strived to develop its soccer at the level of European football. For this reason, many celebrities of the European leagues such as Morientes, Chendo or Pandiani are joining the training providing all the knowledge in an ambitious project that launched this country.

This project is based on a Children’s soccer academy, promoted by Genova International School of Soccer since May 25 in which 10,000 children receive training in some cities such as Shanghai, Zibo, Guangzhou, and Hong Kong, where the academy is present.

This extraordinary contribution of Spanish and Italian soccer players and coaches is an important reference in the promotion, implementation, and improvement of the sport in this country.

Xi Jinping, President of China, has given special importance to this discipline, considering it a fundamental tool in the development and growth of his nation.
Whom Would You Invite to Your Party?  
And to your home?  
And to your company?

A mother of an autistic 2-year-old boy gets a message from a friend:

“I don’t want you to feel bad, but I won’t invite you because your son is a bit problematic, the other kids will get uncomfortable. I hope you understand me.”

The child that was not invited is a 2-year-old kid with autism. Yes, he has 2 years old and has already been uninvited from a party.

The event went viral on social media after the mother’s outrage on Facebook, being highlighted on several news sites across the country.

These events are frequent... a few years ago, the text “Nine Are Not Ten” by Fabiana Ribeiro, told a similar viral situation.

The story shakes everyone (who doesn’t have a stone for a heart).

But let’s go beyond the outrage and think a little about the matter.

That child who was excluded from a party, at age 2, will grow up. Children and young people with autism continue to be excluded from parties. These students and other kids with disabilities routinely suffer from exclusion in school, they are victims of cyberbullying more frequently than their classmates.

Autistic adults have a harder time getting a job. According to Autism Works, unemployment among people within the spectrum reaches 77% in the United States.

So, I ask you: whom would you invite to your home? To your company? To your team?

Have you ever happen to invite that friend of your child who’s autistic, has Down syndrome or physical disability to play with your kid at your home? Or do you always leave it for next week, after all, “it takes work.”

Is the place you work (maybe a business or a public agency) ready to receive clients and users with autism? Is there anyone fluent in LIBRAS for when a client with a hearing impairment arrives?

Are you ready to receive an autistic co-worker? Or do vacancies for people...
with disabilities only apply to positions of less relevance and salary?

Does the company that fills a job vacancy for a person with a disability also have an accountant vacancy in the inclusion program?

Or is your team one of those that says people with disabilities are important in the company (or public agency) but “don’t know anyone because the work is hard here”?

More than easy outrage over absurd exclusion, it is time to roll up our sleeves and promote inclusion in all environments.

We have to do more for those closest to us and in real life. It is not enough just to like and share news stories.

And you? Whom would you invite to your party? And to your home? And to your company?

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https://www.linkedin.com/pulse/quem-voc%C3%A3-convidaria-para-sua-festa-marcos-weiss-bliacheris/
The first trip to the dentist is always nerve-wracking, and it can be even more so for those with autism. For these children, the whole process can be overwhelming and frightening. It would benefit parents to take some time to understand what to expect on their first trip.

As a Dentist for the past 17 years, I understand the fear on both sides and endeavor to make every patient comfortable. To that end, a bit of knowledge goes a long way, and understanding what to expect on the first visit can help everyone.

Here are a few things to be aware of before your first trip to the dentist with your child.

You will meet new people
The first thing to keep in mind is the large number of new people that your kid will interact with. This includes the dentist, of course, but also includes the dental hygienist, the office receptionist, and even other patients in the waiting room. Some children with autism (and even those that don’t) are uncomfortable around new people, so it’s important to prepare them for this.

If possible, try to set up a pre-appointment where you can go and see the office before the appointment. These types of familiarization appointments can help the dentist office seem less scary and make it a familiar location for your child.

You should expect a bit of nervousness
There’s always going to be some nervousness associated with visiting the dentist for the first time, and for children with autism that’s even truer. The dentist’s office is filled with lots of jarring sights and sounds that can really bother those with sensory issues.

A good strategy to combat this is to walk through a dental visit at home. Using a visual aid like a video, you can get a pretty good feel for what the visit is going to be like, including some of the sights and sounds. Having a prior experience to draw from can make it much easier when it’s time for the
appointment as the child will have seen and heard it all before.

**This visit will help you prepare for the future**

Dental hygiene is life long, and it’s recommended that you go twice a year to visit your dentist. While the first visit can be difficult, it usually does get easier over time.

One thing to keep in mind is to try and visit the same dentist consistently. Having a familiar face can help make the experience a bit less scary.

You also want to make sure you have good dental hygiene at home. Proper brushing and flossing (at least twice a day) help prevent more serious problems down the road. Even a good diet plays a role in overall oral health. The more care you take at home, the less likely you’ll have to visit the dentist. This can be a good incentive for kids to take care of their mouths.

Your first visit might be difficult, but hopefully, with the above in mind, it will go smoothly. Dental hygiene is so important for all ages, so don’t let the fear of a bad visit keep you from getting your child the dental care they deserve.
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Amelia Earhart Park

www.autismsoccer.com
Football, what a wonderful sport... It is played all over the world and it is one of the ones that has more followers all over the planet. You can’t talk about it without being moved by remembering days of glory and sadness, of emotion and disillusion. Only football can make us remember where we were when this or that World Cup was played or when that historic goal was scored, making us feel that moment again and those we had next to us, loved ones or friends. And this is the wonderful thing about a sport that motivates people of all ages, ethnicities, genders or social conditions to play it.

Today we will refer to those young people and children with autism diagnoses who tend to be excluded from all sports discipline either because they do not find a space -call it a club- to open the doors, or simply some free time separate from the therapies.

Not to understand that sport, play and recreation are important for everyone (and when I say everyone, I include children and young people with “diagnoses”) is to deny the very nature of a person.

In April we had the opportunity to visit Oscar Amuz: founder of Autism Soccer (soccer and autism) www.autismsoccer.org in Florida, United States. From April 1 to 7, the Autism Awareness Week took place there with a soccer championship in which young people from all over the country participated. Seeing them participate with such enthusiasm was gratifying and moving. This week was recognized and promoted in a proclamation both by Dade County, where the competition was held, and by the Florida State Senate. It also had the support of personalities such as “El Pibe” Valderrama, Colombian soccer star, CONCACAF directors and important companies such as Qatar Airways, Genova International School of Soccer, among others, who with their participation showed that children and young peo-
ple with autism are not alone; on the contrary, there are many people who contribute their time and effort to make visible what was hidden some time ago.

Children and young people with CEA need spaces to develop their aptitudes and desires; not “differentiated” spaces, but the same ones that everyone else has. Only in this way will we be in the presence of true social inclusion.

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He was born with autism and being gay; he was also born with brown eyes, blond hair, skinny body, and for me as handsome as the most handsome person in the world. He was accepted and loved almost automatically by everybody.

Disability and homosexuality, on the other hand, has set him apart. Moreover, they hurt him frequently.

I never imagined I could feel so much love for someone. While Willy grew up, my life was challenged. He had something that no one could explain; and finally, after many doctors and studies, I knew he was on the autism spectrum.

Well, I think I really learned to love his awkwardness, his mind, his way of being, his natural way of saying and doing things. Many learned to love him the way he was and to love all the non-filter things he said, and to understand why he does not understand languages, why he can’t go to a theater. We also learn to fight for him and his right to not be seen less or disabled.

One year ago, when I thought Willy was happy (he even had some friends and was enthusiastic about being socially acceptable), he began to tell us he likes boys. He said: “I think I am gay…” It was devastating and life-changing because of the fear I felt immediately of people hurting him. Quickly, I understood I was no wrong: he was bullied because of the things he naturally felt.

Now, he openly says what he feels and dreams about, and he falls in love every minute. Obviously, at the age of 15, classmates at school automatically rejected him. He began to be bullied not only for his awkwardness but for being gay and saying it openly. After that, no one came home for playing anymore. At school, they intimidated him because of his disability and more for his sexuality.

No child deserves to feel intimidated for any reason at all, but this is how Willy has lived the past 12 months.
He is only a kid, with no sexual experience; so he feels he likes boys, and as he is on the autism spectrum, he will never lie. Willy has cried, he feels like a failure, and he can’t understand why people act the way they act.

His family is proud of who he is. We only want him to have the same opportunities the others have to fall in love and feel loved.

He has been treated with no respect, and the consequence may be literally of life or death.

Obviously, I feel ill-equipped and vastly under-qualified to help him. He has taught me so much, but yet I am terrified. He turned my world right-side up. He made me more patient (mostly), far far less judgemental, and he showed me that proving people wrong is really fun.

I had a strong support system in place. Some friends with neurotypical kids in the past came if I called and stayed for a day. But I think we are facing this alone now.

Willy’s tragedy needs to stop with support, love, and compassion. Homosexuality and autism cross every race, religion, and socioeconomic barrier.

Pita Cruz y Corro
August 1, 2019
CDMX
Puberty is an important stage of transition characterized by many changes and alterations in the organism with psychological and emotional impact.

It is a stage in which people experience intense transformations in their body and mind.

Teenagers begin to worry about what they are, and what others think, in addition to beginning to understand what is socially acceptable and what is not.

There is a greater sexual and romantic impulse while encompassing a complex and difficult period for everyone who goes through it. But, in the case of teenagers with autism, it includes a challenge for family members.

**Body changes**

The human body warns of a series of changes due to its development; it is understood that it goes from childhood to puberty. When children reach this stage, the tone of voice changes and the penis becomes a little bigger.

Likewise, girls may perceive breast enlargement and menstrual periods begin every 28 days. In both sexes, puberty causes the growth of pubic hair, and underarms, showing a strong tendency to suffer from acne.

These changes in the body represent a stage of great difficulty for adolescents, for a child with the autistic spectrum, these body changes can surprise him and cause them certain fears.

Given this, it is necessary for parents to talk with their child before this stage, in the case of girls it is a priority to be taught about feminine hygiene and the care of their body in general.

To educate children with ASD, you can use audiovisual content, images, or cartoons that allow you to graphically the changes that occur in your body.
Recent research shows that during puberty there is a strong tendency to suffer seizures among people with autism, this particular situation is worth discerning with the doctor during childhood to detect in time the symptoms and signs that may occur.

It is a good idea to start conversations with the neurologist and other specialists to have several opinions on the subject.

Masturbation is a healthy and normal attitude in the developmental stage; however, despite being natural some adolescents with autism do not have the level of social awareness to know when and where it is convenient to do so.

In this sense, direct communication with the child on the subject is essential to discuss all the concerns and doubts that the child expresses.

Sexual feelings

Sexual impulses or excitement are typical in the puberty stage, an absolutely normal body behavior in kids with autism.

But in their adolescent years, some sensory problems can be suffered as a result of this condition which can generate feelings of anxiety.

Adolescents may have inappropriate behavior from a social point of view, being able to masturbate in a place not suitable for it.

If you don’t feel comfortable when you start talking about sexuality, then establish a communication with the child’s therapist that will surely give you some guidelines to help you face this stage of shock.

School challenges

Generally, entering primary school causes many concerns in children with autism, which represents a real challenge for them when trying to get good grades. It is difficult to configure a willingness to study, without initially causing a psychological and emotional impact on them.
To exemplify the above, if the kid is in a class, teachers will demand more abstract thinking and tasks that don’t need to be memorized. This complicates things a bit because they have ample memory capacity, so they are very good at remembering information.

However, abstract thoughts are not the strength of children with autism; for them, abstract concepts are quite complex, which could negatively impact their self-esteem.

Before reaching adolescence, parents should address the issue of esteem with therapists and other specialists to improve the kid’s self-esteem and an appreciation of themselves that is not linked to their school grades.

Besides, the therapist can help you learn to cope with the frustration of having to ask for help from classmates or teachers constantly.

The specialist can also guide on the strategies necessary to summarize and analyze the content of the subjects both teachers; school counselors can help to achieve a greater understanding.

It is about involving all those who make up the educational community to support and facilitate the learning of the child with autism.

Everyone goes through puberty at some point in life, and it is essential to plan together with the child’s therapist, the school teacher about to know what to do when the child enters the adolescence stage.

With professional help and consistent planning, this stage can flow satisfactorily.
The arrival of adolescence and the development of the body bring with them a series of normal sexual feelings in all young people, but in adolescents with autism, this stage is somewhat difficult. In this article, we give you some tips to address sexuality and relationships.

Most people within the spectrum experience sensations, feelings, needs, and certain sexual behaviors, as do all young people.

This experience does not have to be traumatic or overwhelming. On the contrary, with proper and timely sexual education, and teaching that allows them to know how relationships work, this stage can be satisfactory.

1. Don’t ignore it
   At home, there must be respect for the privacy of every family member. Prohibitions and turning sex into a taboo subject is counterproductive. There are parents who forbid talking about sex at home and even see it as a sin. It is not possible to prevent young people from being sexually active if they have already reached the legal age.

   When there is no privacy, sexually active youth can choose public places to perform sexual acts. For this reason, many young people keep their relations secret, in many cases uncontrollably and with insecurities.

   Having sex in public places can cause severe penalties and can even lead to arrest.

   To ignore the issue of sexuality is to risk the teenager with autism becoming a victim of abuse or confusing a kiss or a hug with a sexual act.

2. Explain that relationships come before sex
   It is important to explain the importance of building social relationships based on friendship, in addition to consolidating emotional life as a couple. Young adults with autism should understand that it is a stage that is part of the development of life.
Social interaction is more difficult for a teenager with autism, so to experiment with new relationships, it is advisable to guide them on how they can develop an intimate or friendly relationship.

During adolescence, sexual maturity comes a few years before reaching emotional maturity, an essential moment to make key decisions.

Individuals with autism are growing in an era of technological evolution and visual culture in which the internet, social networks, media, games, music, and pornography convey messages that incite sexual relations, even making them look like socially accepted and habitual behavior.

This stage is full of confusing information. It is where parents must intervene by providing the necessary information to face it in the best way.

Disorientation can lead them to think that sex is expected behavior. Therefore, it should be clear that sex is not a mandatory act.

3. Where and when to start educating

Sexual and relationship education should begin immediately so that the child understands himself/herself, that is, as he/she grows, the parts of the body are explained in addition to touching, dressing, and undressing.

If he/she develops awareness about the physical appearance of adults compared to his/her body, it is a good occasion to start the discussion.

The beard, the breasts, and the hairs of the armpits are tangible and observable signs so that the child can perceive the differences.

Unlike previous generations, puberty occurs at an early age, first in girls, then, in boys. Young women and young men experience physical and emotional changes at this stage.

4. Plan what to cover

Adolescents should receive specialized attention and education, which should include health and hygiene, body changes, personal space, social norms, personal safety, and privacy rules in order to improve interpersonal relationships, communication, social behavior and understanding of the environment.

Clarifying the moment in which distance should be taken, as well as relationships and mutual consent that must exist in interpersonal relationships, are the greatest challenges parents face.

5. Make limits clear

When initiating a conversation with adolescents with autism, limits concerning the body should be established, that is, make clear which parts are private and should not be shown, which are the appropriate places or spaces and which are the private ones.

For some parents, it is uncomfortable to start educating teenagers
with autism about limits, but if it is not oriented properly, the person will not be able to distinguish what kind of behavior is socially approved in adulthood.

6. Build trust

Highlight the positive in the teenager, recognize their abilities in their presence, and make them feel what they are worth. Supporting them and contributing to improve their self-esteem is decisive in the puberty stage.

Wearing age-appropriate clothing, having a unique and personal style are crucial factors in developing the ability to overcome adversity and obstacles in adulthood.

The idea is that in the adult stage, they do not need to receive guidelines, but suggestions to set their limits with judgment and conscience.
REGISTRATION IS OPEN AT AUTISM SOCCER

LET YOUR CHILD ENJOY THE MANY BENEFITS OF SOCCER WITH US

Classes for children with autism will be held every Saturday

- 4 to 6 years old: 10:00 a.m.
- 7 to 10 years old: 11:00 a.m.
- 11 to 15 years old: 12:00 a.m.

NEW LOCATION
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8111 NW 54th St, Doral, 33166

@lacaimanerasoccer

For more information:
305 469 0895
(Óscar Amuz)

info@autismsoccer.org
autismsoccer.org

AT AUTISM SOCCER WE OFFER BASIC SOCCER TRAINING
We are all neurodiverse. Each person is unique and different. So are our brains.

Some people have an atypical development, deviating from the established patterns of “normality”: the neurodivergent.

The concept of neurodiversity was created a few years ago by Australian autistic sociologist Judy Singer when she heard her mother ask her “why can’t you be normal for once in your life?”

The term arose from the reflection provoked by this question and sees autism from the perspective of diversity, arguing that differences between people are normal and inherent to the human condition.

This new stance has gained the enthusiastic support of many autistic people, especially those with greater social and intellectual development who transformed the idea into a movement. They reject treating autism as a pathology, seeing it as part of their identity and not as a disease waiting for a cure.

What does neurodiversity seek?

The activists of the neurodiversity movement oppose the application of the medical model of disability to autism and its search for a cure. They reject the idea of a cure as well as treatments that seek “normalization” by eliminating individual characteristics.

Warning: rejecting the medical model or the idea of a cure does not mean rejecting medical treatments that seek to give better living conditions to those who are in the autistic spectrum.

The “autistic” want the use of public resources to prioritize public policies of inclusion and support for autistic families.

Neurodiversity takes the focus away from healing and puts it into inclusion and care.
By rejecting the medical model and applying the thought of the social model of disability to autistic spectrum disorder (ASD), the neurodiversity model proposes that the theme be considered a social issue and not an individual one. Thus, they focus their militancy on removing the barriers that prevent their participation in society and require the creation of public policies in this sense.

Finally, it is important to talk about protagonism and human rights. Protagonism is in the motto “nothing about us without us.” These words demand the participation of people with disabilities in forums for discussion and formulation of public policies that influence their lives.

Human rights appear in reaction to the various treatments, often violent and humiliating, used in the search for a “cure.”

1965 - Life’s article shows the new treatment against autism: physical aggression! At the same time, another option would be electric shocks (equipment was used to shock cattle).

Who is opposed to neurodiversity?

Neurodiversity finds opponents among the defenders of the medical model. In this model, disability (and autism) are seen as a health issue, where medical knowledge and research play a central role. The focus is on therapies, and all other circumstances are considered secondary.

The emergence of this activism generated countless conflicts with the parents of autistic people. It is undeniable that these organizations have put the TEA in evidence, raising society’s awareness. Their actions have excelled in supporting and seeking funding for scientific research that seeks to cure autism.

One of the conflicts is precisely due to the confrontation of priorities: the demand for public policies by the followers of neurodiversity and the stimulus to the funding of medical research by parents’ associations such as Autism Speaks.

Place of speech

The question, “who is speaking on behalf of autistic people?” also generates heated debates.

Both autistic people and parents see themselves as the spokespersons for autism. Many parents, especially those with children with intellectual and/or communicational deficits, de-
fine themselves as the “voice” of their children. In this debate, they argue that their children would constitute the “true autism,” accusing other autistic people of being a minority within the spectrum.

These parents also claim a kind of monopoly on suffering, disregarding or minimizing the limitations and barriers of those who have greater intelligence and ability to communicate and express themselves than their children.

For neurodiversity militants, the fathers and mothers of autistic people speak in their own name as fathers and mothers of people who are in the spectrum. For them, they do not speak in the names of their children because only autistic people can speak on behalf of other autistic people. They equate this situation with white people talking about blackness and racism while silencing blacks.

Every Tuesday I write here on LinkedIn. One week on accessibility & inclusion and the other about sustainability. Autism is a constant agenda!
AN EXPANSION TO MEXICO

The Genova International School of Soccer (GISS) is an institution that works with 18 thousand children around the world. Thanks to Rubén Corona López, this ‘colosus’ has already landed in Mexico.

Rubén Corona López is a Mexican man worried about the welfare of children in his country. He is convinced that many of them can make their dreams come true thanks to the Genova International School of Soccer, a project of technification and capture of talent with schools in various parts of the world. In a public park located in Melbourne, Australia, seven children were trying to improve their skills with the ball in front of the eyes of people passing by. That scene was the origin of a project that, in a few years, has grown to count with 18,000 students around the globe.

“I started with seven boys. In three months, we had 150, and in one year, we had over two thousand.” This how Morris Pagniello, founder of GISS, recounts the progression of this academy that currently welcomes children and young adults from 15 to 22 years.

Pagniello also explains their recent triumphs in Spain, saying that “of the 90 children who are being trained right now with us in Spain, half are already located in Spanish clubs.” The mechanics of work in all their training centers involves sessions five days a week dictated mainly by Spanish and Italian coaches.

And now, with the help of businessman Ruben Corona and his great team, the expansion plan of Genova International is continuing across Mexico and North America.

“Coaches receive constant training to update and improve their didactic capacities, we offer courses for federations and teams, and next year, with the support of Rubén, we will also take the Mundialito of clubs to Canada,” added the project leader. Mexico will add to the extensive list of countries in which GISS is developing, such as Australia, the USA, Italy, Spain, England, Malta, Romania, Poland, Brazil, Argentina, UAE, Singapore, Malaysia, and China.
CHORITOS A LA CHALACA

Ingredients

- 12 mussels.
- 2 onions, chopped.
- ½ rocoto pepper, deveined and chopped.
- ½ cup tomato, diced.
- ½ tablespoon chopped parsley.
- ¾ cup loose corn kernels.
- Juice of 3-4 lemons.
- 1 tablespoon ground ají amarillo (Peruvian pepper.)
- 1 tablespoon oil.
- Salt and pepper to taste.

Steps

Wash mussels with a brush. Bring them to a boil in a pot of water. Remove them from the pot as soon as they start to open, so they don’t overcook. Discard unopened ones. Let cool opened mussels and place half of them on a serving platter.

In a bowl, combine onion, rocoto pepper, tomato, parsley, corn kernels, lemon juice, aji amarillo, oil, salt, and pepper. Let rest for 5-10 minutes.

Add 1 tablespoon of the salsa mixture to each mussel. Serve and enjoy!
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**AUTISM SOCCER: STORY**

*What Is Autism Soccer?*

We are an organization that satisfies the needs for the development of neuroatypical children, while simultaneously cultivating their personality and character to help them achieve physical and psychological welfare.

Our goals at Autism Soccer are:
- Teaching children within the AED basic norms and behaviors for soccer practice in a supportive environment.
- Helping them develop a life-lasting love for exercise while having fun.
- Passing onto them the knowledge that with training, self-esteem, and love anything is possible.

And we are not alone! All our practices are promoted through clinics and medical professionals who provide specialized care for each child. Our health assistance includes:

- Physical therapy.
- Occupational therapy.
- Applied behavior analysis (ABA).
- Language therapy.
- Social skills training (SST).

At Autism Soccer, we don’t conduct any of the mentioned therapies but have brought into practice some techniques from them. These help the little ones develop abilities in many areas of their lives and overcome other health issues that may present during infancy, like obesity.

Over the past 6 years, our foundation has had the opportunity to help over 3.000 children and adults develop different qualities in life, improve
their understanding of their conditions, and gain trust and confidence in how they interact with others. But our ultimate goal is clear: finding more volunteers to join this blossoming project in the upcoming years.

A bright future

Oscar is sure that every misstep and setback he experienced has led him and this organization to where they stand now: “I knocked on 999 doors because I knew that even if only the last one had opened, somebody was going to give me good news!”

And what he achieved is beyond anything he could’ve dreamt of: Autism Soccer has a recognized holiday in Florida, and it’s part of the select group of nonprofits supported by other foundations and international projects.

Today they are only taking one step in the path to success, one that without a doubt, will help them score a winning goal in the match of these children’s lives.
New classes in a new location: **Urban Soccer Five**

Don't miss the opportunity to bring your child!

**Every Monday**

- **4:00 pm:** 4 to 6 years old
- **5:00 pm:** 7 to 10 years old
- **6:00 pm:** 11 to 15 years old

Dare to live the Autism Soccer experience!

Contact us!
305 469 0895
1125 NW 71st St, Miami, FL 33150

[Autism Soccer Co.]
New classes in a brand new location: Mr. Gol Indoor Soccer
Don't miss the opportunity to bring your child!

Every Tuesday

Hours and ages:
4:00 pm: 4 to 6 years old
5:00 pm: 7 to 10 years old
6:00 pm: 11 to 15 years old

Dare to live the Autism Soccer experience!

Contact us!
305 469 0895
224 NW 9th Ave
Homestead, FL 33030
THE SKY IS THE LIMIT