
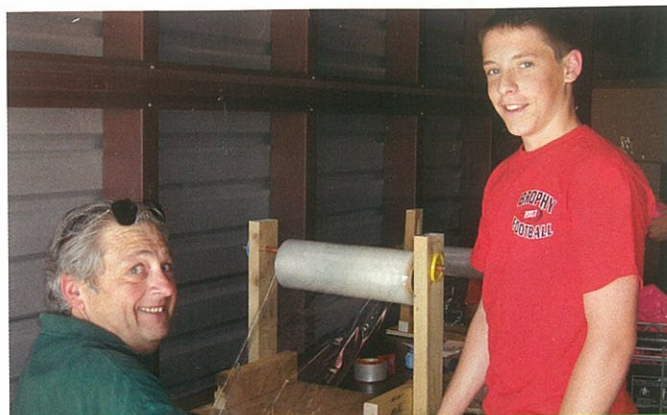


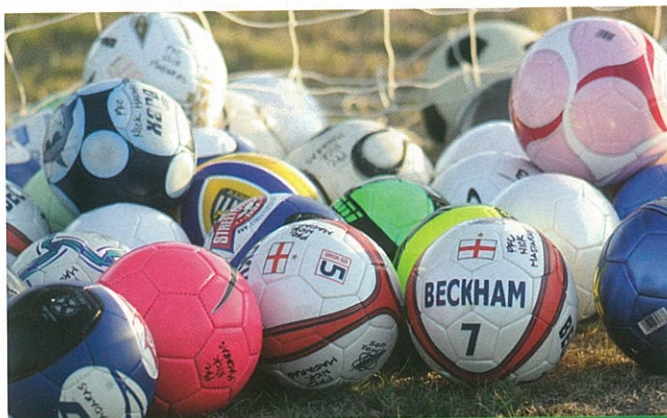
CALL IT A WRAP

PHOTOGRAPHY BY EMILY SEPULVEDA

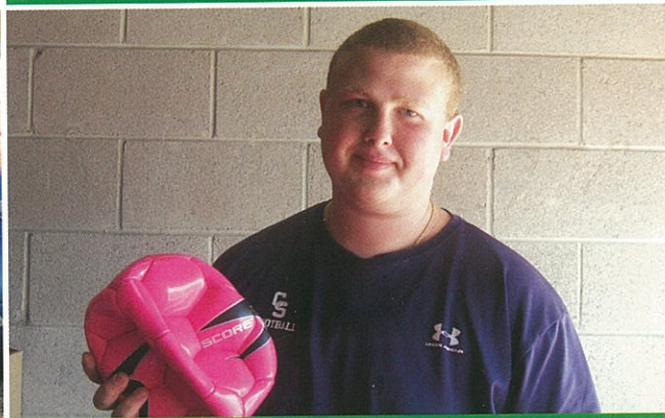
Kick for Nick supporters gathered June 13 to help wrap and package one of many shipments of soccer balls being sent to Iraqi children. 



Bill Feiler and Anthony Carli



Soccer balls from Gilbert waiting to be shipped



Ed Feiler



Patrick McGlone wrapping soccer balls



Alexander McGlone preparing soccer ball for transport



Alexander McGlone



Chuck Manchen, Kristen Eaves and Rhys Kelso

WRITTEN BY EMILY SEPULVEDA

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KAY BOWLING

Kick *for* Nick

A soldier's last wish inspires soccer ball collection campaign

"It's always worthwhile trying to help kids; if there's soccer involved that's a bonus." So says Patrick McGlone of the Gilbert Soccer Club, in regards to the Kick for Nick soccer ball collection campaign that has inspired people in Gilbert and across the nation.

Kick for Nick was started in honor of 19-year-old Pfc. Nick Madaras, who took note of the local children's love of soccer while serving in Iraq. He was impressed at the Iraqi children's skill and proficiency, doubly so because they often kicked around tin cans in place of a ball. A soccer player and coach in his hometown of Wilton, Conn, Private Madaras wrote his parents, asking them to

GET INVOLVED

Kick for Nick needs help with shipping costs! Each soccer ball costs \$1 to send to Iraq. Please send donations to 4536 E. White Feather Lane, Cave Creek, AZ 85331. Checks can be made payable to Cactus Shadows High School. For more information on the national Kick for Nick Campaign, visit kickfornick.com.

send him a couple soccer balls to hand out to the Iraqi kids. Tragically, Private Madaras was killed before his request could be fulfilled.

But Nick's simple appeal inspired people, and the Kick for Nick campaign has collected thousands of soccer balls to distribute to Iraqi children in his name. Efforts of organizations like the Gilbert Soccer

Club have aided this success.

"It's a unique story," says McGlone, who discovered Kick for Nick while watching

ESPN and decided to get the Gilbert Soccer Club involved. "And people are happy to help. We've collected balls from kids, from parents, from families; Dick's Sporting Goods made a donation." This generosity from the Gilbert community has the Gilbert Soccer Club well on its way to meeting its goal of collecting 1,000 soccer balls.

Ed Feiler, a recent graduate of Cactus Shadows High in Cave Creek, has been working on behalf of the collection drive since January, and with his dad William, has spearheaded the Kick for Nick campaign in Arizona. To date, the Feiler's have collected over 2,000 soccer balls from around the Valley, and have secured the use of a storage space to keep them at until the balls are shipped, first to an Army Post Office in California, then on to Iraq. Each ball is shipped deflated, and with a needle and pump.

"We started putting goodie bags in each box, too." Feiler says. "For the soldier that has to unpack it."



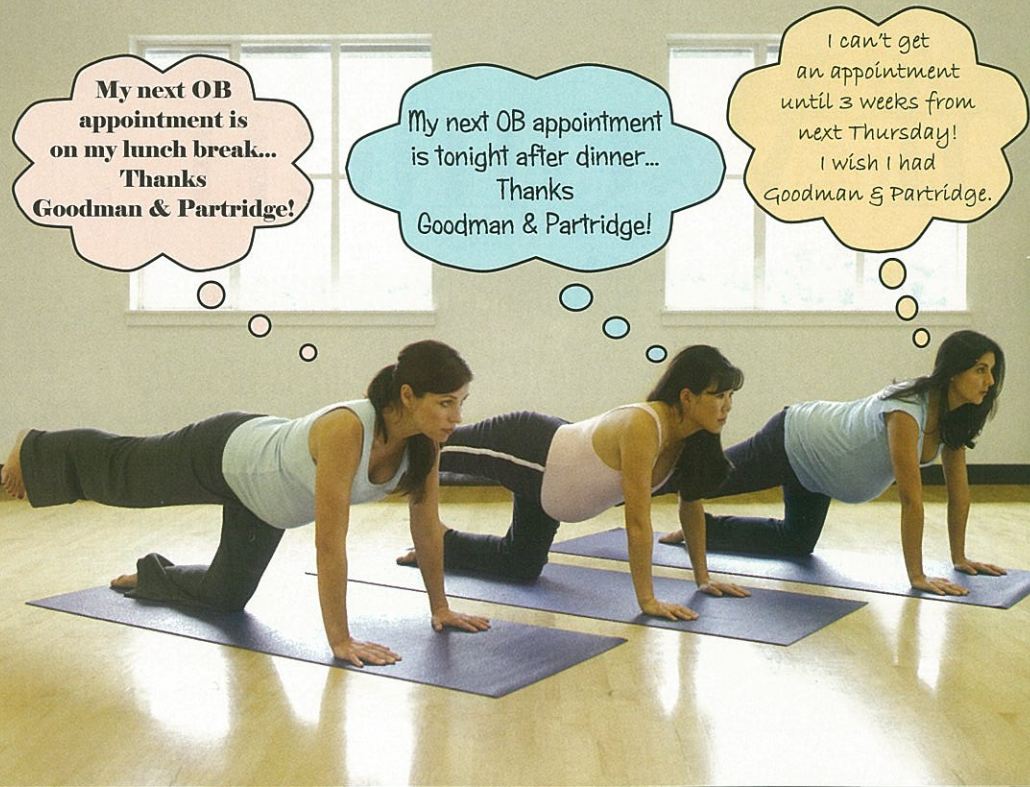
Feiler has also been in contact with Pfc. Nick Madaras's father, who has provided information and assistance with shipping. "Bill Madaras has been really helpful," Feiler says. "He seems touched that people are doing this for the memory of his son."

While Feiler didn't imagine his involvement with Kick for Nick would grow to this

magnitude, he's very happy with the results of his efforts. "Every ball we collect, that's another kid we help."

McGlone agrees that each donation is worthwhile. "Over there, they don't have what we have," he says. "Something as simple as a soccer ball can have a huge impact on a child's life."

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