

April 2, 2019

Dear Empire City families,

We are Ethan and Sam Knauf and we have been playing for Empire City since 2014. We are currently playing for the Men's U19.

As many of you know, Sam arrived in the United States in 2013 after being born and raised in a refugee camp on the border of Thailand and Myanmar. Many of his people, part of the Karen/Karenni tribes of Burma, have been resettled in Albany.

We know how important sports have been in our lives and would like to enable the refugee community to experience the same. However, refugee families live below the poverty level and purchasing sports equipment is often impossible. We would like to help by collecting gently used equipment so that many aspiring players can play soccer.

We would sincerely appreciate your help! Please bring in any gently used or new equipment (balls, socks, shin guards, cleats) to your Empire City practice. We will be collecting all equipment by April 15th and delivering them to RISSE Refugee and Immigrant Settlement Services of Emmaus in Albany, NY. Our team practices in the "Bowl field" at Moreau Rec so you can bring equipment to Sam and Ethan on any Monday or Wednesday training session.

If you would like to donate funds for new equipment instead, please make your checks out to RISSE and indicate "soccer equipment" in the memo line.

Thank you for getting these players on the pitch!

Sincerely,

Ethan and Sam Knauf