



## Press Release

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### **For Immediate Release**

#### Kansas Youth Soccer Award Winners from Topeka

Sunflower Soccer Association, as a member of Kansas Youth Soccer Association is proud to announce that three of this year's statewide Kansas Youth Soccer Award Winners are from Topeka. The boys' recreational coach of the year, Mr. Kent Andres, the Volunteer of the Year, Mr. Michael Parsons and the TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year, Ms. Lauren Lawless were nominated by parents or colleagues who desired to express their thanks and gratitude for the time and energy devoted to children participating in the game of soccer. Andres, Parsons and Lawless were selected from a pool of applicants submitted from around the state. Parsons and Lawless were also selected as the Region II winners in their selective categories. Region II includes 13 Midwest states – Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Missouri, and Kentucky. Parsons and Lawless are now eligible for the National Awards that will be given in February at the US Youth Soccer National Convention in Fort Worth, Texas.

Mr. Kent Andres coaches a U10 boys' recreational team for Sunflower Soccer. Andres is a former Board of Trustee member and a dedicated volunteer to the association. He will often be found at the complex completing projects and offering time to teach new recreational coaches. Andres' has more than ten years of service to the association and the children who participate.

Mr. Michael Parsons is the TOPSoccer Coordinator for Sunflower Soccer Association. TOPSoccer is a program specifically designed for children with cognitive or physical disabilities. Parsons led the effort to begin this project, and through assistance from TARC and the Washburn University's Lady Blues soccer team, the program is continuing to grow. Parsons is also an active member of the Board of Trustees of SSA, director of Camp Hope with the American Cancer Society and parent manager of his daughter's premier team.

Ms. Lauren Lawless is SSA's TOPSoccer Buddy of the Year. She is a senior at Washburn University in the early education program and was a four-year member of the Lady Blues' soccer team. Lauren has assisted with the TOPSoccer program from the beginning and was instrumental in leading the four to eight year old players this fall. She also organized TOPSoccer day at a Washburn Lady Blues' soccer game that included an autograph session with the players, pizza and attending the game. At halftime the players were able to shoot on the Ichabod in goal. Lauren's heart is dedicated to the program.

Sunflower Soccer Association is thankful and proud of the coaches and volunteers who dedicate their time, knowledge and devotion to the youth of Topeka and the state of Kansas.

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