



Safe-Hub Philadelphia

FAQs

Core Identity & Purpose

What is Safe-Hub Philadelphia?

Safe-Hub Philadelphia is a place-based youth and community development organization in Kensington. From its Kensington Community Campus, Safe-Hub uses soccer as an entry point to long-term holistic development for young people, families, and the broader community.

Who does Safe-Hub serve?

Safe-Hub serves young people and families from Kensington and nearby neighborhoods, along with caregivers, young adults, and community members who participate in campus activities and partner-led services.

How many people does Safe-Hub reach each year?

Safe-Hub engages more than 3,000 people annually through regular, recurring youth programming, family engagement, and community-wide initiatives.

How is Safe-Hub different from a traditional sports nonprofit?

While soccer is an entry point for young people and a vehicle for holistic development, it is not the end goal. Safe-Hub focuses on long-term development by creating a safe, consistent environment where young people build skills, relationships, and confidence over time, supported by families, trained coaches, and community partners.

Why does Safe-Hub use soccer?

Safe-Hub's approach began in South Africa, where the first campuses were built around community soccer fields in neighborhoods with limited safe spaces for young people. Soccer provided structure and a reason for young people to return day after day. This allowed trusting relationships and broader development to take root over time. That same logic guides Safe-Hub's work in Philadelphia, using soccer as an accessible entry point.

Is Safe-Hub primarily a youth program or a community organization?

Safe-Hub is both. Youth development sits at the center of the work, but outcomes for young people are strengthened by engaging caregivers, partners, and neighbors as part of the same shared ecosystem.

Where did the Safe-Hub model come from?



The Safe-Hub model was developed over more than 15 years, originally launched in South Africa. The Philadelphia campus builds on that experience while being shaped by the specific needs and priorities of Kensington.

Place & Campus

What is the Kensington Community Campus?

The Kensington Community Campus is a community space built by Safe-Hub as the central hub for its youth and community development work in Philadelphia. It brings together athletic space, learning environments, gathering areas, and partner-led services in one accessible, dignified place embedded in daily neighborhood life. The Campus functions as a shared community “third space” — distinct from home or school — where young people, families, and neighbors can consistently gather, connect, and access support.

Why is Safe-Hub based in Kensington?

Safe-Hub was intentionally established in Kensington based on community need and deep personal ties to the neighborhood. Longstanding relationships and lived experience helped ensure the work was built with the values and priorities of the community at its core.

Who uses the Kensington Community Campus?

The campus serves young people, caregivers, families, and community members from Kensington and surrounding neighborhoods. Most participant families live within walking distance or a short drive, supporting regular engagement and long-term connection.

Is the campus open to the broader community or only Safe-Hub participants?

The campus is designed as a shared neighborhood resource and functions as a welcoming third space for the Kensington community. In addition to Safe-Hub programming, it hosts partner-led services, community events, and activities that are open to families and neighbors.

Model & Approach

What does “cradle-through-career” mean at Safe-Hub?

“Cradle-through-career” reflects the understanding that development is ongoing. Safe-Hub supports young people throughout childhood and adolescence and stays connected as they grow into adulthood, adapting its approach as needs and opportunities shift over time.

How does Safe-Hub support young people beyond the soccer field?

Safe-Hub supports young people beyond the soccer field through consistent relationships, access to trusted partners, as well as trainings, workshops, and opportunities that build wellbeing, leadership,



and future readiness. This includes preparation for further education and career exploration and happens alongside parents, caregivers, and the broader community.

How does Safe-Hub's model support families, caregivers, and the broader community?

Safe-Hub's model is built around the idea that young people develop within a broader environment shaped by families and community. In addition to youth programming, the Kensington Community Campus offers opportunities for parents, caregivers, and neighbors to connect and access partner-led support, strengthening the conditions that allow young people to thrive over time.

How does Safe-Hub's work change as young people grow older?

As young people mature, programming evolves from play-based learning to healthy competition and teamwork to leadership, mentorship, and future preparation and planning. Many participants remain connected to the campus as mentors, coaches, and role models.

How does Safe-Hub adapt its work over time as community needs change?

Through its constant presence in the community, Safe-Hub draws on trusted relationships and participation patterns to understand changing needs and adjust its programming accordingly. This approach allows programming and partnerships to evolve intentionally over time while maintaining continuity and trust.

Why does Safe-Hub focus on depth in one neighborhood?

Safe-Hub believes lasting impact comes from consistent presence and long-term relationships within a community. By focusing on depth in Kensington, Safe-Hub can grow alongside families and neighbors, adapt its work over time, and build trust that strengthens outcomes for young people and the broader community.

Partnerships

What role do partnerships play in Safe-Hub's work?

Partnerships are central to how Safe-Hub operates. Safe-Hub collaborates with expert and trusted partners to expand access to support related to physical, mental, and economic wellbeing.

How are partners integrated into the Kensington Community Campus?

Partners are embedded within the Campus through programs and services that provide young people, caregivers, and the broader community access to trusted expertise. Soccer serves as a low-barrier entry point that allows Safe-Hub to build strong relationships and trust with young people and families over time. Those relationships help Safe-Hub understand the specific needs of participants and connect the right partners in a destigmatized venue, supporting meaningful, accessible care.

How can organizations partner with Safe-Hub Philadelphia?



Organizations can partner with Safe-Hub by providing resources and programming that align with the needs of the community and the goals of the Kensington Community Campus. To explore partnership opportunities, organizations can contact philly@safe-hub.org.