



Safe-Hub Philadelphia Fact Sheet

Organization

Safe-Hub Philadelphia is a place-based youth and community development organization in Kensington. Its work builds on a community-rooted model developed over more than 15 years, originally launched in South Africa. From its Kensington Community Campus, Safe-Hub uses soccer as an entry point to long-term development for young people, families, and the broader community.

The Safe-Hub Model:

- Uses soccer to draw young people into a safe, consistent environment as a vehicle for their holistic development
- Offers a youth-centered third space for physical safety, emotional wellbeing, skill-building, and relationships
- Supports development across childhood, adolescence, and into adulthood
- Strengthens outcomes for youth by engaging caregivers and community members
- Operates through deep partnership rather than delivering all services alone

The Kensington Community Campus

The Kensington Community Campus is the foundation for Safe-Hub's work in Philadelphia. The campus integrates athletic space, learning environments, gathering areas, and partner-led services in one accessible location embedded in daily neighborhood life.

The campus was intentionally established in Kensington, shaped by community need and deep personal ties to the neighborhood, ensuring the work was built with the values and priorities of the community at its core. Most participant families live within a short drive or walking distance.

The Kensington Community Campus includes:

- Indoor turf field
- Classrooms and meeting rooms
- Youth and community gathering spaces
- Two outdoor grass fields
- Safe community corridors between spaces

How the Model Works

- Place-based: Grounded in one neighborhood over time
- Developmental continuum: Development is understood as an ongoing process, with support adapting as young people grow through key stages of life.



- Partnership-driven: Expert partners expand access across physical, mental, and economic wellbeing
- Depth over scale: Impact measured by stability, trust, and longevity rather than rapid growth

Snapshots

- Founded: 2020
- Location: Kensington, Philadelphia
- People engaged annually: 3,000+
- Collaborating partner organizations: 50+

Safe-Hub Developmental Programming Continuum

Safe-Hub's work spans from early childhood through adulthood and extends into the lives of caregivers and neighbors. The continuum reflects a flexible, place-based framework shaped by community priorities and is delivered through long-term partnerships that expand what the campus can offer over time.

Early Childhood Development

Safe-Hub introduces young children to movement and early social emotional learning through age-appropriate soccer and other play-based activities in a safe, consistent environment. This stage helps children build comfort and familiarity while establishing Safe-Hub as a trusted space for families.

School-Age Development

During school-age years, Safe-Hub uses soccer to support learning and personal growth outside of school. Regular, structured soccer sessions provide a challenging, skills-focused environment that encourages young people to push themselves while returning consistently to the campus. On and off the field, participants build technical soccer skills alongside communication, teamwork, and confidence, while forming steady relationships with peers and trusted adults.

Post-Secondary Preparation

As adolescents and young adults grow, Safe-Hub focuses on leadership development and future planning. Participants explore education and career pathways through programming focused on building awareness, exposure, and experience, while remaining connected to the campus as mentors, coaches, and contributors.

Community Cohesion and Development

Safe-Hub engages caregivers and neighbors as active partners in youth development, creating shared responsibility for young people across the neighborhood. Through the Kensington Community Campus, Safe-Hub also provides a welcoming environment where families and community members can build



and strengthen social connections, as well as connect to services and resources that support individual and community wellbeing.

Local Economic Development

The campus supports local economic opportunity by connecting residents to skill-building and business support. These efforts contribute to neighborhood stability over time.

Environmental Stewardship

Safe-Hub's environmental stewardship work focuses on maintaining a clean, safe, and connected neighborhood that allows young people, families, and community members to safely access the Kensington Community Campus and its surrounding shared spaces.