



Safe-Hub Philadelphia

Corporate Narrative

Safe-Hub creates safe spaces that combine the power of sport and holistic development to empower youth and change lives.

Born in South Africa

Established in 2020, Safe-Hub Philadelphia is the U.S. program of the Safe-Hub model.

The Safe-Hub model emerged from early efforts to create safe, consistent spaces for young people in communities facing significant social and economic challenges. Those efforts took shape in Khayelitsha, South Africa, where the CTC Ten Foundation, founded in 2007 to honor the memory of Christopher T. Campbell, supported an early community-based initiative centered on youth development through sport.

The idea was simple: establish a hub inside a neighborhood facing serious social and economic challenges. Using soccer as the anchor, Safe-Hub took shape as a place-based community development model designed to support young people as whole individuals growing within their communities.

In Khayelitsha, this approach was put into practice through a community turf field and clubhouse that created a safe place for young people to play, learn, and connect. The success of this initial site demonstrated how consistent access to team sport, caring adults, and opportunity could build confidence and strengthen community connections.

That early success led Safe-Hub to expand across South Africa, where the model continued to be refined through daily practice, partnership, and learning alongside the communities it served. Over more than 15 years, this sustained, on-the-ground work established a strong foundation for what would later become a broader, global platform.

Today, with a proven, successful model, Safe-Hub operates in multiple countries, including Germany, the United States, India, and Côte d'Ivoire.



At home in Kensington

Six years ago, Philadelphia became the home of Safe-Hub's U.S. flagship.

The decision to build in Kensington and Harrowgate was shaped by both the realities of the neighborhood and the relationships already connected to it. Chris Campbell, a Safe-Hub board member, grew up across the street from where the campus now stands and played on the very fields Safe-Hub uses today. His lived experience and understanding of the resilience and challenges within the community affirmed that Kensington was not only a place in need of Safe-Hub, but a place where the work could take root in a meaningful and authentic way.

In 2020, that launch became a reality when Safe-Hub Philadelphia brought the life-skills-through-soccer curriculum to a small group of 35 young people. Today, the campus has become a central fixture in Kensington, strengthened by ongoing investment in local infrastructure and a commitment to being part of the community.

Safe-Hub's approach is rooted in the belief that long-term impact requires a consistent presence. Most participants live within a short drive or walking distance of the campus, which combines an indoor turf field, classrooms, meeting rooms, and two outdoor fields. Every corner is designed to feel accessible and dignified, reinforcing that Safe-Hub is a lasting part of Kensington.

A pathway for every stage of life

From its Kensington Community Campus, Safe-Hub supports young people across every stage of childhood and adolescence while extending opportunity to families, caregivers, and the broader Kensington community. Its approach is built around a developmental continuum that begins in early childhood, continues through high school, and evolves as young people and families grow, ensuring support remains relevant at every stage.

This work is guided by a cradle-through-career programming ethos that views development as a lifelong process shaped by family and community at every stage. Across childhood, adolescence, and into the lives of caregivers and community members, this approach connects youth development with family support, community cohesion, local economic opportunity, and care for the neighborhood environment.



The youngest participants learn through play, building comfort with movement and early social and emotional skills. As they get older, programming becomes more structured, emphasizing teamwork, communication, decision-making, and emotional growth. Alongside the youth programming, young adults, caregivers, and community members take part in activities that teach them new skills and strengthen the environment around each child.

This work is anchored by a set of core program areas that serve as cornerstones of Safe-Hub's model, alongside a broader range of flexible, partner-driven programming across the continuum. Over time, programming evolves in response to community needs, with leadership development, workforce preparation, and family support expanding through both Safe-Hub-led initiatives and trusted partners.

Partnership is central to how Safe-Hub operates. The organization intentionally curates and hosts expert partners to support work across physical, mental, and economic wellbeing at both individual and community levels. This approach allows Safe-Hub to remain focused on youth development while creating an ecosystem of care that strengthens families and the communities around them.

Programs rooted in community connection, such as events, workshops, and neighborhood beautification efforts, further reinforce Safe-Hub's belief that strong communities create strong outcomes for young people.

A bright future

In its first five years, Safe-Hub's Kensington Community Campus has become a central presence in the neighborhood. Its combination of physical space, developmental programming, and family engagement now supports more than 3,000 people from Kensington and surrounding areas, demonstrating the impact of a community-centered campus embedded in everyday neighborhood life.

Looking ahead, Safe-Hub remains focused on deepening its impact within Kensington and strengthening the Community Campus as the long-term heart of its work. The public-private nature of the campus and the way its interconnected spaces bring young people, caregivers, and neighbors together illustrate what place-based investment can look like at its best. Safe-Hub believes the Kensington Community Campus can serve as *the* example of how sustained, local investment supports healthier, stronger, more connected communities.



This year is especially pivotal as Philadelphia prepares to host matches during the 2026 World Cup. With global attention on the region, Safe-Hub has an opportunity to highlight the full scope of its work and the power of long-term community investment.

Soccer may be the entry point, but the Kensington Community Campus is where the deeper work happens, helping young people grow alongside the caregivers and neighbors who support them, and creating a community that moves forward together.

Safe-Hub is building its future in the Kensington Community Campus and shaping a place where young people and families can grow together for years to come.