



NEWS RELEASE

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Velocity Soccer Club Turns a Loss into Smiles at BBCH

PORTLAND, Maine — The Velocity Girls U16 Soccer Club donated their hard earned savings of \$3,788 – first intended for an out-of-state tournament – to The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital at Maine Medical Center, where the team of girls aged 15-16 years old has volunteered on Sundays for the past few years.

Velocity team members train in Gorham and Saco, but its membership is extends throughout southern Maine. This past year, the U15 girls’ team was crowned champions in the State Cup premier soccer tournament qualifying them to participate in the Region I tournament to be held in West Virginia during the July 4th weekend – a costly trip for which they raised money in a variety of ways including selling homemade Christmas ornaments, hosting bottle drives and car washes.

In late June the team was told that due to a clerical error they had been listed as a boys team and would not be allowed to participate in the tournament. They turned their anger, frustration and tears into something positive.

“The team talked about what to do with the money they had collected. Without hesitation the girls themselves made the decision to donate the entire amount to The Barbara Bush Children’s Hospital,” said Coach Laurie Holbrook. “Over the past

couple of years this team, along with others in our club, had made many Sunday morning trips to visit the kids there and do what they could to help make a hard situation maybe a little better. The team loved their visits and helping to try and put smiles on those children's faces."

Coach Rick Doyon said, "We are so very proud of the team and the generosity shown. This team has stuck together and will once again be making regular visits to the hospital this year in hopes of continuing our club's tradition of giving back to the communities. The girls truly represent our club's motto: "It's not just about soccer."

PHOTO OUTLINE: Left to right: Coach Rick Doyon, Natalia Profenno of Saco, Sarah Champagne of Buxton, Erin Gorton of Kennebunk, Camryn Morton of Gorham and Coach Laurie Holbrook

About Maine Medical Center

Maine Medical Center (MMC), recognized as the number-one ranked hospital in Maine by *U.S. News and World Report for 2015-2016*, is a complete health care resource for the people of Greater Portland and the entire state, as well as northern New England. Incorporated in 1864, MMC is the state's largest medical center, licensed for 637 beds and employing nearly 6,500 people. MMC's unique role as both a community hospital and a referral center requires an unparalleled depth and breadth of services, including an active educational program and a world-class biomedical research center. As a nonprofit institution, Maine Medical Center provides nearly 23 percent of all the charity care delivered in Maine. MMC is a member of the MaineHealth system, a growing family of health care services in northern New England. For more information, visit www.mmc.org.

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