

Dear Soccer Parents:

Hello, my name is Sandy Borys. I am an interpreter for the deaf. I am writing today on behalf of Andrew Wisniewski. He is a wonderful boy who loves to play soccer. He is also profoundly deaf. Over the years, the coach and the team have all made the effort to learn some basic sign language. It truly warms my heart to see them incorporate what they have learned in an effort to better communicate with Andrew and try to make him an equal part of the team. Unfortunately, this is not enough. In order to stay competitive, Andrew needs to be able to "hear" and learn from the coach just like the other kids.

Andrew needs the services of a qualified interpreter at every game and every practice. Too often Andrew must go without an interpreter. Andrew's parents, who are also profoundly deaf, have worked very hard trying to find funding for interpreters for Andrew. Unfortunately, there is simply not enough money available to hire a qualified interpreter to be at every game and practice for Andrew.

In a perfect world, on a perfect day, with a qualified interpreter by his side, Andrew has to work twice as hard as everyone else to keep up. Without a qualified interpreter, there is no way he can have equal access to the coaching and soccer experience that the other boys are receiving.

The Lions Club is a wonderful organization that helps the deaf with funding for interpreters. They have given Cary Soccer money for interpreters for Andrew in the past. Unfortunately it simply is not enough to cover interpreting services for Andrew for the entire year.

I am asking for donations from the soccer parents to add to what the Lions Club already gives towards this cause. I would like to raise enough funds for Andrew to give him access to a qualified interpreter for each practice and each game. Anything that you would be able to give would be very much appreciated. You can make your donation directly to Cary Soccer Association and specify that it is for Andrew. The Soccer Association would in turn pay the interpreters from this fund.

Andrew and his family are truly remarkable people. There are many obstacles that they must overcome on a daily basis in order to live in the hearing world. They are an asset to this community and to Cary Soccer. It is my hope that through your donations we will be able to give Andrew a very special gift; equal access to communication. A qualified interpreter can help bridge the gap between Andrew's silent world and the hearing world. Only with an interpreter can Andrew have the same soccer experience as the rest of the team.

Sincerely,

Sandy Borys