



UMHLANGA UIP SHOWS SUPPORT FOR UMHLANGA FOOTBALL CLUB

Today the uMhlanga UIP (Urban Improvement Precinct), together with neighbouring management initiative the UUST (Upper uMhlanga Security Trust), met with local uMhlanga Football Club managers and players at the Atholton school field in Herwood Park to hand over new soccer kit and accessories sponsored by the UIP.

This handover is a small step in the realisation of a shared vision of the UUST and the UIP towards better social responsibility and an understanding that communities are built around participation and inclusivity.

The journey to this point began close on two years ago, when a resident in the UUST area expressed concern that the evening football gathering on a field posed a security risk. "This is a typical reaction in local communities, where the unknown is seen as a threat," said UUST Chairman Andrew Fraser.

When the UUST team set out to find more, they came across a group of soccer players, the uMhlanga Football Club, who live and work in UUST area, and uMhlanga Rocks with some coming as far afield as Choppas Town. More than this though, the team learned that the club had been in existence since 'Oros' from RJs first established the group in 1997. "They used to have full use of the field but with a growing uMhlanga and vandalism of the pavilion the school was forced to fence off a portion of the field," said Andrew.

It was at this point that Andrew, and club managers Dumisani and Divine Mapara, met up with Brian Wright of the uMhlanga UIP to discuss the clubs needs for a bigger field and soccer kit. "Brian approached the UIP boards with this thinking and it was immediately obvious that funding the soccer kit was something we had to do," said Ron Klambt Chairman of the uMhlanga Promenade UIP.

The kit, is funded by both the Promenade and Village UIP structures and carries the collective brands of the uMhlanga UIP, UUST and uMhlanga Football Club. The kit itself consists of:

- A large kit bag
- 14 sets of branded shirts and shorts
- 14 pairs of socks





- 14 Vest bibs
- Goal keeper shirt, gloves and pants
- 15 sets of shin pads
- 4 soccer balls and a pump
- 30 cones and 40 markers
- A captain's armband
- 3 whistles
- A full first aid kit
- Water bottle carrier and bottles

"The UIP has always been an inclusive structure, one that understands that while its management boundary might be defined, it is part of a much larger neighbourhood. Our involvement in this project was thus a perfect fit and a small opportunity to link to our broader community," said Frank Reardon Chairman of the uMhlanga Village UIP.

As part of the community initiative, the Football Club asked what they could do for the community and it was agreed that a monthly schedule of cleaning would be created to augment the services carried out in UIP and UUST areas.

What has started with a football kit has the potential to grow into a relationship of substance and community.



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ENDS

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