

HCA Midwest pairs up with the nation's largest youth soccer organization

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Kansas City's largest health care network, **HCA Midwest Health**, and the **Heartland Soccer Association** plan to improve the health and wellness of young athletes through an exclusive three-year partnership.

According to a release from the the Heartland Soccer Association, the partnership will provide certified athletic trainers to athletes during tournaments and league matches. In the case of injuries, HCA Midwest also will provide assistance to ensure athletes' and parents' "peace-of-mind."

Among other health initiatives, HCA Midwest hospitals and physicians will conduct a comprehensive concussion management program to educate athletes, families and coaches on the proper ways to handle concussions.

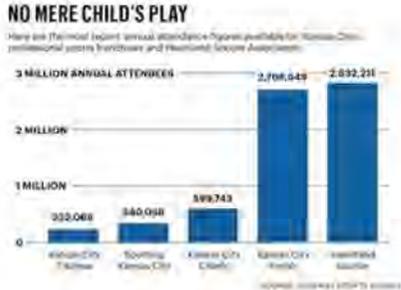
HCA Midwest President Mel Lagarde said concussion management is a national discussion topic and with more than 50 sports medicine and orthopedic physicians across the region, the partnership will further strengthen the organization's passion for human care.

Heartland Soccer Association, which is the largest youth soccer league in the country, is helping to develop a \$65 million soccer-anchored development in Olathe as well as the \$234 million Gateway Sports Village in Grandview.

With about 30,000 youths on 1,300 teams, the Overland Park-based organization already is the primary operator of the Swope Soccer Village in Kansas City and the Scheels Overland Park Soccer Complex.

"We are known for our level of excellence and passion for sports, and to work side-by-side with the leaders in health care on our home turf is tremendous," Shane Hackett, the association's executive director, said in the release.

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SOURCE: GATEWAY SPORTS VILLAGE
As of 2015, here's a look at the number of people who attend games at Kansas City's professional sports franchises and the Heartland Soccer Association.