

BOGDAN & DIANA / SERVING IN ROMANIA

Our Dear Friends,

Do you think playing a sport brings out what is best or what is worst in people? We say it brings out what is real in us. And no matter how good or bad "our real" looks like, we need Christ.

EDGE Sports is "Intentional disciple making through church based sports." We say "intentional" because we are actively seeking to share the good news of Christ and not just to have fun on the field. We say "through church based sports" because we believe that the local church is where people can be fully discipled, experience community and grow from unbelief to spiritual maturity. And for Romania, when we say sports we say, in fact, soccer, as it is the most popular and the most played sport.



Father to the Fatherless

Many of the boys that are part of our league do not have parents who are very present and involved in their lives. At our last national competition on November 4-5, 2023, where we had 115 boys present, we only had one mom and one family of just two boys present there to cheer for them at the games. Can you imagine not going to see your son or grandson play? Ever? More than that, we have a huge percentage of boys whose dads abandoned them. Some never even met them and they crave for the love and direction that the coaches offer. And their love always points to the love of God the Father, who sent his Son for them so they can become sons of the Living God.



More coaches = more impact

As we try to reach teen boys (14-20 years old), one of our key roles is to find new coaches, people who love soccer and love Christ and want to use their passion for sports as a way to share the Gospel. But having passion is not enough. They need training on how to be better soccer coaches and on how to be intentional disciple makers on and off the field. They also need a structure and a team that supports them as they are starting to coach their own teams. For this reason, we are offering constant and consistent training both formal, with licensed UEFA coaches (Level 1, 2, 3), but also informal during monthly meetups. This way, they are prepared to lead the training sessions with God honoring excellence.



Do YOU Want to Be Part of God's Story in Romania?

During an EDGE year of competition, several activities usually take place:

EDGE Level 1 and Level 2 - level 1 is the place where new coaches are being equipped to do the soccer trainings. Level 2 is for coaches who have 6 months of experience coaching an EDGE team and want to be a better coaches and disciple makers.

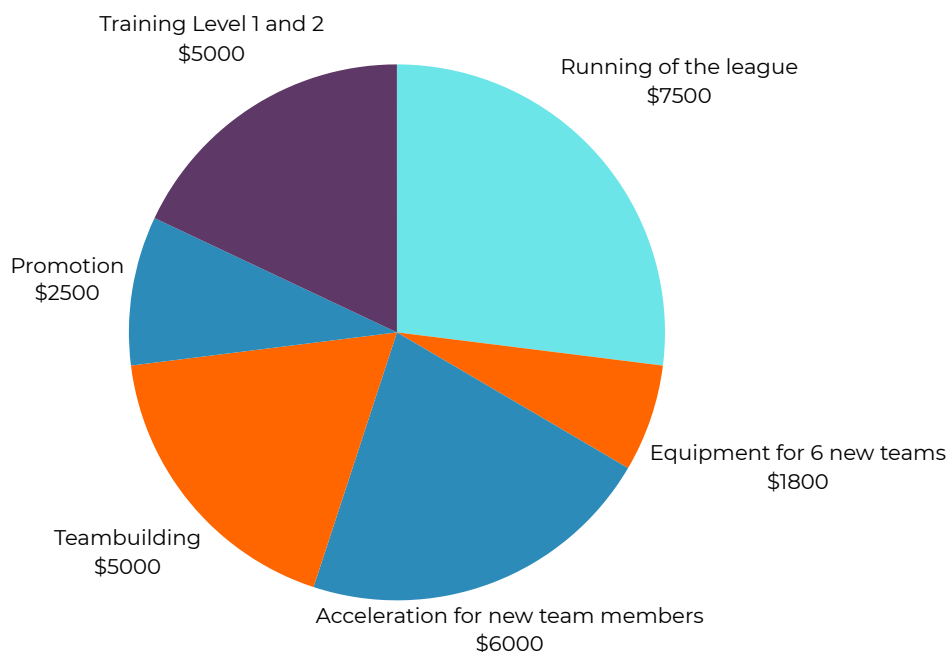
3 National Championship stages (autumn and spring) - this stages are the time when the league matches are played. More information about stages, rankings and teams can be found on www.edgesports.ro

Teambuilding for coaches and spouses - this is the annual meeting where we meet with all the coaches and strategize for the next competition year but also where we show our gratitude towards the coaches and their families for their investment during the year in their teams in EDGE.

Promotion- Promoting the league consists in having more of an online presence and making the league popular. The more popular the league is, the easier it is for coaches to invite new unchurched teen boys to join the teams.

EDGE Games - Because the competition aspect is very important for the ministry, we organize a EDGE Games where teams from other European countries where there are EDGE teams compete in an international tournament. EDGE Games is where the top teams from each country can compete against one another and this competiton is important as it gives the players the motivation to come to practices during the year. EDGE Games will be organized next year with all of the teams in all of the Josiah Venture countries where EDGE exists.

Acceleration for new team members - consists in the support that we give to the new team members that are in the process of joining and are just starting to raise support.



Each competition that we have is an opportunity to share the Gospel with the boys. We discuss topics that are very relevant for them, especially connected to addictions - Romania has a huge problem with gambling and betting and many of our boys have been buried in the world of all kinds of addictions from a very young age. We are encouraged to see that they want out and we know that Jesus Christ can help them. At our last competition we gave them Bibles and we were encouraged that most of the boys wanted a Bible, and that they will read it with their team and the help of the coaches.

Our total yearly goal for the EDGE ministry is \$27800.

Would you pray about being part of our EDGE financial support team?



CONTACT INFO

You can give online for EDGE:

<https://www.josiahventure.com/give-form/>

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Thank you for partnering with us in God's mission!