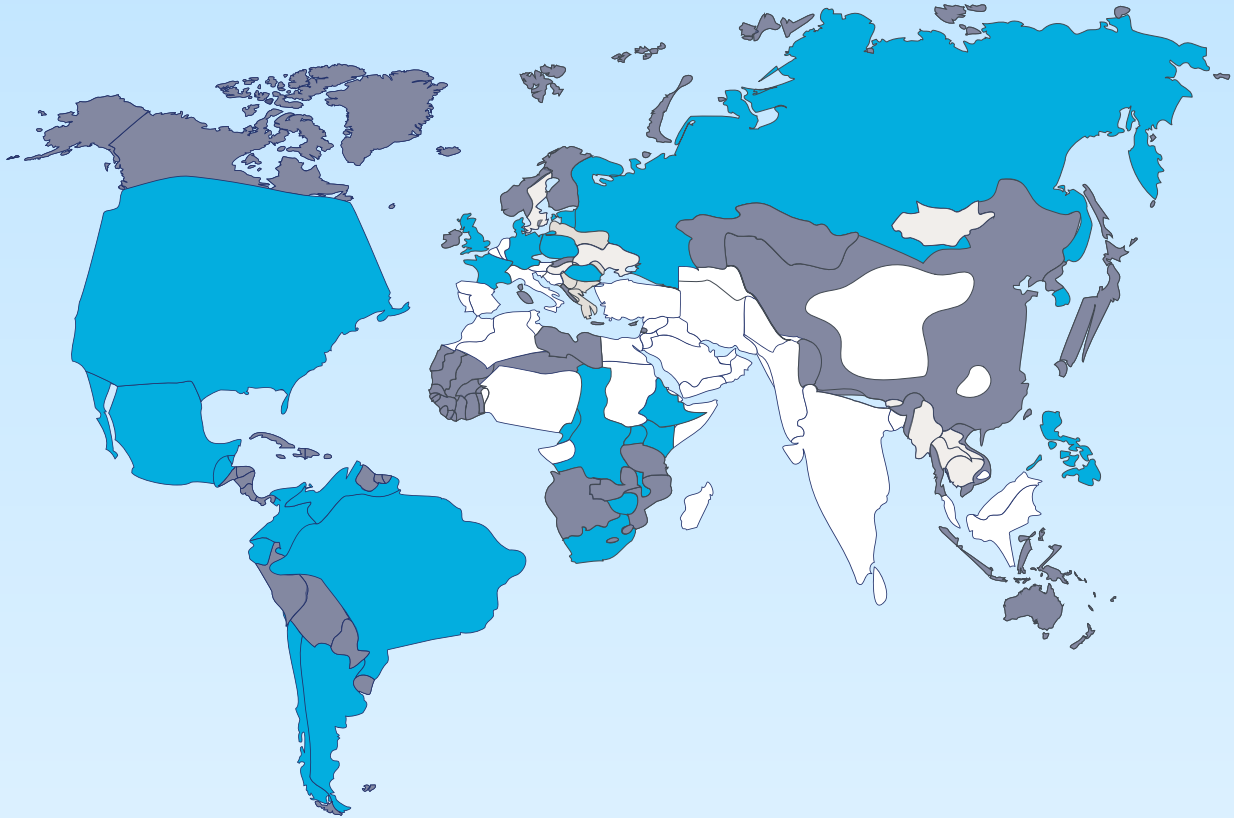


# 2025 Impact Report



# Table of CONTENTS

- 01**    **BREAKDOWN**  
Page 3
- 02**    **WELCOME MESSAGE**  
Page 4
- 03**    **EDUCATION**  
Page 5
- 04**    **TEACH360**  
Page 6
- 05**    **GUIDING STARS**  
Page 7
- 06**    **EDUCATION MONTHLY GIVING CIRCLE**  
Page 8
- 07**    **EMPOWERMENT**  
Page 9
- 08**    **BIG SISTER CIRCLE PROGRAM**  
Page 10
- 09**    **BIG SISTERS CIRCLE MONTHLY GIVING CIRCLE**  
Page 11
- 10**    **ATHLETICS**  
Page 12
- 11**    **LIONS PROGRAM**  
Page 13
- 12**    **BALL RETRIEVERS PROGRAM**  
Page 14
- 13**    **ATHLETICS MONTHLY GIVING CIRCLE**  
Page 15
- 14**    **SPONSOR HIGHLIGHT**  
Page 16
- 15**    **DONOR THANK YOU**  
Page 17



**58**  
**COUNTRIES SERVED**

**Fund Allocation**  
**89%**  
**Programs**  
**11%**  
**Costs**

## Global Reach, Local Impact

In 2025, our work reached neighbors from 58 countries, supporting individuals and families through education, empowerment, and community-driven programs. While our roots are local, our impact extends across borders through partnerships, services, and initiatives that respond to real needs on the ground.

Our approach is centered on dignity, sustainability, and long-term outcomes. By working alongside trusted partners and community leaders, we ensure that resources are used effectively and programs are culturally responsive and impactful.

This global footprint reflects not scale for scale's sake, but a commitment to meeting people where they are, strengthening communities, and building pathways toward stability, opportunity, and hope.

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to supporting our neighbors to go from surviving to thriving.

## OUR VISION

Amaanah's vision is a society where every neighbor belongs, is supported, and has the tools to thrive.

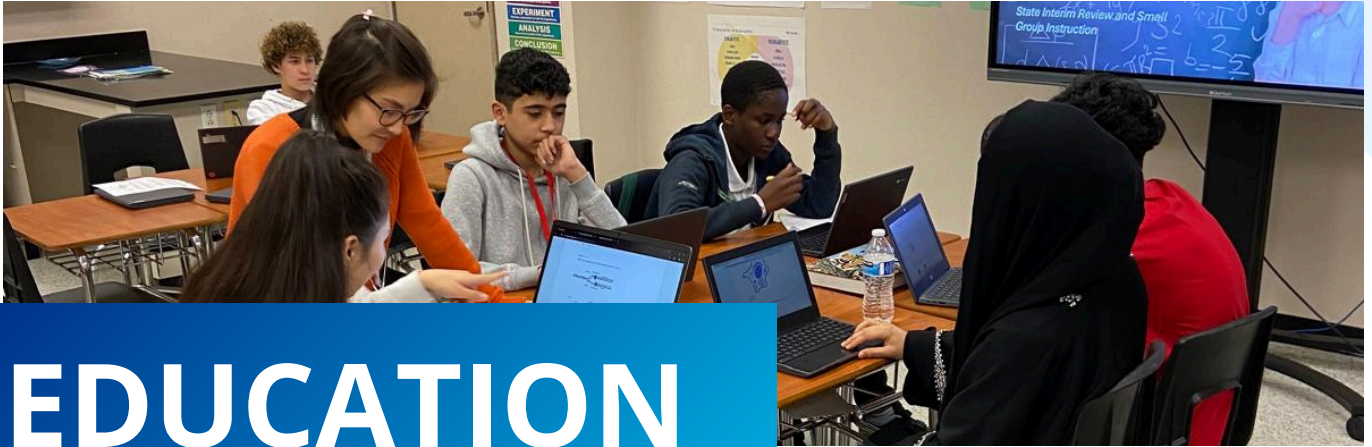


# Dear Supporters,

As we close 2025, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each of you for walking alongside us on this journey. Your belief in Amaanah's mission has not only fueled our momentum but also allowed us to continue transforming lives with purpose and compassion. This annual report is more than a collection of data and milestones it is a reflection of our shared commitment to building a future where refugees and their families move from surviving to thriving. Behind every number is a story of a young girl learning English for the first time, a single mother launching her own business, or a teenager scoring their first goal on the soccer field. These moments remind us why this work matters. We are proud to share this progress report with you. It highlights the impact you've helped make possible and offers a glimpse into what lies ahead for Amaanah. With your continued support, we will build on this momentum and reach even greater heights in the months to come. Thank you for believing in this mission. We are honored to have you as part of the Amaanah journey of making our clients go from surviving to thriving.



Ahmad Alaswad  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**



# EDUCATION

“ At Amaanah, our programs don’t just support our neighbors they walk alongside them as they rebuild, grow, and thrive.

Education at Amaanah Services is built on a simple but urgent belief: when young people from marginalized and underserved communities are given consistent support, high expectations, and meaningful relationships, they rise. Every day, students across Houston are navigating far more than homework. Many are adjusting to new environments, supporting their families, translating for parents, or carrying responsibilities well beyond their years. In this reality, academic success cannot depend on classroom instruction alone. It requires mentorship, tutoring, encouragement, and someone who sees their potential before they see it themselves. Through its Education pillar, Amaanah surrounds students with that support. Academic tutoring strengthens literacy and math foundations. Language support ensures students can fully engage in their classrooms and feel confident participating.



**CHRISTINA DEGBO**  
**CHIEF PROGRAM OFFICER**

Dedicated mentors walk alongside students, helping them set goals, navigate challenges, and imagine futures that include college, professional careers, and leadership. Scholarships remove financial barriers that too often stand between a student and higher education, transforming aspiration into access.. The urgency of this work is clear. In the Houston region, nearly one in five students is considered chronically absent missing at least 10% of the school year a pattern strongly linked

to lower academic performance and long-term economic instability. At the same time, fewer than half of underrepresented public-school graduates in the area enroll in college immediately after high school, and far fewer complete a degree within six years. These numbers tell a story of talent that exists, but too often goes unsupported. .Amaanah’s Education pillar exists to change that trajectory. By investing thousands of hours in direct student support, awarding scholarships, and building trust with families, the program does more than improve grades it builds confidence, belonging, and momentum. When a student begins attending school more consistently, participates in class for the first time, earns acceptance into college, or completes a degree, the impact extends far beyond one individual. It strengthens families, uplifts neighborhoods, and contributes to a more equitable Houston. Now more than ever, as attendance challenges persist and opportunity gaps remain wide, sustained educational support is not optional it is essential. Amaanah continues this work because the future of Houston depends on ensuring that every young person, regardless of background, has the opportunity to learn, to thrive, and to lead.



# TEACH360

“**Stronger educators. Stronger classrooms. Stronger Communities. That’s Teach360.**”

**6,659**  
SERVICE  
HOURS

**200+**  
NEW  
COMERS

**11**  
CAMPUSES

Teach360 is where stability begins.

Each year, newcomer students step into Houston classrooms carrying more than backpacks. They are navigating new systems, unfamiliar expectations, and often an entirely new language all while adjusting to a different rhythm of life. Those first months in school are critical. They can shape whether a child feels confident and capable, or overwhelmed and disconnected. Teach360 exists to ensure students feel supported from the moment they walk through the doors. Education is the fastest path to long-term stability and self-determination. But access to school alone is not enough. Language access changes everything. When students can understand instruction, participate in class, and communicate with peers, their confidence grows and their academic performance follows. Teach360 provides that bridge. In 2025, Teach360 served more than 200 newcomer students across 11 campuses, representing 23 countries and 11 languages. Through more than 10,000 hours of direct instructional services, Language Acquisition Coaches worked alongside school staff to. From first classroom introductions to sustained academic progress, Teach360 strengthens the foundation that allows young people to thrive not just in school, but in life.

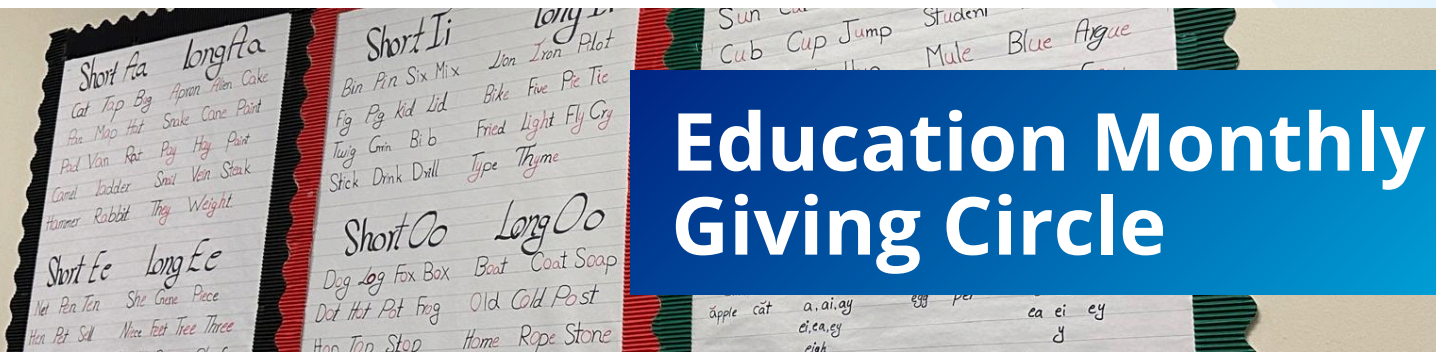
strengthen literacy, comprehension, and classroom engagement. The program earned a 4.82 out of 5 satisfaction rating reflecting both effectiveness and the trust it has built within the schools and communities it supports. Sustained language support requires meaningful investment approximately \$35,000 to provide comprehensive academic support for an entire campus but the return is transformative. Research consistently shows that early and consistent language support increases attendance, accelerates grade-level achievement, and improves long-term academic outcomes. When students feel understood and capable, they are far more likely to stay engaged in school and envision a future that includes higher education and professional opportunity. Teach360 operates on a simple principle: when students feel seen, supported, and equipped to succeed, their trajectory changes. Whether it is \$4,000 to fund a month of in-school language support or \$35,000 to stabilize an entire campus, each investment builds confidence, belonging, and momentum.

# Guiding Stars

Guiding Stars was created for students who have done everything right worked hard, earned strong grades, persevered through transition and yet still face financial barriers that threaten to interrupt their momentum. For many first-generation college students in underserved communities, the gap between acceptance and enrollment is not academic ability it is affordability, navigation, and sustained support. Nationally, nearly 60% of first-generation college students come from low-income backgrounds, and they are significantly more likely to pause or abandon their studies due to financial strain. Even small, unexpected costs textbooks, transportation, housing gaps can derail an otherwise promising academic path. Guiding Stars steps into that gap. The program provides direct scholarship support to students pursuing college degrees or vocational certifications, removing tuition and fee barriers that often stand between potential and progress. A full scholarship investment of \$2,500 covers essential academic expenses, creating immediate relief and stability. But financial support is only part of the model. Each scholar is paired with a mentor who offers structured guidance throughout the academic year helping students navigate course selection, financial aid systems, career exploration, and the emotional challenges of college life. Research consistently shows that students who receive both financial assistance and mentorship are significantly more likely to persist into their second year and complete a degree. Support networks matter as much as scholarships. In 2025, Guiding Stars supported 20 scholars who maintained an average GPA of 3.4 a reflection of both resilience and accountability. One new college graduate completed their degree this year, marking a milestone that extends beyond personal achievement. For many families, a college graduate represents generational change: increased earning potential, expanded opportunity, and a powerful example for younger siblings and peers. The cost of participation in Guiding Stars is modest compared to its long-term impact. A single scholarship can alter a student’s earning trajectory for decades. National labor data shows that individuals with a bachelor’s degree earn, on average, substantially more over a lifetime than those with only a high school diploma translating into greater economic mobility and community stability. Guiding Stars is about more than degrees. It is about self-determination. It affirms to students that their aspirations are valid, that their hard work deserves reinforcement, and that their communities are invested in their success. From enrollment to graduation, Guiding Stars walks beside students as they move from uncertainty to accomplishment transforming educational opportunity into lasting independence.

“**Thanks to the scholarship, I was able to cover my remaining summer school classes before graduation! A huge shoutout to Amaanah Service for really helping me out a lot with my school finances they made a big difference. I also want to thank Christina, who’s always here to help and answer my questions. This support has made a big impact, and I encourage others to apply for the scholarship, it can really help you stay on track.**





# Education Monthly Giving Circle

## \$25

### Knowledge Keeper

- Provides healthy snacks, pencils, or reading materials for a tutoring session.
- Ensures students show up ready to learn and stay engaged.
- Supports daily academic nourishment: both mind and Body.

## \$50

### Backpack Builder

- Covers school supplies or transportation assistance for one student
- Helps eliminate logistical barriers to consistent school attendance
- Gives children the tools they need to walk into class Prepared.

## \$75

### Bridge Builder

- Funds one week of after-school tutoring in language or math.
- Supports one-on-one and small group learning through Teach 360.
- Helps close learning gaps with tailored academic support.

## \$100

### First Step Friend

- Provides a month of mentorship and academic monitoring for one student.
- Connects students with tutors from their own community.
- Builds trust and consistency in their educational journey.

## \$250

### Guiding Star

- Provides partial scholarship support for a refugee or immigrant college student.
- Helps cover tuition, books, and essential college expenses.
- Lights the way toward a future once thought impossible.

scan to donate





# EMPOWERMENT

“Amaanah’s empowerment programs don’t just provide support they build confidence, create opportunity, and equip individuals with the strength and skills to transform their own futures and uplift their communities.”

At the heart of Amaanah’s work is a belief that empowerment isn’t just about building skills it’s about restoring connection, confidence, and a sense of belonging. For many women in underserved communities, the transition into a new chapter of life can be lonely and overwhelming. Without trusted relationships or community supports, everyday tasks like securing work, navigating systems, or even finding someone to talk to can feel isolating. Programs that intentionally cultivate connection and mentorship become lifelines in these moments. Amaanah’s Empowerment pillar answers this need through its Big Sister Circle, a community-based mentorship initiative where women are paired with “Big Sisters” experienced guides who walk alongside them week after week. These relationships go far beyond transactional coaching. They offer women a space to be seen, to process challenges without judgment, and to gain confidence in who they are and where they’re headed. Through this circle, women receive practical guidance from navigating healthcare and employment systems to building resumes and accessing essential resources while also cultivating emotional resilience and peer support in their own languages. Amaanah also understands that empowerment includes dignity in the physical spaces where women live.

Through home transformation efforts, families receive essential furnishings and supplies that turn a house into a safe and stable home a foundation that creates psychological breathing room for transformation in all other areas of life. The need for such empowerment services is not hypothetical. Research on similar populations illustrates that women facing new, unfamiliar environments often encounter invisible barriers from language hurdles that block access to jobs and community systems to a lack of information about rights and resources that can deepen isolation and vulnerability. When these barriers are removed or eased through supportive programs, women not only gain practical tools but are better able to protect their health, secure independence, and assert their place in community life. In Houston today, where economic pressures, separation from longtime support networks, and limited social infrastructure can leave women feeling alone, programs that offer caring relationships and tailored support are essential. Empowerment isn’t just a set of services. It’s a journey of transformation one that reconnects women to their own strengths, expands what they believe is possible for themselves and their families, and reinforces that they are not alone. Amaanah’s Empowerment pillar meets women where they are, building bridges of trust and opportunity that ripple outward strengthening individuals, families, and the wider community.



## Big sister circle Program

“At Amaanah, we don’t just support women, we remind them of the power they’ve had all along.”

Big Sister Circle is built on the belief that empowerment is a journey not a single workshop or resource. For women navigating new systems and responsibilities, progress requires community, consistency, and culturally responsive support. This nine-month program is designed to move women from survival mode to self-sufficiency. In 2025, 22 women from five countries completed the Circle, each committing to eight hours per month of guided life-skills training, parenting support, and wellness development. The experience builds not only knowledge, but confidence and connection. The curriculum focuses on practical and lasting skills: financial literacy, emotional resilience, health and wellness, legal literacy, digital fluency, career readiness, and family dynamics. Guest speakers from the legal, healthcare, and financial sectors provide real-world guidance, while peer discussions foster trust and shared growth. Technology access is central to the model. Every participant receives a laptop and digital literacy training, recognizing that employment, education, and financial management increasingly depend on technological access. By closing this gap, the program strengthens long-term economic independence. The impact extends beyond the classroom. Two community members were hired as peer facilitators, creating leadership pathways within the program. Two home transformations restored dignity and stability to families, and rental assistance prevented housing insecurity. Two donated vehicles increased access to employment and childcare. At \$2,000 per participant, Big Sister Circle is a focused investment in independence. When women gain skills, confidence, and support networks, families grow stronger and communities become more resilient.



# Big Sisters Circle Monthly Giving Circle

## \$25

### Team Supporter

- Contribution to the Women's Emergency Fund
- Covers urgent essentials like groceries, hygiene products, or transportation for a woman in crisis.
- Helps maintain stability while she progresses in the program

## \$50

### Essential Ally

- Contributes to daily essentials: food stipend and metro card.
- Supports immediate, tangible needs that help a woman navigate her day-to-day life with dignity and safety.

## \$75

### Opportunity Advocate

- Supports access to English language learning tools and internet/mobile data for one month.
- Helps a woman gain skills critical for communication, employment, and integration.

## \$100

### Sponsor of the Borderless

- Funds a refurbished laptop or contributes to rent assistance.
- Ensures a woman has the tools and security to study, work, and live with stability.

## \$200

### Empowerment Builder

- Supports multiple essentials: English classes, food stipend, and metro card for one month.
- Sustains a woman's ability to consistently participate in the empowerment journey.

## \$425

### Home Refresh Hero

- Funds a complete Home Refresh package
- Transforms a woman's living environment to support mental wellbeing and dignity.
- Includes minor repairs, organization, basic furnishings, and decor enhancements.

**38** MATCHES

**48** COACHING SESSIONS

**75** ENROLLED PLAYERS

# Athletics

Now Wellness

Amaanah’s Athletics pillar is built on the simple but powerful idea that sports can change lives not just on the field, but in every part of a young person’s world. At its heart is the Amaanah Lions Soccer program, a free soccer program for youth and young adults that offers more than just practices and games. It gives participants a space to belong, to build confidence, to strengthen friendships, and to develop resilience in the face of challenge. For many young people from underserved communities, traditional athletics opportunities are out of reach. Across the United States, high costs and complex “pay-to-play” sports systems have made participation unevenly distributed, meaning that children and teens from lower-income families often miss out on the physical, social, and mental benefits that organized sport provides. In some regions, fewer than one-third of youth from households below the federal poverty level engage regularly in organized sports far less than their wealthier peers.



**MICHELLE SHATTUCK**  
**CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER**

Amaanah Lions flips that script by removing barriers to participation. There are no fees to join. Players train together, compete together, and learn from dedicated volunteer coaches who invest in both athletic development and personal growth. The program fields teams in Houston’s adult soccer leagues, giving participants a chance to train consistently, experience real competition, and represent their community with pride. What makes this pillar particularly important is what happens off the field. Organized sport builds community and fosters relationships that reach far beyond games and training sessions. Research and practice show that when young people, especially those from marginalized backgrounds, are part of team sports, they develop stronger social networks, greater emotional resilience, and a deeper sense of identity and belonging.

These are not small benefits: they translate into better mental health, improved school engagement, and increased leadership capacity over time. For girls and young women in particular, access to athletics can be transformative. Studies from community sports initiatives nationwide indicate that participation supports confidence, leadership, and perseverance qualities that benefit participants long after the final whistle. Programs that intentionally create inclusive spaces for girls have seen improvements in physical and emotional well-being, higher likelihood of continued engagement in community activities, and strengthened belief in their own potential as leaders. In Houston today, as families juggle economic pressures, limited access to affordable youth activities, and the demands of everyday life, Amaanah’s Athletics pillar serves a critical role. It offers a safe, welcoming environment where young people can move their bodies, form meaningful friendships, and feel seen and supported. It is where confidence is trained alongside technique, where resilience is as important as skill, and where every kick of the ball carries the possibility of a stronger future. This program isn’t just about winning matches; it’s about nurturing self-belief, strengthening community ties, and expanding opportunity on the field and in life.

## LEAD VOLUNTEERS

TAYEB AHMADI  
JACOB LOVE

DAVID THANOON  
HAKIM YASSINE

RICHARD SPRAGG  
ENES OKIC

EUGENE ZILBERMAN  
SHAH MEHRYOON



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

**74** ENROLLED PLAYERS

**90** COACHING SESSIONS

**2** NEW COACHES

**51** MATCHES

**7** SCHOLARSHIPS

**0** SAFETY INCIDENTS

**LIONS Program**




**AMINE AMROUNI**  
**HEAD COACH**

“This season marks a defining moment for the Amaanah Lions. Competing in the Premier League for the first time is an achievement that reflects years of commitment, sacrifice, and belief from our players, coaches, families, and volunteers.

On any given evening in Houston, long after the workday ends and the city begins to cool, a different kind of energy gathers on the pitch. Teammates greet one another like family. Coaches check in about more than drills. Laughter mixes with competition. This is Amaanah Lions not just a soccer team, but a brotherhood built on trust, discipline, and shared ambition. The Lions were created to meet a gap that many young men in underserved communities experience: talent without structure, drive without direction, and potential without a consistent support system.

Soccer becomes the entry point, but what keeps players coming back is the culture. Expectations are high. Commitment matters. Leadership is cultivated. Accountability is shared. Players are not simply athletes in a league; they are ambassadors of something bigger. They volunteer at community events, mentor younger participants, and represent a model of what positive masculinity and responsibility can look like. Within the team, older players guide newcomers. Captains emerge organically. Milestones like graduations, new jobs, marriages, and even the birth of children are celebrated collectively. The program grows with its players, evolving from a team into a lifelong network. In a city as vast and diverse as Houston, it is easy for young adults to feel invisible. Many are balancing work, school, and family obligations. Some are navigating systems for the first time without extended support networks. Amaanah Lions creates stability in that transition. It provides consistent coaching, clear goals, and a structured environment where discipline translates into confidence off the field.

National research consistently shows that sustained participation in team sports is linked to stronger mental health outcomes, higher rates of civic engagement, and improved employment skills such as teamwork, communication, and problem-solving. For young men in particular, mentorship within sports settings has been shown to reduce isolation and increase long-term goal attainment. The Lions model intentionally leans into these outcomes pairing athletic development with mentorship, accountability, and exposure to education and career pathways. What distinguishes Amaanah Lions is its culture of belonging. The roster reflects the global diversity of Houston itself. Different languages, traditions, and life stories converge into one team identity. On the field, those differences become strengths. Off the field, they become bonds. The Lions are competitive but more importantly, they are consistent. Practices happen week after week. Coaches show up. Teammates show up. That consistency builds trust. And in communities where stability can be fragile, trust is transformative. Amaanah Lions is not simply developing players. It is shaping leaders, strengthening character, and building a network of young men who carry discipline, teamwork, and resilience into every arena of their lives. In a time when connection and mentorship are more critical than ever, the Lions continue to prove that sport when rooted in purpose can be a powerful engine for personal and community growth.

## LEAD VOLUNTEERS

TAYEB AHMADI  
JACOB LOVE

DAVID THANOON  
HAKIM YASSINE

RICHARD SPRAGG  
ENES OKIC

EUGENE ZILBERMNA



# Ball Retrievers program

**18** FIRST STADIUM VISIT

**29** PARTICIPANTS

**30+** MATCHES



**AMINE AMROUNI**  
**HEAD COACH**

In 2025, Amaanah expanded its vision for athletics beyond the community field and into a professional arena. Through a partnership with the Houston Dynamo and Houston Dash Charities, Amaanah launched the Ball Retriever Program at Shell Energy Stadium creating a new kind of access point for underserved youth in Houston. For many young people, professional sports feel distant something watched from the stands or on a screen, not something they can step into. The Ball Retriever Program changes that. On match days, participants are not spectators; they are part of the operation. They step onto the sidelines, witness the pace and precision of professional athletes up close, and experience the discipline and coordination required to execute a large-scale sporting event.

Spearheaded by Amaanah Head Coach Amine Amrouni, the initiative is intentionally designed to do more than assign a game-day role. It opens a window into the broader ecosystem of sport from team logistics and stadium operations to media coordination and event management. For youth who may never have imagined a career in athletics beyond playing, this exposure expands possibility. It plants seeds: maybe in coaching, sports medicine, broadcasting, marketing, or management. Research consistently shows that proximity to professional environments increases self-belief and long-term ambition in young people.

When youth see pathways firsthand especially in industries where representation and access can feel limited their aspirations grow more tangible. Programs that provide immersive, real-world experiences are linked to stronger career clarity, improved social confidence, and expanded professional networks. The Ball Retriever Program also strengthens something equally important: belonging. Standing on the sidelines of a packed stadium, participants feel the energy of the crowd, the unity of the city, and the pride of representing their community. That moment under the lights, wearing official credentials reinforces that they belong in spaces of excellence. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to equity and opportunity. By removing financial and access barriers, Amaanah and its partners ensure that talent and curiosity not zip code determine who gets exposure to transformative experiences. The Ball Retriever Program is still young, but its impact is already visible in the confidence of the participants who return from match day with widened eyes and bigger dreams. It is a reminder that sometimes opportunity begins not with a scholarship or a contract, but with a first step onto the field. If you are interested in becoming a Ball Retriever, please contact Chief Operating Officer Michelle Shattuck at [michelle@amaanahservices.org](mailto:michelle@amaanahservices.org).

## LEAD VOLUNTEERS

SHEIK BAH

MOORE FAMILY

OSCAR LOPEZ

DARA SOSA



SCAN TO DONATE



# Athletics Monthly Giving Circle

**\$10**

**Team Supporter**

- Basic training gear (e.g., shirt, shorts, socks).
- Water bottle and hydration supplies.
- Healthy snacks for practice and game days.
- Support for one player's full participation in the program during the game.

**\$25**

**Pitch Partner**

- Field rental for practices and games
- Transportation to and from practice sessions
- Transportation to and from games and tournaments

**\$50**

**Game Changer**

- Resume writing workshops
- Interview preparation sessions
- One-on-one job search coaching and Mentorship

**\$100**

**First Step Friend**

- Financial literacy training sessions
- Access to budgeting tools and resources
- One-on-one mentorship with financial professionals

**\$250**

**Champion of the Pride**

- Full sponsorship of one player's athletic season
- Enrollment in a career development track
- Participation in leadership workshops

**\$500**

**Champion of the Pride**

- Contributes to the Lions Emergency Fund



# Sponsor Highlight

“NOTHING IS POSSIBLE WITHOUT THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF OUR SPONSORS AND WE THANK THEM FOR ALL OF THEIR SUPPORT IN 2025



MICHELLE SHATTUCK  
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER





# DONOR THANK YOU

To our donors, supporters and biggest advocates, Amaanah thanks you for your continued support and stewardship. Nothing is possible without your annual contributions.

As we look ahead and think about Amaanah's future, we honor and acknowledge the work, dedication and commitment that brought us here.





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