



# LOU RAMOS

## The Lehigh Valley United Lou Ramos Classic is a youth soccer tournament dedicated to the memory of Lou Ramos.

Prior to his passing, Lou had been involved in youth soccer in the Lehigh Valley for over 25 years. He coached, taught, mentored, and befriended many young people. Countless boys and girls from all walks of life had their lives changed by Lou on and off the soccer field.

For Lou Ramos, coaching soccer players was about more than just teaching the basic skills and techniques used in the game. It was about teaching young people the skills and techniques to be successful in life.

Native of Puerto Rico, Lou's family moved to the United States in 1956. The change of language and culture was difficult to overcome. Luckily, Lou found that no such barriers existed on the soccer field.

Soccer had played a large part in Lou's successes in life. The Lou Ramos Classic Soccer Tournament was Lou's idea of making sure Lehigh Valley United F.C. would be able to continue to give back to young people for many years to come. With the tournament's continued growth and success, Lou hoped LVU F.C.

would have the resources to expand and touch the lives of underprivileged youth in a way that soccer touched his life so many years ago.

A founding member of the Hispanic Business Council, a wing of the Lehigh Valley Chamber of Commerce, Lou was a pioneer in promoting the region's Latino businesses and was devoted to fostering education within the Latino community. He was a dedicated employee of PPL Corporation for 34 years, most recently serving as Community Relations Manager for the Susquehanna nuclear power plant near Berwick. Lou was chairman of the Berwick Area Chamber of Commerce; a board member of the Columbia-Montour Council Boy Scouts of America and Maria Joseph Manor; was active in fundraising for the Berwick Area United Way, the Columbia-Montour Council Boy Scouts of America, the Berwick Public Library, and the Berwick Area Y.M.C.A.

A longtime advocate for education, Ramos served on the National Assessment Governing Board, an independent, bipartisan group whose members include governors,

state legislators, local and state school officials, educators, business representatives, and members of the general public. He was a member of the Pennsylvania State Board of Education and had been appointed to the U.S. Senate Republican Task Force on Hispanic Affairs. He also was a member of the Empowerment Team, a task force formed to help the Allentown School District make an academic recovery.

An avid soccer player, Ramos served as a referee in professional soccer games and later became a coach for the Bethlehem Soccer Club and founded Lehigh Valley United F.C. He was also instrumental in the formation of the Allentown Youth Soccer League. Ramos was on the board of the Minsi Trails Council Boy Scouts of America and was a former trustee of DeSales University. He received the Distinguished Service Award of the Lehigh Valley Chamber, the Lehigh University Volunteer Service Award, the Minsi Trails Council Boy Scouts of America Award, and the Community Fabric Award from Northampton Community College.

**Lou Ramos touched many lives & will be missed by all.**

*–Lehigh Valley United F.C.*