**A Dream to Share**

“*Buenos dias*, Mariana, " Mr. Sanchez greeted his daughter at the breakfast table. " *Doritiste bien*?”

“I slept very well, Papa. I had a dream that I scored the winning goal on a brand new soccer field!"

Mr. Sanchez smiled and said, "Your dream could be a sign that River Edge will finally get a regulation soccer field. Maybe you have special insight into what will happen at tonight‘s Town Council meeting. Remember, we must get the whole team there to convince them we need a better field.”

That night, Mariana and her father arrived at the meeting hall to find it filled to capacity. They sat with the other River Edge Rockers, their community soccer team. Councilwoman Maloof opened the discussion, and Mr. Boyd, the Rockers manager, spoke first. "Our team currently practices in a tiny school yard, and only when it's not already booked." The team nodded briskly.

Mrs. Yamagata, owner of Something Sushi, walked to the podium. “I Believe the town owns an empty lot next to my restaurant,” she said. "Couldn’t that be a soccer field?" The Rockers applauded.

“A soccer field would be a good use for that lot," Councilwoman Maloof said. But the town simply doesn’t have the money to build and maintain one.”

"The Rockers can do it!" Jamil spoke up.

“Jamil's right, "Mr. Sanchez said. He began to negotiate with the Council. “If the town lets the Rockers use the vacant lot, we will turn it into a soccer field.”

After some discussion, the Council reached a decision. “We hereby approve using the vacant lot adjacent to Something Sushi for a community soccer field!" Mariana looked nervously at her cheering teammates, then at her father. Mr. Sanchez winked at her, as if to say, “Didn't you have a dream?”

**Dirty Dogs Raise Funds**

The following day, at Something Sushi, the team got together to share ideas for raising money. "A karaoke night would be fun,” said Mariana.

“Cool!" Jamil shouted, "I’ll get to show of my incredible voice.”

“Next idea—please!” the team’s goalie, Benny Chan, joked.

"What about a car wash?" suggested Mr. Boyd.

"That's good, Benny said, "except the Environment Club is already having one.” Then suddenly he shouted, "Hey, let's have a DOG wash!" Everyone thought it was a great idea--until they met the dirty dogs.

On the day of the dog wash, dog owners lined up in the middle school parking lot, where six wading pools had been set up. Mariana began washing a large shaggy dog, shielding herself from the suds that flew each time the dog shook himself off. Suddenly, a poodle Jamil was washing jumped out of the pool to chase a dachshund. Then several others took off, barking and tangling their leashes.

Mr. Boyd was not amused. “Owners, control your dogs!” After this near disaster, things settled into a routine. By the end of the day, the Rockers were soaked through but ecstatic about raising S750.

**This Lot Rocks!**

A week later, the team gathered at the lot, carrying tools purchased with their earnings. Staring at the fallow field of dirt, rubble, and weeds Mariana thought, "This bears no resemblance to the soccer field in my dream." But she kicked into action with the others, scooping up debris and depositing it in a rented dumpster.

Then Mariana bent down to pick up a rock. She grunted when it wouldn’t budge. Jamil helped her shovel around it until they saw it was a huge boulder. Mr. Sanchez studied it. “*Esta roca es enorme*. We need a bigger tool." All were awed when he returned a while later with a backhoe.

After the boulder had been extracted, they all looked into the gaping hole. "Let’s haul in dirt from the perimeter,” Jamil proposed. It took a while, but with everyone working together they moved enough soil from the field's edges to fill the hole. In the next few weeks, the Rockers even enlisted neighbors to donate materials for a drainage system, sod for grass, and bleachers.

Opening day attracted a huge crowd of soccer fans, all enthralled by the new field. Before the game, the Rockers huddled together. "We did it. Together we turned an unseemly lot into our 'field of dreams,” Mr. Boyd said. "Now let’s get out there!

Later, as the clock was running out on the 0-0 score, Mariana kicked the ball hard. When she saw it slip through the opposing goalie’s hands, she realized that her dream had actually come true!

