

Dear Mr. Shevchenko,

My name is Kudrat Rakhimoff. I'm writing because dozens of young, talented football players in New York City REALLY need your help right now. Don't worry. This will be a very simple request to fulfill: I'm hoping to get our New York football club into the children's affiliation program with CHELSEA FC. I'll explain exactly how you can help us do this in a moment. But first, let me tell you why this request is so important.

As you know, thousands of families immigrate to America from Russia and Ukraine every year in search of better lives for their children. Many of these children are bright, talented and hopeful young athletes who could go on to do great things, far beyond playing football. The problem is, their parents, being first generation immigrants, can't afford to send these children to the best football clubs. That's where our club comes in.

Many children in our club have worked very hard and won some tough competitions. In fact, if I may brag, one of our teams, U-14 2003, won the State of New York Championship in the summer of 2017. I was hoping to see them play in the more challenging leagues - against MLS football teams such as The Red Bulls and NYC FC. But because we're still a small grass roots football club without a lot of brand recognition, these leagues haven't yet given us a chance to prove ourselves.

That's why I'm hoping to get our New York football club into the children's affiliation program with CHELSEA FC. This would be an arrangement like the one Chelsea FC already has with the Harlem LIONS Club (www.fcharlem.org). An affiliation with CHELSEA FC would allow our children to enjoy master class level instruction from former players. It would give them the chance to play in the CHELSEA FC uniform, which I know would be a huge confidence booster for them.

Most importantly, it would give us the opportunity to raise the club to a new level, raise the quality of our training and to reach more children and give them a chance for a brighter future. We have a lot of big goals for the next few years. We're planning to build a football complex in 2018, which will consist of a covered stadium and a football field. If you like, we'll even organize a football school in the city of New York and name it in honor of Andrey Shevchenko, as our way of saying, THANK YOU for helping us to fulfill this simple request.

I've tried, for months, to reach the President of CHELSEA FC on my own. I've sent emails and called, but gotten no response. Right now, this letter is the best chance we have to receive the blessings of CHELSEA FC and to give these children a better future. I'm hoping you'll deliver it to the CHELSEA FC on our behalf, and even put in a good word for us. I trust that your affiliation with them and your stellar reputation will help us to have this simple request heard and honored.

Andrey, you've achieved great things as a football player and are one of the most respected athletes in the world. I know your talent, hard work and mental toughness had a LOT to do with this. But I'm guessing that there was a time when you needed someone to give you an opportunity to prove your worth as an athlete. These children, many of whom see you as a great role model, need that kind of opportunity right now.

I know it would mean the world to them. Please call me if you have any questions. My cell is (XXX) XXX-XXXX. I'll be eagerly awaiting your reply.

Yours,
Kudrat Rakhimoff