



Play Soccer So They Can

A grassroots community effort to support development of children and youth who have been affected by war

Invite your community to play soccer on September 25-27th and give war-affected children a chance to play too.

What is it?

- A weekend, where people of all ages, come together to play soccer to support children who have been affected by war and robbed of their childhoods.

Why do it?

- To raise funds to help local programs, in communities recovering from the effects of war, that use (and need) soccer to engage and empower their children and youth.
- To raise awareness about the impact of armed conflict on childhood and the efforts made by those affected to build a better future for their community.
- To build a grassroots community committed to working together to help children and youth affected by war

Who is organizing it?

- Opportunitas Aequa (OA), a Victoria and Vancouver-based grassroots and youth-driven non-profit that uses the unifying power of soccer to build safer and healthier communities for war-affected children. Visit us at www.oaprojects.org; (“Opportunitas Aequa” is Latin for Equal Opportunity).

Who can participate?

- School teams and clubs; local soccer and sport teams; community groups; groups of friends; and, anyone else who wants to play soccer in their community so that children who have been affected by war can too.

www.oaprojects.org

oa@oaprojects.org; +1 778 990 7292

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How to get involved?

- Send OA an email expressing your interest to participate at: oa@oaprojects.org. Once we have received your email, you will receive an email with all of the resources and information needed to help you plan and organize your event. If needed, OA will provide you with support throughout the process of organizing your event.

Where does the donated money go?

- The funds will be used to support the development of local youth-led programs and organizations, in Rwanda and Northern Uganda, that use soccer to empower and engage their children and youth in a community-building manner.

Some of the activities involved in this are:

- 1) **Improve**, in an environmentally sensitive manner, some of the current soccer-related infrastructure in the host community by re-constructing soccer fields;
- 2) **Provide** resource support to local programs that use soccer to engage their children and youth in community building activities related to peacebuilding, gender equality, and other community building activities;
- 3) **Develop** the capacity of local youth to lead soccer-based community-building activities through coaching workshops; and,
- 4) **Run** structured week-long, soccer camps that provide a safe and fun environment for children and youths affected by war.

Sample Short video journals from OA's most recent project in Northern Uganda:

Journal 9: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6MpmmDk4HGg>

Journal 12: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=srXmzG7Yjhc>

Contact

"There is no more powerful an tool for reconciliation, for youth, than the game of soccer."

Lt. General Romeo Dallaire (Canadian Senator and Former UN General in Rwanda), upon receiving a brief presentation on OA.

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