



PLAY FOR FUN - LEARN FOR LIFE

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HAPPY NEW YEAR and BEST WISHES FOR THE YEAR AHEAD!

As we begin 2011, PLAY SOCCER proudly recognizes and thanks all those in our Network organizations and communities that have contributed with selfless spirit to the program and its commitment to empower children and youth as leaders for a better future. Special thanks and recognition go to the Program Directors, Managers and Volunteer Instructors who day to day have sustained the program and provided exemplary service to grow their PLAY SOCCER grassroots organizations and encourage civil society voices and vision.

And, as we look back at 2010, we are also proud to celebrate memorable achievements of the decade. The PLAY SOCCER core program celebrated its tenth birthday with its international Network in seven countries, a huge expansion since its first site in Ghana for 100 children. Its activity-based education program and holistic approach continue to evolve with a development focus on both children and youth adults. PLAY SOCCER was awarded the Trophy for Sport and Education at the Global Sports Forum in Barcelona in March 2010, the award for "*the sports initiative that has best promoted the values of citizenship education, training and vocational integration through sport.*" This award followed recognition late in 2009 as NGO of the year at the Peace and Sport Forum in Monaco.



Play Soccer also celebrated its tenth year of international leadership in organizing the Global Peace Games for Children and Youth. In 2010, many organizations, and thousands of grassroots participants in 42 countries came together to play, to listen to special messages from the United Nations Office of Sport for Development and Peace and FIFA, to sign the Manifesto for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence and to show solidarity for the achievement of the UN Millennium Development goals. In November, in the USA, the Flushing Meadows Global Peace Games were supported by the New York Cosmos and featured on Yoko Ono's "IMAGINE PEACE" website.

Please check out the 2010 Report and Certificate for the Games on our website.

PLAY SOCCER NETWORK Feedback on the Program:

Over the past decade approximately 50,000 children and youth have taken part in the core educational program---learning health and social skills, engaging in volunteer service in their community, accessing a larger cultural circle, and enjoying inclusive recreational sport. To find out if we are making a difference, and as part of an educational exercise to encourage reading and writing, we interviewed participating children and volunteer instructors in Network countries. Shared below, their unedited replies provide a positive qualitative evaluation of the program.

GHANA

Andrews, Emanuel, Juliana, Lydia, Rashid, and Emmanuel are children ages 10-14 at the Bunsu A and B sites in Ghana:

1. What do you feel about the programme?

- I find the program very interesting and have helped me a lot in all life situations
- I feel so excited about the program and I think this is the best program in the country
- I feel happy when I come to the Play Soccer grounds. First I thought the program was only meant for the boys but since we the girls are among, it makes me happy
- The program makes you healthy

2. What Health and social skills have you learned?

- Health- personal hygiene, eating healthy food, HIV/AIDS etc; Social- togetherness, peaceful resolution etc
- On Health, I have learnt how to observe personal hygiene and on the part of social skills, I have learnt how to deal with anger and frustration
- On the part of Health, I have learnt how to keep myself clean as well as my surroundings. On the part of social skills, I have learnt how to make friends
- Health- Personal hygiene, avoid intake of harmful substances like alcohol, Social- Managing anger, relating with others
- On Health I have learnt to live a healthy life by bathing at least twice a day. On the part of Social, I have learnt how to associate with people etc

3. Have what you learnt helped you at home and in school?

- At home, it has helped me to respect and obedient to people. At school it has helped to improve my soccer skills as well as being tolerant
- At home, I was disrespectful but since I came to the program, I have learnt to be respectful and obedient to people. In school, I do answer questions with ease in class since what we learn in school corresponds to what we learn at Play Soccer grounds
- Yes! In school it gives me the practical aspect of what I learnt at school; Home- it helps me to keep my surrounding clean
- School- when I have a problem with a friend we are able to solve it without any fighting; Home-it teaches me to respect my parents
- School- it has helped to choose between good and bad friends; Home-it has helped me to be hard working and also keep personal hygiene

- School- it has helped me to mingle freely with my friends; Home-it teaches me how to keep my environment clean

4. Has the program made any difference in what you do or how you think about yourself?

- At first, I use to react fast and quick tempered but now I have learnt to deal with anger and frustration. I have also learnt that I can contribute to the development of my community
- Yes! Because at first I was afraid to play football and other games with my friends but now, that fear is no more. I am able to associate freely during play
- Yes! Because I am able to play football very well and also I now have a lot of friends
- Yes! The program has made impact in my life because I use to fall sick most often but now, it is not like that, thanks to what I have been learning at Play Soccer

5. Has the program helped your community?

- The program has made people in the community aware about living a healthy life
- It has developed a lot of football talents in the community and has also uplifted the image of the community
- Yes because it is able to bring the community together during its programs
- Yes, the program has helped the community on the part of sanitation and hygiene since Play Soccer children has taken it upon themselves to distil the gutters very often in the community

6. Is football a good way to learn about health and social skills?

- I think yes, because, since the introduction of the Play Soccer program here, it has helped my social life as well as staying healthy, therefore, I think football is a tool for learning about health and social skills
- Yes, the football draws my attention to the study of health and social skills
- Yes! Because it brings people from different backgrounds together to come and learn
- Yes, because it is capable of bringing a lot of people together to learn
- Yes! Formerly, I thought the Play Soccer Program is only about playing football, not knowing it was a way of attracting people to come and learn health and social skills in life

Also from Ghana, volunteer instructors for the program provided the following comments:

1. What do you feel you have contributed to the program?

- I have contributed things like security, in terms of caring and watching over the organization items; labour in terms of handling the children through cove program of the organization
- I think I have contributed my knowledge as a teacher, my time and personal resources to the program
- I think I have contributed my knowledge, skills, time and manpower to the running of the program

2. Why do you want to be part of Play Soccer Program?

- Because I believe it has something important to offer to the children in disadvantage communities and it also addresses issues which are needed for the total development of the children

- Because I support their and objectives. It is my desire to get a platform to air my knowledge and experience with young children and Play Soccer made it a dream come true
- I realized it is a good initiative so I decided to be part of their good gesture to aid in the development of deprived communities In Ghana

3. What have you learned as a Play Soccer Volunteer?

- As a saying goes “practice what you preach” I must say some of the topics delivered to the children have positively influence my life and my interaction with people
- I have learnt that football is a wonderful tool in impacting basic livelihood empowerment, skills in children and also the hearing becomes permanent, because it was learnt out of practice

4. What skill and knowledge have you gained?

- Listening skill: how to acquire or respect individual views, Financial management skills: having the power to control funds Leadership skills,
- I have learnt that football is a powerful tool for attracting children to learn other things you want impact into them

5. What skill and knowledge do you feel you need and want to acquire?

- Financial Management skills, Coaching skills, Media Relations skills, Event Planning & Management skills, etc
- Financial Management skills, Fund Raising Skills, Strategic Planning skills, etc
- ICT, Project Management skills, Event planning, also I think we should get our own still cameras so we can be trained to record some of our activities, etc
- Project Management skills, Advance Coaching skills

6. Do you think you have been a role model to the children?

- I may say yes to some extent because teaching and learning is a process and as when you deliver you measure your objectives, so far those taught, there is an impact on life of the children.
- Yes, because I being a lady, motivates the girls to actively participate in all the programs, the children always gives me audience and most of them especially the ladies try to imitate whatever I do
- I think the children see me as a big role model and even some of the other volunteers too

7. Do you think you have developed leadership skills?

- I think my involvement in the program has developed the leadership abilities I have in me. Some of these skills came about as a result of the numerous leadership training programs I participated actively in and outside Ghana
- I have because my mates listen to me and cooperate to everything I tell them. They do not hesitate to tell me or report to me when I am away and an incident happens
- Sure! Because I am an introvert but my involvement has brought the real me out in the sense that I can now do certain things I was afraid to do and also mingle with friends

8. Do you think you have been serving your community?

- Yes because the children are assets and future of the community, so investing positively in them is a great service to my community

- Yes I do because; we are also seen as the caretakers of children in the community. So parents do sometimes report their wards to us and try to seek our views on issues concerning their wards when the need arise
- I think I am serving my community, because the children are the future of the of the community, so by helping them to acquire these skills which will be beneficial to both the individuals and the community as a whole, I am contributing positively to my community's development

ZAMBIA

26-year-old John Mukuka is a site manager of Zingalume site –here is what he had to say about PLAY SOCCER:

It has been a wonderful moment for me to be a part of the volunteer coaches/instructors in Play Soccer Zambia. When it was introduced somewhere in 2003. I did not know what it was all about because I was just in grade nine (Junior high school) and I was just a player. I joined Play Soccer in 2004 just after I had qualified to grade 10 when I was 19 years old up to date.

Play Soccer has really been a helping tool to my life especially where information is concerned such as; the dangers of alcohol and drugs, how to be a good leader, to mention but a few through various training workshops that I have attended since 2004. It has made me to be known in the community such that whenever I am passing somebody has to say "coach" of which I am proud! Above all Play Soccer has crated confidence in me through the interaction with other people.

It has not been an easy thing to work with kids but just because of the passion that I have for them that I should plant something into them has motivated me. Because of the experiences that I have gained, I have managed to transform some kids in the community by teaching them the social development, in health and soccer skills.

CAMEROON

Cameroon sent the following feedback from its children and volunteer instructors.



From 5-7 year-old children:

1. What is the most important thing for you about the program?

- Ernest (6years), the program is good because I play together with my friends and I learned how to care for my body.

- Walters (5years), the program is interesting and I learned so many things
 - Helene (5years), the most important thing is that we play and have fun.
 - Clara (5years), I learned so many games and eat biscuits.
 - Bridget (6years), we play, tell stories and sing songs
2. What are the health and social skills have you learned?
- Jane (6years), I have learned that I should be honest and respect rules
 - Peter (6years), I have learned healthy eating habits by identifying a variety of foods from different food groups.
 - Mira (6years), I have learned how to live peacefully in the community.
3. Have these helped you at home and school?
- Sonia (6years), yes the program have help me to know how to care for my body.
 - Sedrick (5years), yes it has helped me both at home and in school.

From OLDER CHILDREN in Cameroon:

The introduction of the play soccer program in our community has brought a lot of changes to our lives and the community especially in health and social skills. First we thought that play soccer was all about playing football but as we started attending sessions we saw that we are benefitting from healthy lifestyle, social values and skills. The most important thing is that we learn skills with which we grow with them. The program has made us in our community to distinguish our selves from the other children who are not participating in the program. We are introduced to basic health, how our bodies work and what we can do to promote our own well-being, sanitation, immunization, disease prevention, nutrition and personal hygiene as well as learning about parts of the body and how to maintain fitness and healthy lifestyle. As for the social skills we learned respect of self and others, cooperation, teamwork, fair play, leadership and peaceful solutions, Honesty, equal opportunities etc. The program have helped us both at home and in school. The program made us to know that it is good to keep the surrounding environment clean to avoid being contaminated, it educates us on things that affect our health and how we should leave with people affected by HIV/AIDS. With knowledge gained from the program we found it very easily to understand some of our school program faster thanks to the mobile library that introduce us to so many books and how to leave with aggressive schoolmates. The program have made great changes in our lives by making us responsible to our community and leading changes in some of the activities with other friends since some of us were street children and school drop outs. The program have brought a lot of changes to our communities by the activities we do such as the clean up campaigns which is a direct approach to environmental awareness that have made us play soccer kids to gained a lot of community recognition, placing us as good ambassadors in our various communities and how it have help to change lives of children. Some of the communities have benefited from the program in that we were able to construct peace gardens in some schools. Football is the good way to learn the health and social skills since it helps to attract children to the program.

From Cameroon VOLUNTEERS INSTRUCTORS:

We the volunteers are very pleased to be members of the play soccer Cameroon team. We have contributed a lot to the creation of play soccer Cameroon in 2006, we acted as link between the children and their immediate parent .We sensitized them on the important of the program to their children and the community. We, as volunteers contributed in registering the children, carried the implementation of the program at sites and we take care that the

children return home safely and on time, collect and wash t-shirts, plan arrangement for snacks and water and we have help play soccer Cameroon to achieved its goal by making it communities a better place.

Volunteerism to us means rendering services to the community or group of persons for free but been compensated by recognition awards, stipend to pay for some expenses that you may acquired during the service.

We want to be part of the program because it is nice working with children and from the program description of play soccer “uniting children, youth and communities and promoting their health, physical and social development through recreational sports”, we are going to learn more by being volunteers of such a noble association through its capacity training workshops and working with marginalized and destitute children

We have gained so many skills such as monitoring and reporting, how to deal with children from 5 to 15 years, managerial skills, coaching the child and above all we have gained education, skills and capacity, and we feel we need the following and want to acquire it, ICT, improvement of our capacity building in areas such as social, soccer, and health skills, fundraising techniques, the code of conduct of volunteers, how to deal with children with special needs and social enterprise skills.

From what the children are doing in the community we think we are actually role model to the children because we have help in transforming lives of some children and help them to live happily within their societies.

As far as play soccer is concern we have developed a lot of leadership skills, many of us lead our community with the knowledge we have gained from the training workshops and working with play soccer.

We have been serving our communities in so many ways, we do clean up campaigns in schools, churches, market squares along the street and we do our work freely without Payment. We have helped some of our communities in reducing the number of children delinquency and reducing the number of street children and play soccer program have help to heal wounds of children affected with HIV/AIDS and have given them hope.

SENEGAL

Senegal sent the following comments from children, volunteer instructors and communities:

La parole aux bénéficiaires

Pour clôturer l’année nous avons demandé aux enfants bénéficiaires du programme Play Soccer Sénégal de nous dire leurs appréciations par rapport aux enseignements qu’ils reçoivent.

En leur demandant ce qui était le plus important dans le programme ?

Les réponses étaient diverses et selon l’âge les plus petits de 5 à 7 ans, les uns ont insisté sur les jeux interactifs et récréatifs qui leur permettent de s’exprimer et de bien s’amuser avec leur amis et camarades.

Certains d’entre eux n’ont pas l’occasion de s’amuser chez eux du fait de la promiscuité et à la pauvreté.

Pour les filles c’est très important pour elles de profiter de ces moments de distraction parce qu’elles passent tout le temps à s’occuper du travail domestique auprès de leurs mères.

Les plus grands eux disent surtout qu’ils sont devenus de meilleurs footballeurs.

Ils disent aussi qu’ils ont appris à être plus gentilles avec leurs copains et plus respectueux envers leurs parents.



Quand on leur demande ce qu'ils ont appris, ils répondent avec enthousiasme.

- L'apprentissage des règles, techniques et habilités du football ;
- L'éducation sanitaire et les connaissances élémentaires nécessaires au bien-être physique, tels que la prévention des maladies comme le SIDA et le paludisme, l'immunisation, la nutrition, l'hygiène, la qualité de l'eau et les mesures d'assainissement ;
- Les valeurs et habiletés sociales tels que le leadership, le travail d'équipe, le fair-play, les solutions pacifiques, le respect des autres et l'égalité des sexes.

Les plus petits eux disent qu'ils ont appris à jouer au football et qu'ils connaissent maintenant beaucoup de jeux et de chants.

Si vous leur demandez : Est-ce vos apprentissages vous aident à la maison et à l'école?

La réponse est catégorique et ils répondent tous oui, en donnant des exemples par rapport à leurs notes en classe qui ne cessent de s'améliorer.

A la maison ils se sentent beaucoup plus en harmonie avec les autres membres de la famille

Si vous leur demandez si le football un bon moyen d'apprendre davantage sur la santé et les aptitudes sociales ?

Ils ont tous compris qu'en jouant et après le les bénévoles leur ont appris beaucoup de choses pour améliorer leurs santé et les relations qu'ils ont avec la société particulièrement avec leurs amis, leurs frères et leurs parents.

Quand on leur demande si le programme est différent de ce qu'ils font tous les jours :

Ils affirment que la différence est énorme parce qu'ils sont ensemble, qu'ils prennent un apport nutritif à la fin des séances et qu'ils sont encadrés par des adultes qui les aident à bien faire.

Les plus petits disent eux que quand ils sont dans les séances de Play Soccer ils sont bien protégés par les grands qui ne les battent pas et ne les bousculent pas.

Demander si le programme a aidé leur collectivité?

Ils vous citent les actions qu'ils ont menées dans leurs quartiers respectifs comme les opérations de nettoyage, les investissements humains la participation aux manifestations qu'organisent les membres de la société.

Les adultes apprécient

Nous avons aussi demandé aux adultes et instructeurs bénévoles, ce qu'ils pensent du programme ?

Les réponses sont variées et tournent autour de l'importance que revêt Play Soccer pour le développement de leurs enfants et des bénéfices que la société en tire.



Que signifie bénévolat pour eux ?

C'est un don de soi et un moyen de servir sa société et son prochain en consacrant une partie de son temps à aider les autres qui en ont besoin comme les enfants en situation difficile.

Pourquoi ils veulent faire partie du programme ?

Ils ont choisi Play Soccer à cause de la pertinence du programme à travers ses sujets et ses thèmes qui correspondent parfaitement aux besoins des enfants de nos sociétés et leur développement harmonieux.

Qu'ont-ils appris ?

A travers Play Soccer ils ont mieux maîtrisé les droits des enfants et leurs importances dans la société en général et dans la famille en particulier.

Quelles compétences et connaissances ont-ils acquis ?

Ils ont eu des renforcements de capacités dans la gestion des besoins de l'enfant et ont eu des expériences dans la conduite d'activités adaptés aux enfants selon leurs âges.

Quelles compétences et connaissances sentent-ils avoir des besoins et souhaitent les acquérir?

Dans l'échange d'expérience entre pays pour améliorer leurs connaissances dans d'autres domaines de la prise en charge des enfants en situation difficile.

Ils aimeraient aussi développer leurs connaissances en monitorat de football pour devenir des entraîneurs diplômés dans la gestion de la petite catégorie.

Les bénévoles désirent aussi acquérir des diplômes de moniteurs de collectivités éducatives, pour prendre en charge des colonies de vacances pour les enfants.

Les bénévoles pensent qu'ils ont été des modèles pour les enfants et ont été de bons exemples pour la jeunesse de leur quartier.

Ils pensent qu'ils ont élaboré des programmes adaptés aux besoins des enfants et leur ont donné des compétences en apprentissage des règles, techniques et habiletés du football, en éducation sanitaire et les connaissances élémentaires nécessaires au bien-être physique, tels que la prévention des maladies comme le SIDA et le paludisme, l'immunisation, la nutrition, l'hygiène, la qualité de l'eau et les mesures d'assainissement.

Les bénévoles ont aussi instruit aux enfants les valeurs et habiletés sociales tels que le leadership, le travail d'équipe, le fair-play, les solutions pacifiques, le respect des autres et l'égalité des sexes.

Tous les bénévoles et les personnes qui soutiennent le programme pensent qu'ils sont entrain de faire un bon travail avec les enfants, et ils soutiennent qu'ils ont été au service de leur communauté.

Ils demandent par contre un soutien accru de la part des sponsors, des donateurs et des bailleurs de fonds particulièrement à la FIFA, parce que les quartiers dans lesquels sont implantés les programmes de Play soccer font partie des zones les plus pauvres et les enfants qui en bénéficient sont des en situation difficile.

WHAT DO WE LOOK FORWARD TO IN 2011?

The first program in the USA opened in January 2011. PLAY SOCCER Appalachia, funded by the US Youth Soccer Association and with a grant for staffing from AmeriCorps, is operating in Trimble, Ohio, in an elementary school and in collaboration with the Ohio University Kids on Campus program, an enrichment program that runs year round in communities and at Ohio University for underserved children.

In July, Ohio University will welcome 45 youth instructors from PLAY SOCCER Ghana, Senegal and South Africa. They will travel, with all expenses paid under the US Department of State grant awarded to the PLAY SOCCER/Ohio University partnership, to further education and cultural exchange and to demonstrate how sport can provide broad benefits to youth through health and educational training. .

In Ghana, the Oguua Football for Hope Center in Cape Coast is under construction and due to open in June. New Programs developed at the Center and partially supported by FFH will add new dimensions to the PLAY SOCCER program and community outreach, with the addition of a Community Learning and Media Center, a Street League program for young adults that will focus on health, social services and vocational training, and the Coaching the Whole Child Initiative that will broaden coaching education . These new programs will be developed as model programs for replication and eventual scale-up in the Network.

In the USA, we are exploring relationships with new and exciting partners including the FIFA Medical Centre of Excellence in Santa Monica, California. One of only two such Centres in the USA accredited by FIFA, the Medical Centre of Excellence is dedicated to improving the short and long term health of football players. It has a demonstrated expertise in medical, education and research in football, is committed to the prevention of injuries and the improvement of physical health, mental health and the well being of football players.

And, as always we are looking for innovative program enhancements, to continually strengthen and improve the core program, and to better engage and invest in the development of children, youth and communities to build a better future.

In our next Newsletter in June, we hope to be able to report on funding support and plans for these developments.

For further information about the PLAY SOCCER Network please contact PLAY SOCCER at info@playsoccer-nonprofit.org or visit the website www.playsoccer-nonprofit.org

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