



Football Camp in Rwanda



In November and December 2009 **The Great Football Giveaway** sponsored a very successful football camp for street children in Musanze, Rwanda. As ever, the power of sport turned a simple football camp into so much more.



The children played a *lot* of football and the organizers distributed our footballs to the participants, thereby meeting our goals by bringing smiles to children's faces. On top of this, the children were introduced to schooling, and this will potentially change the course of many of their lives for the better. About 130 children took part. Some days there were football games going on in 3 or 4 different fields, it was sometimes quite hard for the organisers to keep up with all the activity.

Luckily they had the help of volunteer local secondary students so there was always supervision at the games and someone from the program acknowledging the winning team with a few footballs. Papa Omar (the football coach) picked a few of the better players and let them practise with the Musanze team one afternoon - a great thrill for the boys!!



The children were fed every day, and hugely appreciated the meals and drinks.

In the mornings English, maths and hygiene were taught for a couple of hours, before the games began. Following this taste of education, 85 street kids committed to starting school in January 2010. The camp organisers offered to supply them with uniforms for school once they are registered and will also supply books and pens.



Organiser Cathy said; "Getting to know these children, to spend time with them and see each personality has been a real treat for me. In the first week of the program there were people at the District and Commune offices having a chuckle about us trying to help the "bo-bos". They are laughing with egg on their face now. These children have really tried and have they have succeeded. The entire town sees a difference in the children, and the children feel a pride they never have before."

December 31st was the final day of camp and a wild celebration! 5 goats were bought and prepared along with 25 kilos of rice, 50 kilos potatoes, 100 japatis, 9 cases of fanta, and 3 bags of candy. A TV and DVD player were set up in one classroom playing music videos, another room was set up with the buffet and 2 classrooms were decorated with balloons and streamers for dining. The local radio station and newspaper both interviewed some of the children



Each student received a certificate stating they have completed 150 hours of studies, to take when they go to school.

Cathy additionally raised money to buy medical insurance for all the street children that completed the 2 months schooling.

On the last day at the big celebration, many of the children told organisers how they had never had such a good time before in their lives, that they will never forget this opportunity they have been given, and "even though we have been bandits before, now we are going to pray God for success at school"!



Cathy says; "They were so much fun to be with...thank you so very much"

UPDATE MAY 2010: Cathy emailed to say the girls team (below) have carried on playing and have just come top of their regional division! Great to hear the footballs donated by our supporters are still helping these children with their achievements.



The Great Football Giveaway
UK Reg Charity 1113148
www.thegreatfootballgiveaway.org.uk