

SPORTS & LEISURE

Georgetown soccer gear finds its way to Tanzania

By EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

Last year's collection of gear in conjunction with the Georgetown Soccer Club for youngsters in an African village went so well, organizers are doing it again in 2012.

Approximately \$20,000 worth of used soccer-related gear—including hundreds of shirts, socks, shoes, shorts and balls—were sent in a container to Arusha, Tanzania for use by the 540 students who attend the Haradali Pre & Primary School in that community.

Having seen the smiles on the faces of the children wearing the GSC jerseys in pictures sent by a friend in Tanzania, organizer Anita Bergsma was motivated to try to surpass the amount of gear collected last summer.

Bergsma's Chance to Play organization has partnered with the GSC again this year for a collection day, with this year's recipients being a town in the Philippines. She is also looking for other organizations that would be interested in partnering with Chance to Play to receive soccer gear.

So, on the GSC's Closing Day

for its house league teams on Saturday, Sept. 8 at Trafalgar Sports Park, residents are asked to do some digging at home to come up with some contributions for the collection. Items needed include: coaches' material, whistles, clipboards, jerseys, ball bags, and backpacks.

"We had a great response last year and we even had parents dropping off years worth of stuff in garbage bags well after the collection was over," said Bergsma, an executive member and house league coach.

"We have so much over here that just sits in basements or attics and there's so much needed in some of these countries. We'd like to make this an ongoing initiative by the Georgetown Soccer Club."

A toonie drive will also take place on Closing Day in order to help cover the cost of transporting the gear in shipping containers.

Volunteers are also needed to help sort the gear and Bergsma is hopeful someone can lend a tent to be used as shelter that day.

For more information, call Bergsma at 905-877-5763, email anita.n.Bergsma@gmail.com or visit the website www.chancetoplay.ca



Students at the Haradali Pre & Primary School in Tanzania have been playing matches wearing Georgetown Soccer Club uniforms thanks to a collection that was undertaken here last September. Another collection of any soccer-related gear will take place this Saturday at Trafalgar Sports Park.

Submitted photo



Local duo help Northmen win Minto Cup

Georgetown residents Jordan Dance (11 above left) and Bradley Kri (right) helped the Orangeville Northmen capture the Minto Cup, emblematic of Jr. A lacrosse supremacy in Canada last week. Dance said, "Words can't really describe it. It's a feeling like no other that's for sure." This year's Minto Cup championship series was a repeat from 2010—pitting the Coquitlam Junior Adanacs of British Columbia (B.C.) against the Northmen. "We didn't take the easy way out, we did everything we had to do to get here," said Dance. "We worked our butts off and it paid off." The Northmen defeated Coquitlam 19-6 and 9-4 in the two-game final held in Whitby.

Photos by Todd McEwen, Orangeville Banner

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