



# Soccer Without Borders

Annual Report 2009

*“Using soccer as a vehicle for positive change in the lives of marginalized youth.”*



## Letter from Founder Ben Gucciardi

Dear Friends and Supporters,

I want to begin this letter with a special thank you for all of your support and continued interest in Soccer Without Borders. 2009 was a wonderful year, and it is my hope that this Annual Report sheds light on some of the highlights of our programs around the world.

In the midst of a difficult recession, SWB was able to expand and improve in almost every key area. None of this would have been possible without the support and contributions from more than 115 volunteers, our sponsors and our partners. Throughout the year, people gave countless hours of their time, finding innovative ways of mobilizing people to care for and contribute to positive programs for marginalized youth.

I believe the dedication of our staff and volunteers is inspired directly by the quality of relationships that are forged through our work. SWB brings people of different ages, genders, backgrounds, countries and perspectives together under the auspices of creating joy and learning for youth who need support. This process opens the worlds of all people involved, bringing great benefit to all parties, and creating a unique experience of collaboration.

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*“We are like a family, we all take care of each other. It doesn't matter if we win or lose, we do our best and have fun. If you fall, I'll pick you up. Let's move forward.”*

*- SWB Oakland team member*

## 2009 Organizational Highlights

During the last 12 months, Soccer Without Borders has undergone significant growth in many key areas:

- Expanded the Ambassadors program raising over \$7,000 and recruiting ambassadors from 13 states in the United States and Canada
- Featured on ESPN, the *New York Times*, MSG, the *Baltimore Sun*, as well as publications and websites in four countries
- Awarded a grant from the Dickey Center at Dartmouth College to fund a staff position for 2010-2011
- Opened a Granada, Nicaragua Fútbol Sin Fronteras office space
- Completed construction of a youth center and SWB office in Ndejje, Uganda
- Merged with *Soccer for Success* to create SWB T.E.A.M. Argentina, one member of which competed in the 2009 Homeless World Cup
- Launched a new website with improved interactivity and expanded content
- Formed a partnership for legal counsel from Goodwin Procter LLP
- Selected as a Penn State's Smeal School of Business APEX program
- Relocated to a permanent headquarters in Berkeley, CA



*Fútbol Sin Fronteras office opening,  
Granada Nicaragua*



## 2009 CAMP REVIEW

### January 11-15, 2009

5<sup>th</sup> Annual Barefoot Angels Camp in Santa Ana, El Salvador; 25 youth leader participants age 11-17, 2 SWB volunteers

### March 8-21, 2009

2<sup>nd</sup> Annual T.E.A.M. Camp in Granada, Nicaragua; 70 female participants age 8-16, 21 SWB volunteers, 30 coaches trained, 10 Nicaraguan staff members

### August 3-8, 2009

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Oakland Refugee Community Camp; 90 refugee/immigrant participants age 5-17, 9 SWB volunteers, 10 refugee youth coaches trained

## Project Update: Oakland, CA



In 2009, the Oakland refugee and immigrant student wellness program at Oakland International High School entered its second full year. Serving recently arrived refugee and immigrant students from more than 14 countries, the program meets five days a week and combines organized soccer play with leadership and health education. In addition to the health benefits of soccer, the program provides the students with a meaningful space to build relationships across cultural and language barriers.

Building upon the successes of the first year, the SWB program has become an integral part of the school culture at OIHS. Relationships between school staff and the players' families continue to develop creating a positive culture on and off the field. The success of the program has led to an increase in participation with a total of 55 youth participating this fall, with 38 youth participating attending the program two times a week or more. Especially significant was the increase in attendance on the girls' side, with 12 new players and an increased commitment to the program. Some of the highlights of the year in Oakland include:

\* The Girls enter the Jack London Youth Soccer League. For 90% of the girls, this was their first experience playing an organized sport for an entire season. On October 12, we scored our very first goal.

\* The Boys place second at the Commissioners Cup in Walnut Creek. Exceeding all expectations, we beat a variety of teams from Walnut Creek, Montclair and Richmond en route to a second place finish and a team of happy, proud and inspired young men. Though our program does not place an emphasis on winning and losing, the accomplishment was the fruit of 18 months of practice, relationship building and perseverance and was a significant event in the lives of the players.

\* The successful completion of the 3rd annual Oakland Refugee Soccer Camp

## Project Update: New York, NY

The SWB program in New York City completed its first full year this year. The program meets Saturdays at Tillary Park in Brooklyn, providing recreational opportunities to recently arrived refugee youth, mostly from West Africa. In a short time, the program has grown from just ten participants to a consistent group of 25. The program is scheduled to follow the IRC's tutoring program, which has led to an observed participation increase in the tutoring program, ostensibly due to the incentive of post-studying soccer. Some of the highlights of this year's program in NYC include:



\* Attending the New York Red Bulls game vs. the Houston Dynamo and meeting Red Bulls striker Macoumba Kandji as well as Dynamo striker Kei Kamara. Both professional players were both resettled refugees, respectively from Sierra Leone and Gambia where several of the boys on the team are from.

\* Participating in a citywide 7 vs. 7 tournament against other competition. The event motivated the boys to practice and brought them together as a team.

\* Laying the groundwork for a refugee youth soccer league starting in 2010. As more youth continue to come to practice and more volunteers get involved, the scope and activities of the program in NYC will continue to grow with initiatives such as this league.

## Project Update: Granada, Nicaragua

T.E.A.M. (Trabajando en Equipo Aprendemos Mas) Granada was formally launched on March 14, 2009 after operating for 13 months informally as SWB outreach. With the help of a year-round volunteer presence, we now operate an office space that houses all activities, providing a safe space for girls and expanding visibility in the community. Alongside 10 trained Nicaraguan Youth Leaders, SWB volunteers host four nightly events:

La Noche de Niñas on Wednesday evenings provides a time and place to discuss important issues such as respect, hygiene, peace, and career goals for the older girls and sharing, family, and friendship for the younger girls.

La Noche de Idiomas on Thursday evenings emphasizes and practices language and literacy skills.

La Noche de Manualidades on Friday evenings uses art-based activities to encourage teamwork and creativity.

La Noche de Pelicula on Saturday evenings gives youth a free alternative to hanging out in the streets, showing various movies with positive messages.

These off-field activities complement the progress the girls have made on the field through weekly practices on Saturdays, an SWB-sponsored Sunday Futsal team, the launch of two 6-week long girls leagues, and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual T.E.A.M. Camp and Coaches Clinic that took place in March.

T.E.A.M. Granada also provides equipment and monetary support to the Nicaraguan Women's National team, including sponsoring Granada's only representative, Yelba Sirias, and organizing a competitive game between SWB volunteers and Nicaragua.

Project revisions and expansions are already underway for 2010, including a more comprehensive equipment support program, expanded soccer activities, broadened support of the Women's National League, and the pursuit of a full-time Nicaraguan Director.



## Project Update: Buenos Aires, Argentina

In 2009, Soccer Without Borders merged with a program previously called "Soccer for Success." The original program, founded in 2006, focused on creating opportunities for girl's soccer in Villa 31, one of the biggest slums of Buenos Aires. Recognizing the shared mission and objectives between Soccer for Success and SWB, and believing that collaboration could expand benefits to the girls, the organizations entered into a partnership. The program now operates as Soccer Without Borders: T.E.A.M. Argentina.

T.E.A.M. Argentina focuses on teaching girls self-confidence and teamwork through bi-weekly soccer practices. Twenty girls ranging in age from 10 to 16 years old participate in the program. In 2009, one of the girls from the team qualified to be part of the "Homeless World Cup," a tournament for youth living in poverty. She was the lone female representative on the team.

In addition to soccer practices, the program provides a social worker that works with the girls on a weekly basis helping them address some of the challenges they face in their lives. The success of the team and the novelty of women's soccer in Argentina have focused a lot of attention on the program, and it is currently the subject of a full-length documentary film funded by the Argentine government.



## Project Update: Santa Maria el Tablon, Guatemala

The Soccer Without Borders program in Guatemala expands the soccer opportunities available for Mayan youth living in the Highlands of Guatemala. Fútbol Sin Fronteras in Guatemala runs a community league in Santa Maria El Tablon, holds regular soccer sessions for youth, educational programs, and also works to train local coaches. In 2009, the program has seen a large expansion and SWB local staff and volunteers are working with 300 youth a week on an ongoing basis. The program has drawn national media attention, appearing in the national newspaper, on national television and twice on local television in Solola.

Some of the highlights of the 2009 program include:

- Strengthened partnerships with three local schools, working with them to provide weekly ongoing programs two times a week to more than 300 youth.
- Focused on getting “Girls in the Game” by running practices for girls in the area, recruiting a weekly group of 25 that practice and scrimmage regularly.
- Entered the first team in Santa Maria’s history into an organized regional league. The U-14 ‘Fútbol Sin Fronteras’ team, fully equipped with uniforms, boots and balls, entered the regional league in October. The significance of this event and the community pride that families and friends took in the team was evident by a parade the community put on in honor of the team’s first game.

## Project Update: Ndejje/Kampala, Uganda

In Kampala and the nearby community of Ndejje, SWB Uganda runs two programs that serve refugees that have fled from conflicts in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. As the conflict and humanitarian crises continues to grow in the Eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, an increasing number of refugees have made their way to Uganda’s capital Kampala. The increased numbers place an even greater strain on already scarce resources available to these people, and make programs that offer consistent opportunities for positive engagement that much more vital.

In 2009, the most significant achievement of SWB Uganda and partners was the construction and completion of The Ndejje Youth Center. Built in 2008-09 by SWB and its partners: the Soccer Silicon Valley Community Foundation, the San Jose Rotary Club, and the Skidmore College soccer programs, we bought land and built the center over a nine month period beginning in 2008. The center currently serves as a home office to SWB Uganda and houses all soccer and life-skills programs, as well as providing a public space for community meetings. For years to come, this will be a much needed youth centered safe-space that provides recreational and educational opportunities to the community of Ndejje.

Other highlights from 2009 include:

- \* The Amani Football Academy established five new teams bringing the benefits of the soccer and life-skills program to a total of 120 refugee youth living in Kampala
- \* SWB Local Leader Raphael Murumbi led several trips to Nakivale Refugee Settlement to host coaches clinics for interested coaches and a variety of seminars with youth about conflict resolution and staying healthy.
- \* Hope Primary School Students were in for a treat as SWB volunteers organizes a trip to Uganda’s national stadium to play soccer in a tournament with other youth in the area.



## Financial Report:

### Income by source

Source	Amount
Merchandise	\$11,250
Oakland Fund for Children and Youth Grant (08-09)	\$6,875
OUSD Grant	\$1,600
Ambassador Program	\$7,806
Individual Donors (on and offline)	\$24,893
Donation from Donnelley Foundation	\$3,100
Donation from Soccer Silicon Valley Community Foundation	\$3,000
Donation from Rotary Club of San Jose	\$2,000
College "SWB Day" Initiative	\$1,870
Skidmore Spring Break Camp	\$4,600
Small Goals for Big Change Tournament	\$4,400
Volunteer fundraising/grants	\$11,865
Other Events	\$1,810

### Expenditures

Source	Amount
Administrative	\$3,084
Merchandise	\$8,987
Oakland, CA	\$12,731
New York, NY	\$750
Granada, Nicaragua	\$11,776
Santa Ana, El Salvador (camp)	\$500
Santa Maria, Guatemala	\$1,508
Kampala, Uganda	\$2,238
Ndejje, Uganda	\$5,283
Buenos Aires, Argentina	\$3,189
Volunteer travel, room & board	\$21,599
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$71,645</b>

*Soccer Without Borders' administrative costs remain under 5%*

Major project site costs include: local staff salaries, office space, equipment, food for youth, and communication



## 2009 PROJECTS "BY THE NUMBERS"

- \* Leadership and employment opportunities provided to 15 local staff members in 4 countries
- \* 75 coaches trained in SWB coaching clinics and workshops
- \* 1075 youth served on an ongoing basis, with more than 70% attending programs 2x/week or more
- \* More than 3,000 other youth have participated in SWB events, single classes, and workshops
- \* 83 volunteers donated 73 months internationally and 5300 hours domestically at SWB project sites
- \* Distributed more than 5,000 lbs of equipment to over 1,000 SWB participants

# Thank you to our supporters, partners and sponsors!

Dickey Center for International Understanding  
 Donnelley Family Foundation  
 San Jose Rotary Club  
 Lisle International  
 Soccer Silicon Valley Community Foundation  
 Ruffneckwear.com  
 Charter Partners  
 Bayview Funding Corporation

*A special thank you to all of our  
 Ambassadors and equipment donors!*

*Special thanks to these schools, teams, organizations, and  
 universities for their 2009 support:*

- Asphalt Green
- Bear Creek Soccer Club
- Bowdoin College Women's Soccer
- Centre Soccer Club
- Club Marin
- Colorado College Women's Soccer
- Colorado Force W-League
- Dartmouth College Women's Soccer
- Franklin Regional High School
- Mass Premier Soccer
- Moravian High School Girls and Boys Soccer
- Notre Dame Preparatory Academy
- North Yarmouth Academy
- Ottawa Fury Men's and Women's Soccer
- Penn State University Women's Soccer
- PUGG
- PUMA
- Rapid Transit Sports
- Skidmore College Men's and Women's Soccer
- Smith College Women's Soccer
- Southern Columbia High School Varsity Girls Soccer
- SoccerPlus
- Sunnyvale Alliance Soccer Club
- Talmud Torah School
- Tufts University Women's Soccer
- University High School
- The Williams School

*Thank you to our project partners:*

- Amani Football Academy (Uganda)
- ARQUITLAN (Guatemala)
- ASAPROSAR- Salvadoran Association For Rural Health (El Salvador)
- Centro Juvenil Waqaxi (Guatemala)
- Colegio Maya (Guatemala)
- Girls For a Change (USA)
- Hope Primary School (Uganda)
- International Rescue Committee (USA)
- Magicians Without Borders (USA)
- Nicaragua Football Federation-FENIFUT (Nicaragua)
- Nicaraguan Institute of Sport and Recreation (Nicaragua)
- Oakland International High School (USA)
- Refugee Transitions (USA)



## Continued from page 1...

Looking ahead to the coming years, we are at an important stage of transition. Media exposure and increased interest in our work require us to have full-time staff, and we are in the process of making this a reality. We are also in the process of looking critically at our work to date. This requires us to narrow our mission and look at best practices and lessons learned, and most importantly, to listen to the ideas and perspectives of the youth and communities we are serving. During this transition, we will need your support more than ever.

In advance, I want to thank you for time, effort and support. None of this would be possible without you!

Sincerely,

Ben Gucciardi  
 Founding Director  
 Soccer Without Borders



**Join us in playing for  
 change across the  
 USA in 2010:**

Boston, MA

New York, NY

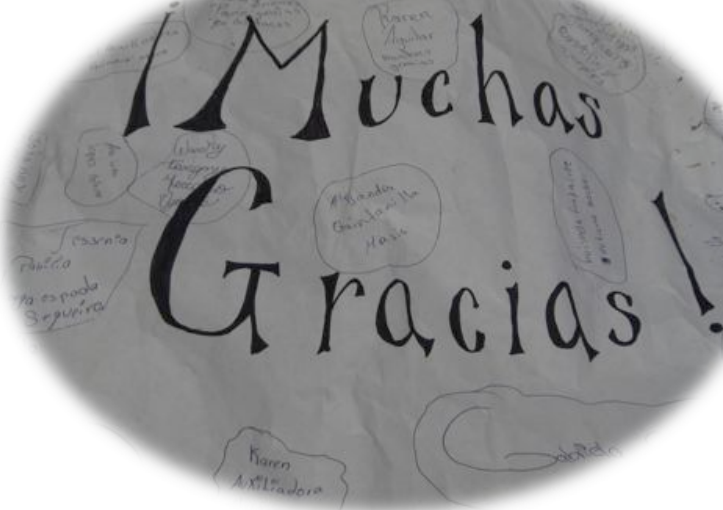
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