



**Cameroon Football Development Program**  
*Engaging West African Youth in Life Skills  
and HIV Education with the Beautiful Game*

April 11, 2013

Dear soccer clubs, coaches, players, referees, soccer moms, and all those tuning in who have an affiliation to the beautiful game in northern Connecticut:

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I am a native of Suffield, CT and “alumnus” of Suffield Soccer Club, Sports World Athletic Club (East Windsor, CT), and Northwest Catholic High School (West Hartford, CT).

I write this letter today because I currently volunteer with a non-profit organization based in Pittsburgh, Pa. that runs sport-for-youth-development programs in underserved areas of Cameroon, Africa, and I am looking for donations of used or unused soccer equipment that you have access to and might consider giving to the hundreds of kids participating in our programs in Cameroon.

**About: The Cameroon Football Development Program (CFDP)**

The organization I volunteer with is called Cameroon Football Development Program (CFDP). It began in 2006 when the organization’s founder and CEO, Justin Forzano, who at that time was an engineering student at the University of Dayton, traveled to Cameroon to do civil engineering service work with Engineers Without Borders, an organization of engineers dedicated to promoting sustainable development in underdeveloped areas of the world. On that trip, Forzano was surprised at Cameroon’s lack of infrastructure and development, an issue that plagues much of the Africa continent. He had brought soccer jerseys with him from home on that trip with the intention of giving them to the people he met in Cameroon. When Forzano saw the joy that simple soccer equipment gave to the Cameroonians he met there, the idea was born in his head that maybe he could somehow use the gift of soccer to promote sustainable development for these communities in Cameroon.

CFDP wasn’t officially founded as a registered 501©3 non-profit organization until 2010, but it has since grown tremendously, and I am immensely proud to be a part of it. The organization’s mission is to use soccer as a vehicle for promoting sustainable youth and community development in Cameroon. CFDP has a management team based in Kumba, Cameroon, which is located in the South West province of Cameroon, and the organization runs educational programs at schools and community centers throughout South West Cameroon. The programs combine CFDP’s educational curriculum—which teaches youth and adult youth coaches about developing life skills, the qualities of good leadership, and HIV/AIDS



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awareness—with soccer practices, tournaments, and seasonal leagues, using the idea that soccer will make students more receptive to educational messages.

CFDP's US team is made up of volunteers and students interns and is based in Pittsburgh, Pa. From here, we do fundraising, marketing, and other sorts of organizational development. The organization occasionally sends US team members over to Kumba to link up with our management team there, do service work, and experience the Cameroonian culture. I will be going to Cameroon for four months during the summer of 2013 to deliver equipment donations, work with the kids there, train adults who want to become certified in our curriculum, and conduct grassroots outreach campaigns to spread the word about CFDP through South West Cameroon.

Be sure to read more about CFDP online at [www.cameroonfdp.org](http://www.cameroonfdp.org).

### **Donating to CFDP**

The purpose of me reaching out to Suffield Soccer Club, Sports World Athletic Club, the Northwest Catholic High School community, and all of you throughout the northern CT soccer community, and introducing you to the CFDP organization, is not only to spread word about our work, but to also lobby for the donation to CFDP of soccer equipment that you might have access to and no longer use. I am proud to work for sustainable development through soccer in Cameroon, Africa, and having grown up playing soccer on fields throughout Connecticut, my natural reaction is to see if I can bring the two communities together to benefit a good cause.

The following page contains a list of things that could be of use to CFDP programs on the ground in Cameroon. This list can also be read on our website at [www.cameroonfdp.org/donate-soccer-equipment-to-cfdp/](http://www.cameroonfdp.org/donate-soccer-equipment-to-cfdp/)

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### **Donating a set of uniforms: What can CFDP offer in return?**

If you are affiliated with a soccer club that might be interested in donating equipment to CFDP, there are a few things that CFDP can offer to your club in return:

- For example, say Suffield Soccer Club was to donate a set of uniforms to CFDP. The jerseys would be given to one of a dozen youth associations or youth football clubs in South West Cameroon that is partnered with CFDP.
- This club would adopt SSC as its sponsor, the name “Suffield Soccer Club” would be incorporated into the Cameroonian club’s title, and the Cameroonian team would participate in educational soccer competitions throughout South West Cameroon wearing its SSC gear.
- In return for their donation, Suffield Soccer Club would be able to say that it sponsors a youth soccer team in Cameroon, Africa, which could be a really cool publicity tool.
- CFDP would keep SSC updated with pictures and messages about the Cameroonian team’s progress, and SSC could use these materials to build the “SSC brand.”
- At the least, we like to think that we are fostering for our donors a unique sort of “cultural exchange” that makes us unique to many organizations throughout the northeastern United States.

In past years, high school, college, and private US based soccer clubs have donated jerseys and other sorts of equipment to CFDP. Below are two pictures of some of our kids in Cameroon. The first picture is a team of boys wearing jerseys donated by Seton Hill University in Greensburg, Pa.





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Thank you so much for taking the time to learn about CFDP.

If you are interested in staying up to date with our organization, you can sign up for our newsletter here: <http://www.cameroonfdp.com/get-the-newsletter/>

And if you have any soccer equipment to donate, please see my contact information listed below!

Best,

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