Favela Street

Favela Street uses football as a tool to improve the communicative, organizational and social skills of a selected group of ex-soldados from the IBISS project ‘Soldados Nunca Mais’. The youngsters of this project, translated as ‘Soldiers Never More’, decided to turn their life around by leaving the drug traffic. Besides these ex-soldados also youth at risk to enter drug traffic are also eligible for the project.

During the four month program these youngsters learn to become good sports coaches. The development of these sports coaches accelerates, because of working intensively together on the project. They get skills like working together and organizing. By experiencing the successes of their activities they get more confidence. They become real role models for the children of the project.

These children are in need of structure, a safe environment and appreciation. Conditions often absent on the playgrounds and soccer fields in their community due to (gun) violence, stray bullets and drug trafficking.

Precisely in those areas Favela Street puts its interest and gives the ex-soldiers as a role model an important position. As a sports coach they learn how they can make a positive contribution to the youngsters in their community by showing that there are other options than drug traffic as well.

The program and this learning process prevent the ex-soldados from falling back. Taking part in Favela Street means a reflection on life, their future and better prospects on finding a job. It’s about taking responsibility for creating a safe environment and giving the children in their own community the self-esteem and structure they need.
Favela Street is operating underneath the wings of IBISS. IBISS is an abbreviation for ‘Instituto Brasileiro de Inovações em Saúde Social’, which means ‘Brazilian Institute for Innovation in Social Health care. It is an independent non-profit organization which focuses on the most disadvantaged groups within Brazilian society.

IBISS works in a number of the most violent favelas of Rio de Janeiro. The organization bridges the gap between people that are socially excluded and government services. IBISS also defends rights of the target group. IBISS’ most important starting point is that people work on their own future.

For more information visit the website www.IBISS.info. Click on the English flag in the right corner to get the pages in English.

The city of Rio de Janeiro attracts a lot of tourists, because of the beaches, carnival and the Christ the redeemer statue. However, a big part of the people in this city have to live in poverty. They live in slums, called favelas.

There the organized crime has the power. They made a ‘state within a state’. Lifes have been lost daily, because of violence of the police or drug gangs. Kids end up in a drug gang and lose their lifes at a young age.
Mission

Favela Street wants to ensure that children in the districts where the project is active go to school and see a positive future for themselves in which they can be what they want to be and joining a drug gang is no option.

With the deployment of ex-soldados, Favela Street wants to make sure that they will have new possibilities and opportunities and get grip on their lives outside drug gangs.
Vision

Favela Street believes in the power of Street Soccer as a tool to give ex-soldados and children dreams for their future.

Besides the fact that soccer is the number one sport in Brazil, the characteristics of street soccer fit the dynamics inside Brazilian society. Street soccer is accessible, it has a flexible understanding of rules, it is spontaneous and street soccer is about having a lot of fun with few materials. This makes sure that a lot of ex-soldados and children want to be part of Favela Street.

Because of this attraction the sport can be a tool to accomplish the mission of Favela Street.
The project mapped out

Street Soccer
- Learning to separate the person from the action
- Broaden reference framework

Favela Street
- Learning to make agreements
- Fitting tasks to qualities

Ex-soldados
- Personal development
- Involvement
- Perception of success
- Relying on intelligence
- Being proud of accomplishments
- Seeing and taking opportunities

Children
- Personal development
- Structure
- Project participation
- Learning to be who you want to be
- Inclusion, feeling welcome

Coaching
- Social skills
- School participation

- Temptation in sports instead of drug traffic
- Positive role models
- Environment with other option than drug traffic

Focus on creating together

Relying on intelligence

Being aware of the function as a role model.
Size of the project

IBISS has started a big number of soccer schools in many different favelas and has an own trainings centre for talented soccer players.

Favela Street starts activities at new locations and supports soccer schools of IBISS with trainers and complementary activities, like the organization of tournaments. With these activities Favela Street reaches around five thousand children a month. There are eight sport coaches working for the project, all trained by Favela Street. One of these coaches is forming a new girls team for the Street Child World Cup in 2014.

In the past period, Favela Street focused on activities within three of the main areas where IBISS has its soccer schools. The scheme shows which areas Favela Street focused on.

Complexo da Penha

Vila Cruzeiro

Vacaria
New location where three ex-soldados are training kids.

Cemasi
Link with soccer school, temporarily alternative location for Vacaria group.

Caracol

Chatuba
Among others, place where the girls of the formation of the new girls team come from.

Caixa d’Água
Among others, place where the girls of the formation of the new girls team come from.

Jardim América

Jardim América
Link with soccer school

Furquim Mendes
IBISS soccer school with Favela Street trainer.

Vila Esperança
Link with soccer school

Terra Encantada
Link with soccer school, exchange tournaments.

Dik
Link with soccer school, exchange tournaments.

Vila Nova

Lixão (Vila Nova)
IBISS soccer school, exchange tournaments.

Vila Ideal
Locations where a lot of participants come from.

Vila Esperança

Furquim Mendes
IBISS soccer school with Favela Street trainer.

Terra Encantada
Link with soccer school, exchange tournaments.

Dik
Link with soccer school, exchange tournaments.
Future

Since the foundation in 2012, Favela Street has expanded a lot already. Not only in terms of quantity of places where the project operates. The role of coaching and the importance for the children and ex-soldados increased.

In the upcoming years, Favela Street wants to continue this and wants to bring the project to a higher level. For the upcoming year, this means the ambition to expand to other favelas where IBISS is operation already like Vila Aliança, Vila Vintém and Padre Miguel and possibly Brás de Pina, Cinco Bocas and Cidade Alta. Besides these areas, Favela Street is monitoring the situation in Rio de Janeiro carefully and wants to be able to anticipate on developments.

Favela Street also wants to focus on reconciliation and strengthening the coaching and function of the project in the children’s development. This for example by linking group conversations about important issues on soccer trainings to give the children more self-esteem and by bringing groups from different areas together to broaden their reference frame works.
Donation information and contact

Favela Street depends on donations and personal initiatives to collect money. This money is used to invest in the needed material for the locations and activities and for the training of the ex-soldados and their coaching. The donations and activities to collect money made the project into what it is now. Favela Street hopes that in the future more initiatives will support the project to make sure that it can maintain its important function for the people in the favelas.

Watch the video in which sports coach Geovane tells about the important role Favela Street has in his life at: www.IBISS.info/projecten/programmas/favelastreet

Contact

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Donation information

Donations go through:
IBISS Foundation, te Woerden
Kvk 34120304 (Dutch Chamber of Commerce)

Bank: ABN-AMRO bank
Account number: 55.34.02.056
IBAN: NL32ABNA0553402056
Mentioning: Project Favela Street