



350 children played for peace at La Dolorita

SOMOS - A Goal for Caracas hosted its second experiential soccer clinic this weekend with the youth from the community soccer league of the Sucre Municipality

Caracas, August 4th, 2013

SOMOS - Un Gol Por Caracas creates opportunities for the development of boys, girls and youth in Petare through the use of soccer as a tool for inclusion and reduction of violence.

This past Saturday, the program held its second *experiential* soccer clinic with 350 children and youth in attendance. In the soccer field at the "Polideportivo La Dolorita", children and youth from neighboring communities like Filas de Mariche, Palo Verde, La Bombilla and La Dolorita came together to learn -through soccer- how to coexist in peace.

Throughout the day, boys and girls learned techniques from the expert coaches, technical trainers and community leaders. The training modules in SOMOS - A Goal for Caracas focus on three areas: Recreational soccer; educational soccer and competitive soccer. The objective: to teach children and youth about soccer in its broadest sense and to turn the sport into a tool for social development.

Boys, girls and coaches rotated through 24 stations in the field while learning some of the cornerstone values of the program: discipline; managing violent behavior in children and youth; positive reinforcement, effective communication; group-oriented communication strategies; development of public speaking skills inside and outside of the soccer field and gender equality and tolerance. At SOMOS - A Goal for Caracas children and youth work together which encourages diversity, gender equality and teamwork.

Overall, **SOMOS - A Goal for Caracas** directly impacts and benefits 1500 boys, girls and youth who make up the junior soccer teams in Petare, part of the community's Municipal league. The program includes 9 educational workshops/modules for coaches as well as experiential soccer clinics for children and coaches.

SOMOS - A Goal for Caracas is possible thanks to the alliance of *Project Peace Latin America* (PPLA); Fundación Amigos del Deportivo Petare and Fundación Deporte para el Desarrollo (FDPD), under the guidance of **SOMOS**, Red del Deporte para el Desarrollo de América Latina, an initiative of the Corporación Andina de Fomento (CAF) which aims to promote social inclusiveness and the development of competencies and skills in children and youth at risk.

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