



THE NM SOCCER TEAM

Instilling Discipline and Promoting Healthy Living

Dear Friends,

One of our biggest challenges here at NM is creating unity among the youth. Because of their hard lives, young boys and girls come to us with deep issues, anger and depression. They have no dreams for their future, no reason to try. They show no respect to adults or each other. But day after day we love them, encourage them, and show them reasons to hope. One way we have done this is through our Soccer program—It is one of our major successes this year.

The NM Soccer Team began in the spring of 2007. Kids between the ages of 9 and 16 all gathered together on the field. There was no discipline, no team unity or loyalty to one another, and no respect for us, the coaches. The boys would show up in jeans, if they showed up at all, and would complain about jogging around our little field. It took a lot of work and patience at the beginning to show up and coach these kids.

That summer we entered the boys into an indoor league. Because of the consistency of games every weekend, we could instill and enforce the lessons we were trying to teach. If they didn't show up for practice and work hard, they were not going to play. We began to see growth both on and off the field. By the time August rolled around, we had so many kids that wanted to play for the church that we had to form two teams: one for the elementary kids and one for the Junior High/ High School kids.

Spiritual and academic disciplines were added to the program that Fall. We began teaching Bible verses that had to do with teamwork, humility, and servant



**Games and Good Sportsmanship:
The younger NM Soccer Team
*The Conquistadores***

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THANK YOU TO DESERT SCHOOLS AND BANK OF AMERICA



Summer Emerging Leaders 2008

Neighborhood Ministries would like to thank Desert Schools Federal Credit Union and Bank of America for supporting our Summer Emerging Leaders. This year we had 14 youth from our community participate in the summer internship working to facilitate our summer programs. Desert Schools and Bank of America supported these youth, providing them with their stipend pay at the end of the summer. We would also like to thank Desert Schools who visited with our Emerging Leaders providing them with a basic financial literacy course during their internship. We are grateful for these new partnerships within the community and look forward to our growing relationships.

leadership. The boys on the older team began putting that servant leadership into practice by being leaders on Monday nights and even helping coach and tutor the boys on the younger team. We also joined with I Can Do It, another NM program, and began collecting report cards from the kids to monitor their school progress. Here are a couple youth's stories:

Ramiro had been particularly hopeless and rebellious before joining the soccer team. However now, his teacher comments that not only is he performing better on his schoolwork, but he is also an encouragement to those around him.

Alex started out as an angry 9-year-old whose dream was to end up in jail like his older brother. He could ruin whole practices with his foul mouth and unruly behavior. Through the consistency and discipline of the team, and God's constant love shown through the coaches and other players, he was baptized this past Kids' Club. His anger has been replaced with a sweet, servant spirit that wants to live for God.



Alex reads his testimony moments before his baptism at this year's Kids Club.

Even the boys' families are changing! This summer we had on average, 5-10 families showing up for the games. At our end of the season party, we had over 90 people there. Almost every kids' family was represented. Before, parents weren't involved and there was a general state of oppression. Now, the boys and their families are feeling empowered and hopeful for their future. The boys on the soccer team are looked up to in their communities.

Please join us in prayer as our vision for the soccer team grows. This Fall we are beginning a Family Wellness class to be taught to the families of the soccer team, focusing on healthy family relationships. It is our hope that not only the boys, but their families as well will become healthy and hopeful and living for God. Also, we would love to see more teams added to our program. Our teams are full and we are having to turn boys away every week. We also have the need to start a girls' team.

It is our hope that the spiritual and all around growth will continue in the lives of these boys and their families.

Sincerely,

Kristen Nunley
Coach



The Jr. High/High School Conquistadores Team along with Coach Kristen (right) and Coach Terence (left)

YOU CAN HELP THE NM SOCCER TEAMS

We need another 2 Coaches! Invest in the lives of the youth in the community and coach or assist a coach for the *Conquistadores*.

Donate Now to Neighborhood Ministries and support the Soccer Teams:

- ◆ \$40 for each jersey
- ◆ \$35 for each pair of cleats
- ◆ \$500 to enter tournaments
- ◆ Balls, Cones, and other Equipment

All NM Programming relies on your generous donations. Go to www.nmaz.org to donate online or send a check to the address below. Thank you for your faithfulness.

FOR MORE INFO CONTACT

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Or

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NEWS & EVENTS

Save the Date—November 8
For Another Great
Isaiah 58 Campaign Event

Volunteer Training Day
September 13

Fall Programs Begin
September 15

CTM Conference
October 2 - 4