



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Tuesday, June 17, 2008**

### **Austin's Homeless to Compete in National Soccer Tournament**

**Austin, Texas** — Thanks to a generous grant from Street Soccer USA, Austin will be represented this month in a soccer tournament for homeless people in Washington, DC. All tournament participants are competing for positions on a Street Soccer team that will play in the Homeless World Cup in early December in Melbourne, Australia.

For the last several months, the Entourage, Austin's homeless Street Soccer team, has been preparing for their first tournament game by practicing in St. David's Episcopal Church's gym. Under the leadership of a Front Steps' volunteer, Sabelyn Pussman, the team has steadily grown.

The Entourage's next scheduled practice is Thursday, June 19th at St. David's Episcopal Church's gym starting at 4:00 pm. Regular weekly practices are held Mondays starting at 4:00 pm. The gym entrance is on Trinity Street, between 7th and 8th Sts.

Six Austin Entourage members will make the trip to Washington, DC on Thursday, June 26, hoping to be one of the eight national team players or one of the eight alternates selected to play for the US team in the 2008 Homeless World Cup to be held December 1-7, 2008.

Austin is the first official Texas homeless Street Soccer team and one of 12 Street Soccer teams established across the nation.

Street Soccer is the brainchild of Scottish entrepreneur Mel Young, who established the first Homeless World Cup in 2003 in Graz, Austria. Since then, the Homeless World Cup has become an annual, international football tournament, traveling the globe, and uniting teams of people who are homeless to take a once in a lifetime opportunity to represent their country and, more importantly, change their lives forever. It has triggered grassroots football projects in over 60 nations working with over 25,000 homeless people throughout the year.

The grant from Street Soccer USA, the U.S. partner to the Homeless World Cup organization, will pay for the team's flight, accommodations, food, insurance, and uniforms. Sponsoring the Homeless USA Cup are the Ted Leonsis Foundation, Nike, U.S. Soccer Foundation, Eurosport, and Urban Ministry Center.

#### **ABOUT STREET SOCCER AUSTIN'S ENTOURAGE:**

Information on Austin's homeless soccer team, including practice schedules, can be found at <http://www.streetsockeraustin.org>.

**ABOUT STREET SOCCER:**

Street Soccer is 4-on-4 soccer, three field players and a goalie. The field is a 52x72 foot court surrounded by a 4-foot high wall. The goal is 12-feet wide and 4.5 feet high. Games consist of two 7-minute halves with a 1-minute halftime. For more information on the Homeless World Cup, visit <http://www.homelessworldcup.org>.

**ABOUT STREET SOCCER USA:**

Information on the US partner to the Homeless World Cup organization can be found at <http://www.streetsoccerusa.org>.

**ABOUT FRONT STEPS:**

Front Steps is the non-profit manager of the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH). The ARCH is a day resource center, an emergency overnight shelter, and a homeless health clinic; it also features ten co-located nonprofit organizations that provide a variety of vital services, including physical and mental health care, legal assistance, and job placement. Front Steps was founded in 1997 as the Capital Area Homeless Alliance. More information can be found at <http://www.frontsteps.org>.