



3rd. Global Rural Community Football Gathering 2011

Friday, October 28th, 2011

www.futbolrural.org.ar



History

Background of Fútbol, Soccer, Calcio, フットボール, Football, ...

Football is a sport that has been historically used as a tool capable of generating a better social integration, while encouraging a healthy life style and values such as team work and companionship. But above all, it is a simple and fun game, more than enough reasons to assure a fast global expansion.

Why a gathering?

Few sports generate so much passion globally in all social classes and cultures. Football is played almost everywhere in the world, and all it needs to be played is a desire to play, two teams and a ball.

If this game helps to gather people, why not trying to give it a broader communitarian sense. It is all about thinking globally... to act, play and share what has been accomplished locally.

Why Global?

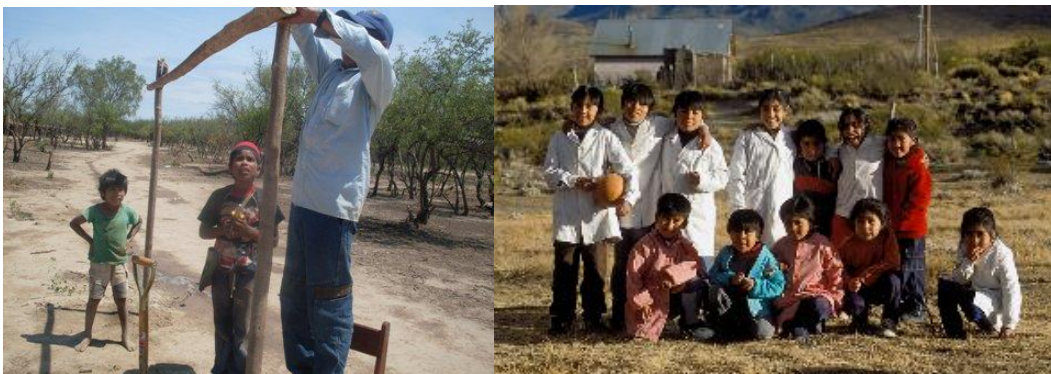
Because besides **playing football** in such isolated places as Patagonia, Egipto, Zambia y Malaysia, there is also a global need for **strengthening the bonds** among families, communities and rural schools. The **sense of community** must be built day by day, through **actions and not words**, both in urban and rural areas. The huge **cultural diversity** has a value that defines all the evolutionary richness of humanity. To know it, respect it and to generate a space for communication and gathering are good ways to **improve the living conditions on our planet**.

The **Rural Communities Network** is in touch with an increasing number of people who have a strong social commitment and who share their mission; to **articulate efforts and mobilize resources to accompany the development of rural inhabitants**.

Argentineans who live abroad and foreigners who have travelled all over the world, can help to kickstart the idea on a global level. Their task is to find a social organization, school and/or rural community, to explain to them what the aim of this initiative is, and encourage them to participate. Social organizations of international scope are offering their support to spread this initiative. Thousands of individuals are joining each year.

Overall objective

To strengthen a sense of community through the **Global Rural Community Football Gathering**, and bringing families and the rural schools of their children or relatives closer. This will build stronger bonds and create a true educational community. While the solidarity actions are the more specific bond, the football gathering is a symbol and a way to celebrate.



Specific objectives

1. To bring children's families and their rural schools closer, allowing for a strengthening of the bonds between them through specific actions with a profound sense of community.
2. To celebrate the progress and the results of community actions by means of a gathering that focuses on the children and is centred around sports.
3. To promote the exchange of experiences, cultural values and knowledge between students, teachers and rural communities worldwide.
4. To provide tools that promote community development by means of key information in the fields of education, health, labour, justice, and the environment through the website www.mapasderecursos.org.ar, and an ever growing educational computer network.
5. Through a great pooling of resources, it is hoped that this year 1000 rural schools and communities in Argentina and many other countries will be able to organize gatherings and share their experiences.

Characteristics of the Gathering

It is important to clarify that only children will play football (they can be boys and girls, as well as young people of school age). It is neither a tournament nor a championship, it is a gathering and the place of the gathering is -according to what they agree on- the rural school or community. The main objective is community development, and not competition among rural communities and villages. This is one of the conditions to join the campaign and share its spirit.

The participation of families, school authorities and other adults related with the community will be exclusively focused on the supportive actions they jointly decide to undertake at a local level. Their responsibility will also be to anticipate and look after all aspects related to safety of all participants during the process and to agree on other organizational aspects that shall celebrate community actions they undertook previously or will undertake during the same day of the gathering; **Friday October 28**. The last Friday of October of each year is the anniversary date of this global gathering. This gathering symbolically joins all rural schools and communities of the world that share these objectives. If it is not possible to carry out the celebration on said date due to weather reasons, a more convenient date will be agreed upon.

Examples of possible solidarity actions to be carried out:

At the school:

- Paint a classroom, a dining room, bathrooms or the kitchen.
- Start a vegetable garden or a greenhouse.
- Obtain and plant native or fruit trees.
- Build a playground for break time.
- Organise and update the library.
- If there is space, improve the football field (obtain or knit new nets, improve goals, get rid of stones or dangerous elements, etc.).
- Obtain elements and materials for sports or art classes.
- Carry out some artistic or cultural activity (literary workshop, a play, photography or painting exhibition, etc.).
- Build shelves and cabinets to store food safely and properly.
- Compile stories about the community, asking the children to make drawings, put together a book and then make copies so that families may enjoy it.

In the community:

- Carve and paint a new sign at the entrance to the community and for the school.
- Obtain wool and organise a gathering to learn how to knit.
- Think about and organise a campaign to eliminate rubbish and sources of potential infection.
- Build fences to avoid animals bringing dirt into the areas close to water pumping. Research safe ways for water storage and purification.
- Ask authorities and social organisations for support to implement an effective program to avoid the spreading of disease.
- Ask an agribusiness company for help in organising a community workshop on preventing accidents.
- Organise an awareness rising campaign on any subject deemed to be critical.
- Garner support to begin the building of a community centre.
- Help to improve rural health units or hospitals.

From A to Z; From Argentina to Zambia. Who participated the last time?

More than 200 rural schools and communities from Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Bolivia, Cuba, Costa Rica, Spain, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Republic of Azerbaijan, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Zambia participated in the **2nd Global Rural Community Football Gathering**. On the last Friday of October, 2010, thousands of children and youth played football celebrating solidarity actions they engaged in with their families to help improve their schools and communities. The results were extraordinary: vegetable gardens, mobile libraries, tree plantings, theatre performances, playgrounds, educational campaigns and even the building of a road 3500 meters above sea level between two previously isolated places. **Local actions but global communication. Photographs, testimonials and exchanges travel from one place on the planet to another through www.futbolrural.org.ar.**



Tree planting by students of a rural school in Zambia, and children at a school in a town close to Barcelona, Catalunya, Spain. Two of the hundreds of community actions carried out within the framework of this gathering.

An invitation to participate

This year, all rural schools of this country and abroad will once again have the opportunity to participate and organise their Gathering. Schools may be preschools, primary or secondary schools, regardless of orientation. In order to participate, a teacher, headmaster, school godfather or collaborator has to share his or her proposal at www.futbolrural.org.ar. Interested participants are also invited to send in their photographs, videos and any comments or suggestions about said Gathering.

Another way to participate is for those people who are in touch with rural communities or schools to share information with them or to just spread the news in different media or among friends and acquaintances. Helping them to manage certain aspects or carry out community actions will also be valued greatly. Many collaborators travel to schools or communities to offer their support. This experience is as enriching as it is unforgettable.

The role of our **Rural Community Network** and of many other organisations, institutions and individuals is to kick this idea off to a local, regional and global start. For further information about the Network or this **3rd Global Rural Community Football Gathering**, please call (5411) 4795-4455 or email: info@futbolrural.org.ar.

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