

Homeless World Cup

WORLD CUP with a difference

To many people they are just "street kids" who bother people when asking for a few cents or food. But many homeless youths and poor people on street corners have hidden talents that can change their lives.

To prove this, some of these "street kids" will be showing their talents at this year's Soccer World Cup – not the FIFA World Cup, but the Homeless World Cup. This special event will take place in Cape Town in September.

■ Soccer skills

From 24 to 30 September, about 500 homeless people from all corners of the world will be showing their soccer skills at the Grand Parade. South Africa will host the 10-day Homeless World Cup for the first time.

The Homeless World Cup started in Austria in 2003, and takes place every year. It was held in Scotland last year.

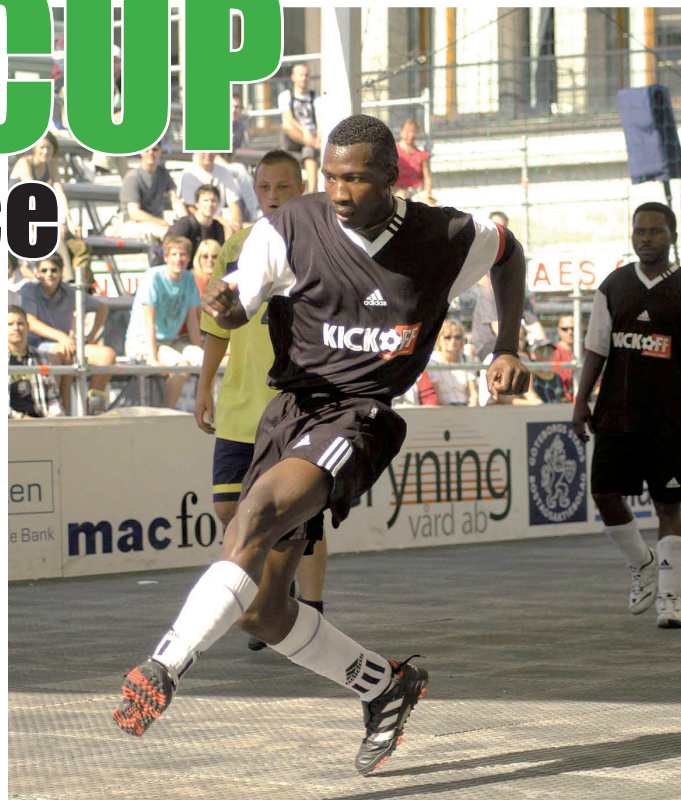
Organisations that work with homeless people, drug treatment centres and shelters, choose people from the age of 16 upwards to play in the tournament in these tournaments.

■ 'Big Issue'

The Homeless World Cup was started by community businessman Mel Young of Scotland. Young started the *Big Issue* magazine in 1993. The magazine is sold by homeless people at street corners worldwide. It has stories about homeless people and how they can improve their lives.

Since the magazine was started in South Africa in 1995, it has helped put more than R8 million into the pockets of homeless and jobless people.

The head of *Big Issue* in South Africa, Richard



Did you know?

There are about 100 million homeless people worldwide. Fifty countries participate in the Homeless World Cup. Italy was the winner in 2005. Most of the players said it has changed their lives.

For more information about the tournament, call (021) 461-6690.

Ishmail, said the tournament helped highlight the talents of soccer players who would otherwise not have a chance.

■ International support

Ishmail said they worked closely with the Department of Social Development. A task team will help to get other government departments into the project.

The tournament is supported by various international companies, as well as the South African Football Association, FIFA, and the SA 2010 FIFA World Cup Local Organising Committee. The matches will be shown on international television and broadcast on radio. SABC will show the final and highlights of the matches. - *Ndlovhuwo Khangale*