GUATEMALA CITY
A team from YAP’s sister agency Siembra Bien took center stage at the 16th annual Homeless World Cup in Mexico City this winter. Felicidades to the youth and Siembra Bien staff as the team personified the core values of respect, solidarity and collaboration and took second place in the tournament!

Siembra Bien Director Gabriela Altman attended the first Foro Internacional de Deportes y Paz (International Forum of Sport & Peace) at the El Palacio de Los Deportes in Guatemala City. As a panelist, Gabriela exchanged ideas on the use of sport to address violence in Guatemala and presented the effectiveness of futbol callejero (street soccer) as a mediation and peace-building strategy with youth and as a deterrent to joining a gang.

With the support of the Olympic Committee of Guatemala, Siembra Bien launched its "Soccer for Social Development" project. Based in the Zona 18 neighborhood (considered the most dangerous in Guat City because of the rate of illegal activity and gang presence), 117 youth are being trained as social mediators as part of the street soccer methodology to prevent violence and develop youth leaders.

COLORADO
What does the Denver team have to say about YAP Street Soccer?

“I love street soccer for the community, competition and the praise I get for playing. I love that I get to exercise and help fight my diabetes and make myself a better person.”

11 year-old Manny

“Street soccer is the highlight of my week. Watching YAP youth play soccer with smiles on their faces is so rewarding. I’m so proud of how respectful the youth are with one another. There is no hierarchy of talent. There is just one big YAP soccer team.”

-Assistant Director Cecilia Roche

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contributed by Jessica Viscuso & Robert McNamara, YAP International Interns
Monmouth University Solidarity with YAP Street Soccer

Monmouth University School of Social Work has always been a great partner to YAP and this year has been exceptional sharing a group of three interns with us. Gina Andrade, Jessica Viscuso and Rob McNamara have contributed tremendously to international and street soccer at YAP. Affectionately known as the Terrific Trio, we dedicate this edition of the newsletter to them, thank them and wish them all the best as they add an "MSW" to their names. You will be missed!

TERRIFIC TRIO STREET SOCCER HIGHLIGHTS

+The Trio presents a Street Soccer Seminar at Monmouth University to faculty, YAP staff and students

+The Trio is essential in planning and carrying out the #YAPGuatemalaLove social media campaign to raise funds for YAP's sister agency Siembra Bien

+Gina works with YAP's Sister Agency Siembra Bien for 10 weeks in Guatemala assisting with street soccer in Zona 18

+Rob and Jess teach a class on street soccer to 70 Monmouth students

+Jess presents on YAP street soccer at the UN Student Conference on Social Protections and Child Welfare

+Rob organizes a Shop Rite Grocery Bagging Fundraiser in New Jersey and raises funds for street soccer in Guatemala

+Jess presents a poster on YAP Street Soccer at a Social Inclusion Conference in Pennsylvania

+Rob develops a tool for measuring outcomes of YAP street soccer programs

+Gina presents to a crowd of 200 at Universidad de Valle in Guatemala on street soccer as a tool for social development

+The Trio gives a street soccer training to NJ YAP Directors

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