

#19.IT STARTS WITH SOCCER

REFUGEES AS SURVIVORS

Sine 2006, New Zealand

www.citiesofmigration.ca/good_idea/it-starts-with-soccer/

All information in this entry is sourced from the link above and contact mentioned in the document.

Topic relevance

PLAYING TOGETHER / SPECIFIC FOR REFUGEES / INCLUSION / GETTING OPPORTUNITIES / YOUTH ORIENTED / FOOTBALL / NETWORK

Factor of success CREATING OWNERSHIP

Type INITIATIVE/PROJECT

Language English

Target population

Young refugees in New Zealand

Further information / Contact

www.aucklandras.org.nz

www.facebook.com/RefugeesAsSurvivorsNZ/

Twitter

Contact, arif@rasnz.co.nz

Synthesis of the good example

This article presents the Refugees in Sport Initiative by Refugees Survivors and NGO based in Auckland, New Zealand. This initiative is using soccer to reduce social isolation of young refugees to create a sense of connection and belonging. Other sports are now also used in this way while specific sport workshops giving to participants a set of skills in their personal development.

Highlights and outcomes

This good example will help you to understand the success of empowering the youth by a sport known by all countries and language while addressing issues. It has been identified that the barriers, such as cost of services, language and cultural difference, are preventing refugees from participating in community activities. The example has developed many opportunities (specific for refugees, activities with local people) for young players involved to increase their skills and enter more confident to their new society. The number of partnership created from this project through cross-sector areas and the recognition of this program by the New Zealand Human Rights commission as part of their Diversity Action Program demonstrate the increasing success of the initiative. You could also find on this page webinars, further readings and tips for making it work for you.

Context and approach

Since 2006, Auckland city decided to use football as a deliberate and strategic tool to reduce the social isolation of young refugees. After a series of community consultations leading by Refugees As Survivors, this program has aimed to enable young refugees to achieve better access into sports and have a safe place for meeting up with new people where both part shared their experiences. The initiative has grown up and come over the original start with creating new outlooks such as partnerships with local soccer club and football federations across the country. They are providing to young players a "passport" which give them financial support to enable them join the club. Another example collected financial sponsorship from private companies for all refugee soccer team who play against local teams.

Information about project/organisation's holder

Refugees As Survivors (RAS) is a non-profit refugee mental health agency that provides services that include community development since 2006 in Auckland, New Zealand. RAS developed a series of practical programs to help refugees achieve better access into mainstream New Zealand sports and open centres for projects supported by the agency.