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## TAKE THE FIRST STEP - TRANSFORM LIVES TODAY!

Get ready to be inspired, to make a difference, and to join the Champions in Action movement.













It is our vision to share the **love of Jesus** with the youth and provide a safe space to express themselves. This is where **Champions in Action** comes in. We reach out to them and create connections through the vehicle of soccer, and we provide them the opportunity to join teams, which allows us to build relationships while also providing training and mentorship, allowing them to see possibilities beyond their current environment. We also meet their needs by **providing food, school supplies, educational** training, emergency help and spiritual mentoring.

But we are excited to do even more. We are excited to announce a new program that we pray will impact the world more than we can ask or imagine. It is called **Youth-2-Youth**. The idea is simple-build partnerships between your youth groups and our youth in Guatemala. We are hoping that youth groups across the world will join us as we seek to share the love of Jesus with the youth of Guatemala.

The youth of Guatemala are just like our youth. However, many of the kids in Guatemala do not have the same opportunities. Too many kids in Guatemala are trapped in dangerous communities called "red zones" which are surrounded by violence, poverty, prostitution, and gangs. They do not have access to regular meals, education opportunities, or people to simply love them and share the gospel.

This is where Youth-2-Youth comes in. Each youth group that decides to partner in this program will be linked with a specific Soccer Team/Youth Group. The heart of this program is uniting two different youth groups from different cultures and thousands of miles to encourage and support one another and grow closer to Christ.





Both youth groups (the US group and the Guatemalan Team) are encouraged to write letters to each other, get to know one another, and pray for each other. All communication will be done through the Team mentors and the Youth Pastors/Leaders. But the heart of the Youth-2-Youth is not only to support each other but to impact the world together! Each youth Youth-2-Youth partnership will also be provided the opportunity to do ministry together in Guatemala in the neighborhood of the team they partner with. Both groups will be doing outreach and evangelism side-by-side in the red zones where the Guatemalan youth live. This is the heart and impact of Youth-2-Youth—Youth that is changing the world.

Additionally, your youth group will also help and participate in an annual fundraiser called: The Youth-2-Youth "Athon". This is where your youth group gets together and decides to participate in its own fundraising "Athon-Event" such as, a jog-athon, bike-athon, walk-athon, skate-a thon or any type of "Athon" and raise funds to support their team in Guatemala.

Organizing these Youth-athons is simple. Youth pastors/leaders communicate the vision and give youths sign-up forms to gather sponsors from friends and family for each lap or mile, usually at a rate of one dollar per lap with a maximum of \$20. Each group can select their own "Athon" format and date. Champions provide all necessary sign-up materials. Additionally, the gathering provides an opportunity to welcome others, celebrate, and see the influence of God's work within the group.

After the youth group completes the event and collects the sponsorships, the money is sent to support their team in Guatemala. Champions in Action will also send updates to your youth groups on how God is moving and how their support has helped.



## INSTRUCTIONS

During the process a Youth-2-Youth-Athon event a Champions in Action team member will be there to support you through the whole process and answer any questions you may have. They will also give you the name of the team you will be partnering with. In addition to personal support, here is a basic list of instructions on how to have a "Athon" fundraising event.

- 1. Share the vision and purpose of the partnership with your Youth Group and Church.
- **2.** Download all forms from our website *www.championsinaction.org/youth-2-youth or* notify Champion in Actions of your desire to partner via email *jhouser@championsinaction.org*
- 3. Printout enough sign-up sheets for each participant.
- **4.** Chose a date and type of "Athon", such as bike, jog, walk or a combination of everything and then encourage the youth to get sponsors. Most sponsors tend to give \$1 dollar per lap and a \$20 dollar maximum. A typical sponsors tend to be family, church members, friends, teachers, neighbors, coaches, etc. You can even set a prize for the one who raises the most sponsorships.
- **5.** Most "Athons" are only about 1-2 hours in duration and then end with a celebration afterwards. We encourage you to make the event fun and have a youth party with food and games. The youth have done an amazing thing and are making a huge difference. Celebrate this accomplishment and new partnership. Invite others who are not part of the group to join in. It is a great opportunity for outreach.
- **6.** After the event, have each youth collect the donations from their sponsors. Then have the church send the total amount to Champions in Action.
- **7.** Champions in Action will be continue to work with the youth group and team to share updates and help build the relationship between your youth group and the team they have sponsored.
- **8.** Other opportunities to partner include, "Save a Child—Sponsor a Child, Volunteering at a Youth Soccer Camp during the summer and meeting the youth, and of course Prayers and Letters to the youth are always needed.



