



GCU NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our special edition newsletter.

From Mario desk...

To our fellow supporters,
As we reach the end of what can only be described as one of the highest achieving years for GCU, I wanted to write to you and thank you personally for the support you have given us. Many of the achievements from this year simply would not have been possible without the continual support and from the bottom of my heart I cannot thank you enough.

This newsletter represents a walk through the year with GCU and I think you will agree that GCU has really grown and has the potential to achieve even more in 2012. Our program, now after 10 years, offers our members so much more than football and we are starting to make a significant impact on education and life skills.

With a team of now 8 coaches, GCU is working more towards offering more opportunities to those who show themselves to be positive role models and pass on their skills and knowledge to the next generation.



In June I had the privilege of presenting GCU at the Summit against Violent Extremism in Ireland by Google Ideas and attended a fundraising event in Guernsey with Goal50 for an orphanage.

In October I attend a conference in London hosted by Laureus Sport for Good Foundation, and visited Larbert High in Scotland.

Mario & The Rude Boys was also televised over in New Zealand, it was a very success full year for us in terms of networking.



One of the reasons we made so much strides this year was the appointment of additional staff, we went from 3-8 coaches. They play a vital role in our program; they have become much more than coaches we call them Life Skill Mentors. All our coaches have come through the program and are from the community which makes work a little bit easier. They know what is expected from them and we are trying hard to equip them to be on top of their game. A lot is new for them they have had to make a lot of adjustments to their lives and they are up for the challenge.

Life skills training



coaching training



tutoring training



Garden



beatifying the library



reading



“Whatever the route of change the transition process is the same. First shock, some Adjustment, Contradiction, Crisis and then Recovery and Reconstruction. Change can happen in an instant but complete transition can take months even years if crisis is extended.”

Sometimes people think I'm crazy when I rave about the importance of education in gangs. To lots of people education gives identity it is so important to have a masters degree today to live and earn a good living. Gangs have there own language and it makes them feel important just picture a boy that cant read, no place in society, cant stand being laughed at, meets a gangster that went through the same and takes him in, he teaches him the language and it gives him the identity and the rest is history. We have put our education program on top of our list this year. We were so desperate to make it work; we have made big strides but are taking small steps. Woodlands Primary has become a big part of our program as we believe the school plays a vital role in our community. This year we played a coordinating role for several individuals and corporate who wanted to make and see a difference on the school.

Painting of school



From old to new...



What a difference the library has made ...



The garden has been going well, but still lots to be done...



Our tutoring program is fast becoming the cornerstone of our project. It has grown so fast in the last 3 months. For years we have been trying hard to get the program going, and believe our perseverance has paid off. We know have a structure in place that will benefit our members in a big way, we are just taking it step by step...



On the field we did very well, we didn't win as much trophies as we would like but have won in other areas. Seeing the boys becoming more confident making new friends, we believe this is much more worth then trophies. The rope skipping girls had a big year winning 23 medals at nationals which is a huge achievement...



We were very privilege in hosting several volunteers at our program during the year; they certainly made huge contribution to our program.



What 2012 is holding for GCU? To insure we build on the structures we have implemented this year which we believe will take us from strength to strength.

The launch of our new basketball program for girls is taking of and we very excited about the project. The program will give our girls more opportunities which are so much needed.

We believe in dreams and several years ago I dreamt of having a GCU orphanage. As GOD is my witness it is going to happen in 2012 we in the planning process as the 50k mark was reached by Goal50 in Guernsey.

I would like to apologize for the lack of communication this year. This is an aspect of GCU which we are looking to improve significantly for next year to ensure you feel part of the GCU family.

There are some things that simply cannot be put into words and whilst this newsletter represents a lot of the achievements from this year there are many things on a daily basis which have to be seen to be believed.

We at GCU invite you to come and see for yourself the impact your support as made in our in the community and experience it for yourself. Please get in touch if you would like to visit the project.

As you know GCU is a charity and as such we rely largely on donations, if you would like to make a donation please feel free to contact us.

Have a Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year. God Bless you and your family over this time and travel safe.

Mario Van Niekerk