



## Our Players: Global Ambassadors

For inspiration let us introduce you to some of the players who have transformed their lives following their participation in the Homeless World Cup annual tournament, using football to beat homelessness.

### Michelle Da Silva, Brazil



Michelle was born in 1990 into the famous Favela portrayed in the film 'The City of God.' All her life she has lived for football and is on a courageous journey out of poverty and exclusion through sport.

Michelle was selected to represent Brazil at the Copenhagen 2007 Homeless World Cup where she won the best female player and was noticed by Eric Cantona as player that stood out during his training session. So it was no surprise when on returning to Brazil she was swiftly selected to be part of Brazil's women's under 20's national team and is one of the players selected for the 2010 South America Cup. She is a speedy striker, with strong force and determination on the pitch.



**Michelle says:** The Homeless World Cup is about a major life experience. You create friendships and set the right attitude to succeed in your life and in football."

### David Duke, Scotland



David Duke played for Scotland at the Gothenburg 2004 Homeless World Cup when he was homeless battling issues with alcohol following the death of his father. It got him back into football and he decided he wanted to pursue a career in football coaching completing his Scottish Football Association coaching badges to become a certified youth coach.

David became the assistant coach for Team Scotland at the Edinburgh 2005 Homeless World Cup and rose to become manager and take Team Scotland to victory at the Copenhagen 2007 Homeless World Cup beating Poland 9-3. The same week David became a homeowner and collected the keys to his new home.

David is now a budding social entrepreneur having set up Street Soccer Scotland to use football to help homeless people in Scotland. It is already working with 500 homeless people providing weekly coaching sessions, an academy providing essential life skills and a national league that kicked-off this 2011.



**David says:** "The Homeless World Cup was the rope that allowed me to pull myself out of a very dark hole. It helped me and now I can help others. When homeless people say to me I can't change, I say yes you can. I did. So can you."

## Patrick Mbue, France



Patrick arrived in France from Rwanda. He found himself in a strange country, without a work permit, and unable to earn an income he became homeless.

Patrick joined the football team at the homeless organisation Collectif Remse en Jeu where his talent was clear and his team spirit was noted. He was soon selected to play for France at the Copenhagen 2007 Homeless World Cup.

Committed to "Collectif Remise en Jeu" and supporting people on the margins of society he went on to become the coach for the French national Homeless World Cup team and led them to the Melbourne 2008 and Milan 2009 tournaments. He is also the secretary of the organisation and a member of Local Organizing Committee for the Paris 2011 Homeless World Cup and a coach with Paris St Germain Football Club.



**Patrick says:** "My participation in the Homeless World Cup brought about a profound personal change. It allowed me to regain my self-respect to take important steps in my life and I was also able to regain a high standard of play in my game."

## Nathan Bowen, England



Nathan was homeless, living in the Brighton and Hove Foyer for two years, a hostel for vulnerable young people who would otherwise be living on the streets.

He went along to the trials to play for Team England at the Copenhagen 2007 Homeless World Cup. He impressed coaches so much with his attitude that he was selected to play in the team and elected the Team Captain.

He progressed quickly after the Homeless World Cup and completed his coaching qualifications. Nathan now has his own home, living with his girlfriend, and is a coach with Brighton, Hove and Albion Football Club. Here he is excited about a football programme being set up to work with homeless people in the local area to get them back in the game and their lives on track.



**Nathan says:** "When you go out there (on the pitch) it doesn't matter who you're against, where they've come from, you play sport and you are even. Hearing what some of the teams have had to do to get to the Homeless World Cup and what they have to live with in their own country, particularly African countries, really encourages you not to take things for granted and puts our problems into perspective."

**A BALL CAN CHANGE THE WORLD**