

Street soccer: an NGO uses sport as a therapy to work with homeless people

LOCATION: Seville

DURATION: 1'42"

SUMMARY: Soccer as a therapy to recover self-esteem, sports to clear the mind and work with values such as solidarity, compromise and perseverance. The Rais Foundation is an NGO that works with homeless people. This association has started the 'Street Soccer Program' in Seville, aimed at homeless people.

VTR:

AMBIENCE: -"Forty-four."

- "Forty-four."

Today this soccer team starts training, a team promoted by this day centre of the Rais Foundation in Seville.

ISMAEL RUIZ
Soccer player

"When people arrive to the training sessions they forget about the problems they have, they push them away."

Because the players of this team are homeless people. Soccer is a therapy for them. They use sport to clear their minds and to find a way to face difficulties.

AMBIENCE: "We are a team without a roof, we build the roof with our behaviour in the field, with union."

AMBIENCE: "I have forgotten my kneepads at home, so don't start kicking! Ok?"

AMBIENTE: "If we don't warm up seriously, we will be stopping the game every five minutes. Let's focus on the injuries we have, ok?"

PEDRO MENDOZA
Soccer player

"It helps us putting our minds somewhere else. You are not all day thinking of the fact that you are in the street and tomorrow you will be there, that you don't have anything to eat..."

JOAQUÍN ALCAIDE
Social worker and coach

"That's the particular goal of this type of initiatives, breaking this cycle so people can find a motivation, hope that makes them saying that they want to get out of all that, that they are going to fight for it."

NGOs estimate that there are 33.000 homeless people in Spain, people who lost in life. The Rais Foundation works with this collective but, why soccer?

JOAQUÍN ALCAIDE
Social worker and coach

"Soccer is an excuse to approach the person, you create a personalized itinerary to look for all the ways possible to make them getting out of their situation."

Last year, this team from Seville won the Spanish Championship of Street Soccer organized by the foundation. Will they achieve it again? Who knows? They are a homeless team and the less important thing is the score.

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