



## IDAHO RUSH SOCCER CLUB

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### \*\*\* PRESS RELEASE \*\*\*

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## Idaho Rush Soccer coaches go Barefoot for Bare Feet

There are more than 300 million children in the world who have never owned a pair of shoes, so it doesn't seem like much to have more than 100 coaches from Idaho Rush Soccer coach a game in their bare feet for a single day. But through their efforts and the efforts of their players, the club hopes to raise enough money to give 500 kids a new pair of shoes.

"As a coach who will be barefoot myself, I'm hoping that the day will be warm and sunny," said Carlos Correa, director of coaching for the Select program at Idaho Rush. "But as an Idahoan, I know it could be cold, rainy or even snowy that day. It could be fun to see so many coaches wiggling their toes in an inch of snow!"

Coaches for the club's 100-plus Select and Competitive youth soccer teams have been asked to coach their games on Saturday, March 6, in their bare feet in support of Samaritan's Feet, a non-profit dedicated to delivering shoes to impoverished children around the world. Players and their families will be asked to donate \$5 or more toward that effort via text message or online donations. The club settled on that number because it is small enough that most players could reach it themselves, and because through purchasing and shipping agreements arranged by Samaritan's Feet, \$5 is enough to get a new pair of shoes into a child's hands.



Idaho Rush officially kicked off the Blue Toe 2010 fundraising effort on Monday, Feb. 15, the day most teams began training outdoors for the spring season. Parents and players have until Saturday, March 6, to make their contribution toward a suggested goal of \$50 per team. Idaho Rush has asked Samaritan's Feet that all money raised during the Blue Toe be directed toward earthquake relief efforts in Haiti.

Samaritan's Feet has seen a number of coaches across the country coach in their bare feet, most notably men's basketball coach Ron Hunter of IUPUI. More than 3,000 basketball coaches at all levels have participated so far, but this may be the first time an entire organization has done it – outdoors. Idaho Rush plans to promote the program to the other 26 Rush Soccer affiliates across the country in the hopes of getting other coaches involved.

*For more information or to arrange interviews, contact Mark French at 336-6512 or [mfrench@idahorush.com](mailto:mfrench@idahorush.com).*



*"Where the trails of passion and purpose meet begins the path to victory."*

## **TO DONATE**

Samaritan's Feet can put a new pair of shoes in a child's hands for \$5. To donate to Idaho Rush's Blue Toe 2010 benefiting Samaritan's Feet:

- \* Text the word "shoes" to 85944 and \$5 will be added to your phone bill.
- \* Go to [www.samaritansfeet.com](http://www.samaritansfeet.com) to donate online using PayPal or a credit card.
- \* Mail or bring checks to Idaho Rush Soccer, 270 S. Orchard, Boise, ID 83705. Be sure to add the words "Blue Toe 2010" in the memo line.
- \* Due to purchasing and shipping arrangements made by Samaritan's Feet, cash donations are strongly recommended by Samaritan's Feet. Donations of actual shoes may be delivered to the Idaho Rush office at 270 S. Orchard. Shoes must be new and unworn.

## **ABOUT SAMARITAN'S FEET**

Samaritan's Feet is a humanitarian non-profit relief organization dedicated to taking a life-changing message of hope and equipping the feet of impoverished children in the U.S. and around the world with shoes. The organization has committed to delivering 10 million shoes for 10 million impoverished people in 10 years, and so far has delivered 2.5 million pairs of shoes for projects in the U.S. and abroad. Samaritan's Feet currently has committed 100,000 pair of shoes to earthquake relief in Haiti and 100,000 pair of shoes to be distributed in South Africa during the upcoming 2010 World Cup. Through their arrangements with shoe manufacturers, they are able to buy a pair of new shoes in the hands of a child for \$5. For more information, go to [www.samaritansfeet.org](http://www.samaritansfeet.org).

## **ABOUT CYSA/IDAHO RUSH SOCCER**

CYSA/Idaho Rush Soccer is Idaho's oldest soccer organization, providing recreational and competitive soccer for more than 3,000 boys and girls ages 4 to 18 in Boise, Eagle and Meridian. Idaho Rush players pride themselves not only on their soccer accomplishments, but on their ongoing participation in community service projects such as Rake Up Boise, TOPSoccer (for players with physical or mental disabilities), and our One World Soccer program for refugees. Idaho Rush one of 22 affiliates in the national Rush Soccer organization.