SPORT AT THE SERVICE OF HUMANITY CONFERENCE

A PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE

SPORTS

The universal language of Sport provides us with the power to change, to transform people, attitudes and societies. From small beginnings, FC Barcelona has already taken action to make a difference to the lives of refugees, particularly children. As a result of their discussions at the 2016 Sport at the Service of Humanity Conference and Villanova University, and harnessing the power of the business, technology and culture sectors, we have been excited and encouraged by the ways in which conference delegates have embraced the SSH principles and brought them to life through initiatives and projects on the ground, but we also aim to be a role model. It is our hope that over time, other organizations will follow this example.

The problems faced by refugees are not uncommon among the poorest of the poor is what the Rev. Peter M. Donohue, a graduate of the University of Scranton and Villanova University, said the BBC’s World Service’s Andrew McMillan. “Both are powerful platforms, both have a common purpose in the promotion of human values, and both have a powerful potential to unite people from all walks of life like never before,” he added, “unite people from all walks of life like never before.”

ATHLETICS AT THE UNIVERSITY LEVEL ARE A MEANS TO AN END—ONE STEPPING STONE ON THE PATH TO A BETTER LIFE.

Ackerman added: “Athletics at the university level are a means to an end—one stepping stone on the path to a better life.” USC President Max Nikias agreed. “Youth sports are not just about winning,” he said. “They are about building character, teaching values, goals that can be set and achieved. Athletics at the university level can provide a more balanced college experience that will send graduates into the world ready to think critically, to be engaged citizens, capable of enriching the world.”

THE IMPORTANCE OF AUTISM

For many, the issue of autism is one of the most pressing and relevant today. A “Sports kit”, which was developed with the help of the Special Olympics and the UNHCR, allows children with disabilities to have fun and enjoy sports.

In an ever-fractured world, political refugees — face some of the strongest forms of discrimination, especially youth and those with intellectual disabilities — have a right to live in dignity, with equal opportunities and protection. Representing a special needs community, Special Olympics volunteers are on their way to a number of field locations. It includes innovatively designed sports facilities, support for athletes with intellectual disabilities who is literally chained like an animal.

TIM SHRIVER

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

“Changing the Label: This Child Will Get a New Name"..."This child will get a new label: ‘Athlete!’”

A mission is simple: in the days ahead, we have the opportunity to meet with the President of Villanova University and to stand before those assembled in Rome to discuss the ways in which university athletics programs are an ideal platform to build character and teach values, goals that can be set and achieved. Athletics at the university level can provide a more balanced college experience that will send graduates into the world ready to think critically, to be engaged citizens, capable of enriching the world, "Athletics at the university level are a means to an end—one stepping stone on the path to a better life.

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