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## Using Soccer to Inspire and Empower

### Message from the President

Dear Street Soccer supporters, The past several months have brought us many amazing adventures. VSSL players have participated in the June Sports and Comox tournaments.

We have sent volunteers to present at the American Psychiatric Association Conference and most recently, sent two players to the Homeless World Cup in Poland.

All this would never have been possible without help from people like you. Thank you all for making the VSSL all that it is.

Sincerely,

Steve McMinn  
President



[Check out our June Sports Thank You video!](#)



## Dennis' Journey to the Homeless World Cup: Poznan 2013

Life hasn't been easy for Dennis. But ever since he was chosen to travel to Poznan

Poland to compete in the Homeless World Cup, things have gotten better.

The 24 year old was one of two players who were selected as part of the Vancouver Street Soccer League's contingent to join half a dozen other players from across Canada to represent their country in Poland.

He says the opportunity to lace up his boots for Team Canada was an incredible experience and highlighted just how far he had come since he first joined the VSSL in 2009. At that time, he was nervous, struggling with withdrawal and unsure of himself and whether he should even be at the practice.

It was the camaraderie that kept him plugged in. Once he was hooked, Dennis says soccer kept him from relapsing into old (and bad) habits.

"It's hard to do drugs when you are running around sweaty three days of the week," he says.

Now after close to two weeks of games in Poland, Dennis is on his way back to Canada from Poland. His team is taking with them the Fair Play Award along with a boatload of memories of a lifetime.

Now, off the streets, Dennis is hopeful to line up a full time job now that he says he has motivation to achieve his goals. To those who have supported his trip to Poland he has one thing to say.

"Thanks a lot for contributing and donating. It is so great that people aren't turning their noses up at people who are homeless," he says.

### Street Soccer Fall Kickoff!

We have an exciting new tournament planned to cap off the summer in style! **This event will take place at Gaston Park (close to the Joyce-Collingwood skytrain station) on August 31 from 12 PM - 5 PM.**

All are welcome!



### Get Involved

We are always looking for new volunteers to help with coaching and other VSSL activities.

If you want to get involved, [email us here](#).

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