



# THE SOURCE

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## Fairweather Employees Don't Let the Weather Get In Their Way!

By Craven Vasquez, Vocational Coordinator

The arctic blast of 2011 that hit North Texas earlier this month caught the whole city off guard but the Fairweather Project Managers and Cleaning Crews were ready for the challenge with ice melt and snow shovels at all of our contract locations.

Kudos go out across the board, but one specific success story was with Christopher Cobb, who works as part of the cleaning crew at the Majestic Theatre in downtown Dallas. Mr. Cobb was shoveling ice and snow from the pathway by the front entrance of the theatre and was spontaneously interviewed by a reporter from Channel 8 news. There are other success stories as well, but we are proud to report that every challenge was met.



Founded in 2004 by Lawrence Cann, Street Soccer USA (SSUSA) is a national non-profit organization that promotes, advocates, and utilizes the power of soccer as a vehicle for intervention, education and empowerment among homeless teens, men and women living in the United States. SSUSA is a national league of sport for social change programs in cities across the country. Teams train and compete in local leagues. Players commit to change their lives by setting three, six, and 12 month personal goals. With the assistance of coaches and volunteers, each player is held accountable to meet – and even exceed – their vision for a better self. By creating a team structure that is fun, positive, and universal, it provides participants with a family-like support group that helps build relationships of trust and stability. Each player is fundamentally challenged by team and personal demands, expectations and accountability; helping to build character, confidence, and hope. Distinct SSUSA populations we serve may include: LifeNet Clients, Sheltered Homeless, Non Sheltered Homeless, Recovery Houses and Immigrant Populations.



these programs and help reduce homelessness in the United States. The program model stems from the observation that by and large the homeless have few relationships of trust, are isolated, don't plan for the future, possess low self esteem, and are frustrated and overwhelmed by the obstacles that poverty presents.

Through the Street Soccer USA process players: build relationships of trust, improve teamwork skills, punctuality, and anger management; improve mental and physical health; increase self esteem; feel a greater sense of purpose and direction in life by setting 3, 6, and 12 month goals; and identify barriers to progress as well as opportunities for overcoming those barriers.

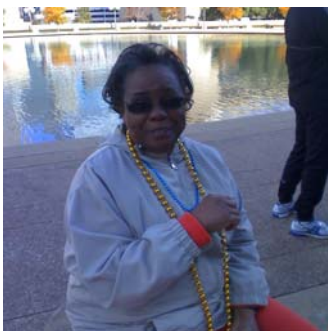
It stands to reason that our players, having gone through this process and achieved positive outcomes in the areas outlined above, will be more likely to achieve their goals of Job Placement, Housing Placement, Educational Advancement and Re-connecting with Family. Ultimately, SSUSA aims to get homeless men, women, and youth off the streets, "scoring goals on the field, and achieving their goals in life."

(Read more about LifeNet's team on page 4.)

SSUSA believes that adding a layer of sports intervention to existing homeless services programs will enhance

## Homeless Walkathon

This is somewhat belated, but here are some pictures of LifeNet staff and clients participating in the Help the Homeless Walkathon and 5k which took place last November. These folks are to be commended for their enthusiasm and dedication.



# CELEBRATIONS

## HAPPY FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES!

*This person has the dubious distinction of being the only employee who was hired in the month of February!*

Dr. Lefkof..... 1 year

## HAPPY FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

Crystal Garland .....02/01  
 Cynthia Hamala .....02/01  
 Dr. Lefkof.....02/04  
 Lacey Elliott..... 2/11  
 Laura Bickerstaff .....02/27  
 Tiffany Claxton.....02/27



Our Monthly **STAFF POT LUCK LUNCH** Honoring the February “Birthday Babies” will be on **Friday, February 25 , 12:00 to 1:00**, in the Staff Break Room.

Thank you to **Pfizer** for treating us to lunch this month, so it really won’t be a “Pot Luck” Lunch after all!



Lacking self esteem?



Need a friend?



Take time out for a good old belly laugh!



Remember—everyone goofs up sometimes!





# GO TEAM!

## LifeNet Becomes Dallas' Official Street Soccer USA Sponsoring Agency

LifeNet is now officially registered with Street Soccer USA, and Dallas is one of 21 cities in the US to have a team. Street Soccer USA is targeted to homeless people and homeless mentally ill people. They report a rate of 75% overcoming homelessness within a year of joining and participating in Street Soccer USA. Kudos to Brandon Long for heading up this highly effective program. During cold weather, our team is practicing on Fridays from 2:00 pm until 3:20 pm at the Jewish Community Center on North Haven near Royal, in a basketball practice gym.

Here are comments from Matt Valentine, chief sponsor and coordinator of LifeNet's Team in an email dated 1/21/11:

"We had our first practice today. From my perspective, it couldn't have gone any better. They have very little (if any) soccer experience which I think will allow them to see greater progress and thus a more rewarding experience. The enthusiasm and willingness/desire to learn was infectious. While in the locker room changing, Jay Mason overheard the players saying that they really needed this—something fun to do. One of the players told Brandon (our LifeNet connection) that it was the most fun he had had in years. Thank you for helping us get started and know that we have just begun. I have attached a photo of our inaugural players (top row: Stephen, Cory Nicholas; bottom row: Raymond, Gregory, Michael).



LifeNet's Street Soccer USA Team  
Just after their first practice.



*Matt Valentine, Coach  
Dallas Street Soccer USA  
Team*

"I will be reaching out to many individuals and businesses over the next few weeks to help start our "Fan Club.""

For more information about Street Soccer USA please see their website: [www.streetsoccerusa.org](http://www.streetsoccerusa.org)