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For More Information:
Ashley Donecker
212.868.9510 x306
adonecker@americascorers.org

ONE PASSBACK FOR A CHILD, ONE LEAP FORWARD FOR A COMMUNITY
America SCORES affiliates benefit from the U.S. Soccer Foundation's Annual Passback Tour

NEW YORK, NY – July 18, 2008: This summer, America SCORES participants around the country are fortunate to be beneficiaries of the U. S. Soccer Foundation's 2nd Annual Passback Tour.

The Passback Tour is an initiative of the Foundation's Passback Program which helps schools, clubs, and youth organizations by providing them with new and gently used soccer equipment regardless of income, gender, or location. The Annual Passback Tour distributes equipment at a series of soccer clinics held for urban youth across the nation. America SCORES, the only national after-school program that uses soccer and poetry to teach teamwork, engage students, and inspire community awareness, has participating affiliates in ten of this year's thirteen Passback cities.

"The Passback program has been outstanding for us," says E.J. Jepsen, Soccer Director of America SCORES Dallas. "Passback hasn't just had an impact on America SCORES, but on the entire community we serve. We have a great relationship with the U.S. Soccer Foundation, and I can definitely see America SCORES working with Passback for a long time to come."

America SCORES provides services to public elementary school students in inner-city neighborhoods across the country with decreased economic and social resources. From April to July 2008, America SCORES affiliates in Milwaukee, Dallas, Denver, Miami, New England, Los Angeles, Chicago, St. Louis, Washington D.C., and finally New York City have benefited from the Passback Tour clinics. During the clinics, which are run by professional players and some of the best soccer coaches in the country, thousands of participants from America SCORES and other beneficiary programs are given the opportunity to learn valuable soccer skills, share healthy snacks, and each receive a free soccer ball and jersey courtesy of generous partners, including Eurosport, SCORE, American Soccer Company, Inc. and Sunsweet Growers.

Jessica Sherman, the Director of Education for America SCORES Miami, described the recent Miami Passback event as, "Festive! The kids had a lot of

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fun. They hung out with the Miami FC mascot, had raffles for soccer apparel, and they got free food and stickers. America SCORES Miami would love to participate in Passback again!"

America SCORES is proud to have benefited from Passback since the program's inception. With the second annual tour wrapping up, it appears that a towering sequoia has spawned from the grassroots efforts of the U. S. Soccer Foundation and its partners! The relationship between America SCORES and Passback continues to grow, and has the potential to benefit many thousands of children in the coming years.

About America SCORES

America SCORES is a national model for youth development targeting girls and boys in urban neighborhoods that offer few, if any, recreational programs. This five-day per week after-school program works to enrich the lives of inner-city youth through regular participation and skill building in creative writing and soccer. Teamwork – the key to success in both education and sports – is the common denominator. For more information, visit www.AmericaSCORES.org.

About the Passback Program

The Passback Program is a joint effort between the U.S. Soccer Foundation, Eurosport, and Major League Soccer to help meet the soccer uniform and equipment needs of all communities, regardless of income, gender or location. Since its inception, the program has grown enormously and thousands of pieces of equipment have been collected and distributed to schools, clubs and youth organizations across the nation. From a small school in Zimbabwe to an after-school program in inner-city New York, Passback gear has found its way to all corners of the globe, but we know we can do more! Participate in Passback and help us reach our ultimate goal of collecting and distributing a million pieces of equipment! Thousands of lives will be changed because of your efforts. For more information, visit www.Passback.org.

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