



Dear School Officials,

*Grassroot Soccer* is fighting to save the lives of children in Africa, and we need your students and community to help! Grassroot Soccer is a non-profit 501c3 organization (Federal Tax I.D. # 43-1957920) that uses the power of soccer in the fight against AIDS by empowering African youth with the knowledge, skills and support to live HIV-free. We train professional soccer players, teachers, coaches, clinic workers, peer educators, and other powerful community role models in the world's most HIV-affected countries to deliver prevention messages to the children who idolize them. Through interactive games and activities the GRS Curriculum creates a fun, friendly and safe environment in which children can open up and discuss all the sensitive issues surrounding HIV/AIDS. Grassroot Soccer's founders – Dr. Tommy Clark, Ethan Zohn (winner, *Survivor: Africa*), Methembe Ndlovu (former Captain, Zimbabwe National Team), and Kirk Friedrich – all have strong Africa ties forged while playing professional soccer in Zimbabwe. We all had close friends infected with HIV, and many others who died of AIDS. But we also understood how dominant soccer was in the culture. This inspired us to empower the most influential community role models, our soccer teammates, to teach children about HIV/AIDS transmission and prevention and developing healthy life skills.

*Lose the Shoes* is Grassroot Soccer's US-based awareness and fundraising campaign that gives American students the opportunity to learn more about the global HIV/AIDS epidemic and empowers them to get personally involved in the solution. *Lose the Shoes* is driven solely by the interest, compassion and motivation of American kids and their desire to join Grassroot Soccer's fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa. Students from dozens of high schools and colleges across the country are finding their own ways to take action. Working with their entire student body, individual sports team, student council, or HIV/AIDS club, these students are organizing various community events to raise awareness about HIV/AIDS in the world and raise money to support Grassroot Soccer's HIV prevention education programs in Africa.

We thank you sincerely for your interest and support, and encourage you to check [www.kickaids.org](http://www.kickaids.org) to learn more about *Lose the Shoes* tournaments and our fight against the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Yours Faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas S. Clark MD".

Thomas S. Clark, MD  
Founder, CEO  
Grassroot Soccer, Inc.