



**Information  
&  
Expression of Interest  
Pack**



## What is THG?

**The Homeless Games** is an initiative which provides 'multi-sport activities' for people over the age of 18 years who are or have experienced homelessness in the last 2 years, on Merseyside initially but with support from organisations like yours, expanding the scope to an eventual World stage.

In 2010, **The Homeless Games** was held on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> September at Litherland Sports Park, Netherton Activity Centre and Bootle Leisure Centre with the presentation and closing ceremony at Crosby Lakeside Adventure Centre, engaging approximately 180 participants from Greater Merseyside over the main two day event plus around 20 volunteers.

With the support of organisations like yours, we managed to give services to those affected by homelessness including massage, health MOT's, alternative therapies, beauty treatments, health promotion, stop smoking advice, alcohol abuse advice, sexual health advice and cancer and diabetes awareness, giving a huge boost in confidence and knowledge base to all involved.

2011 widened its reach to include the North West, engaging around 450 people over the two day event including rough sleepers and it is hoped in the future The Homeless Games will cover 4 UK nations and an International event.

The outcomes for The Homeless Games are:

- Improved health and well-being of homeless people
- Increased social inclusion
- Increased feelings of self-worth, self-belief and self-confidence
- Increased sense of pride and achievement
- Increased engagement in diversionary activity and support services
- Improved mental and physical health
- Increased opportunity for personal progression

Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire Service, Liverpool PCT, Liverpool Council, Sefton PCT, Sefton Council, Knowsley Council, Arena housing, Liverpool Housing Trust, Cosmopolitan Housing, One Vision Housing, Riverside, the Lighthouse Project, MAS, Homeless Link, Create and Knowsley Housing Trust are just a few of the agencies that supported The Homeless Games in different ways in previous Games and it is hoped that they and other organisations such as your own will continue to support THG.

Patrons have and do include Ann O'Byrne (Deputy Mayor of Liverpool), David Price (Olympic Boxer), Margaret Kelly MBE, Rachel Brown (International Goalkeeper), Steve Smith (Olympic High Jumper) and Melissa Reeves (former Miss Galaxy UK).

The **Homeless Games** have been successes, giving participants a sense of achievement with feedback indicating that we have given incentive and motivation to people who had lost their sense of self-worth and self-esteem.

We have begun a program of courses and events to connect with the homeless population to provide health monitoring, physical and mental well-being, cookery and self-help, pampering sessions for the ladies and links with other organisations giving money management techniques and training in IT and digital inclusion.

## What does THG do?

**THG** has arranged and organised provision for health and well-being stalls and services including Cancer Awareness, Drink Awareness, Substance Misuse, Sexual Health Advice, Massage, Health Checks, Premier League Health Courses, Dental Advice, Healthy Eating and Dietary Advice were made available to all those who attended the main two day event. These were offered in conjunction with the local area Primary Care Trusts, the local Premier League Football Clubs (Everton Foundation and Liverpool Football Club), Age Concern and Local Authorities.

The **THG** team have also arranged and run ancillary services and drop-in programmes in association with Men's Accommodation and Support (MAS), Age Concern, The Salvation Army and Liverpool Football Club – Men's Health Promotion Programme giving health checks, health advice, dietary services, cookery classes, cancer awareness, diabetes checks, gym access and fitness advice and a cookery competition – Dave's Kitchen Cook-Off.

Over the two day main event in 2010, **THG** managed to engage approximately 180 participants, although due to a transport issue and two confirmed women's hostels pulling out of the event at the last minute, numbers did not reach our original target of 250 participants. This increased to 450 in 2011 and over 500 in 2013 and 2014.



Together with ancillary events and services provided both before and after the main two day event, **THG** has managed to engage and reach over 500 individuals within the first nine months.

As a means to facilitate further engagement of women service users, **THG** has begun the implementation of women only pamper days including hair and beauty treatments, gym activity and sexual health advice and services.

As part of this program, THG has organised both a ladies day and a men's day in association with Liverpool Lighthouse to provide hairdressing, massage, reflexology and pampering just before Christmas to help make our beneficiaries make the best of the festive season. We had 94 service users attend during the six hour open event which included a hot meal together with tea/coffee and biscuits all free of charge to our beneficiaries.

**THG** have also arranged photography and cinematography courses in association with Men's Accommodation & Support (MAS) to promote further education and training and to facilitate progression of interests and to give routes into possible future employment.



## Making a difference!

**THG** aims to provide opportunity, structure and choice for every homeless person to participate in the Homeless Games, suitable to their needs.

We aim to work closely with partners and agencies to improve the quality of homeless people's lives by delivering change through sport, health promotion, social inclusion, training and education.

**The Homeless Games** aims to give opportunity to engage in sport, in a safe and secure environment with a range of sporting activities to suit all needs, with support of professional coaches, training staff and health support workers.

Using sport to engage the homeless population and open doors to give dignity, rebuild confidence, give choice and to give information on a range of health issues, education, training and social inclusion.

Giving continued support long after the games, allowing participants to progress into areas of interest with training and qualifications being made available.

To break down barriers between local authorities, PCT's and other organisations traditionally restricted to geographical boundaries to get everyone working together towards a common goal.

Together we can share knowledge, experience and resources to make a difference to the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves, and at the end of the day, it could be any one of us in a similar situation.

It is all well and good having ideas and good intentions, but without acting upon those ideas you cannot make a difference.

‘Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. If one of you say to him (or her), “Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed,” but does nothing about their physical needs, what good is it?’

Really, what good is it? Don't just say it or think it – ACTION IT!

Homelessness, united through sport!



## Looking to the future and beyond!

**The Homeless Games** has ongoing programmes within the Merseyside area to engage the homeless population and continue to facilitate change for the better in the lives of our beneficiaries.

These programmes include pamper days for ladies, sports development within the hostel system and providing access to sport for all those wishing to have the opportunity to improve their lives.

As part of our legacy program, **THG** have provided and aim to continue to provide sports equipment to hostels that have limited or no provision for sporting activity to their residents.

2011 seen **The Homeless Games** increase its profile and geographical coverage and capacity to encompass the North West region of England with engagement of approximately 450 participants over the two day event.

The main event of **The Homeless Games** included the following sporting events:

- Cycling
- 5-a-side Football
- Darts
- Swimming
- Pool
- Archery
- Track & Field
- Board Games  
(inc. Chess & Draughts)
- Basketball
- Kwik Cricket
- Table Tennis / Tennis

With extra activities just for fun to get everyone involved between sports including a climbing wall provided by Merseyside Fire Service, which due to a large interest was turned into an awarded 'speed climb' event within the Games medal ceremony.



To support and assist in the extra work load that our expansion would create, **THG** plan to recruit part-time workers to be chosen from applicants from a homeless background to further engage and facilitate our commitment within our objectives to give opportunity and help improve the lives of those affected by homelessness and its associated issues, our plan being to train or assist in any required training to enhance future job prospects of those that we take on.

Further development and expansion will increase participant numbers and include Scotland, Ireland and Wales and is the intention that International Guest Nations will be invited to partake in future Homeless Games.



## How can you help?

**The Homeless Games** alone can not make the difference. It is only through working together that we can change lives.

We need everyone to play their part, whether you're a support worker who can champion the **Homeless Games** within your organisation to justify involvement both to staff and management or to clients, the running of in-house sporting activities, joining with local hostels to facilitate a sporting league in any sport of interest such as table tennis, pool, darts or getting involved in the England Homeless Football Network through Homeless Link.

If you are a Manager of an organisation/hostel facilitating the provision of resources, printing and staff time to allow staff and client involvement in on-going programs of engagement.

Financial support is always a major part of any contribution to our cause and in these times of tightening of the purse strings in all areas, we are even more dependant upon the generosity of individual organisations who see the benefits to those affected by homelessness and its associated issues including drug and alcohol abuse, mental health and physical health and well-being.

Corporate sponsorship is also a means of support for the Homeless Games which would benefit both parties in the facilitation of **THG** objectives and enable the promotion of individual corporate entities who can legitimise their corporate social responsibility in providing financial support and work with partners to provide work experience and work placements to those wanting to change and progress into mainstream society.



## Past and Present Partners



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### Expression of Interest

(Please forward the following information to the email or address indicated below)

Organisation Name: .....

Main Contact(s): .....

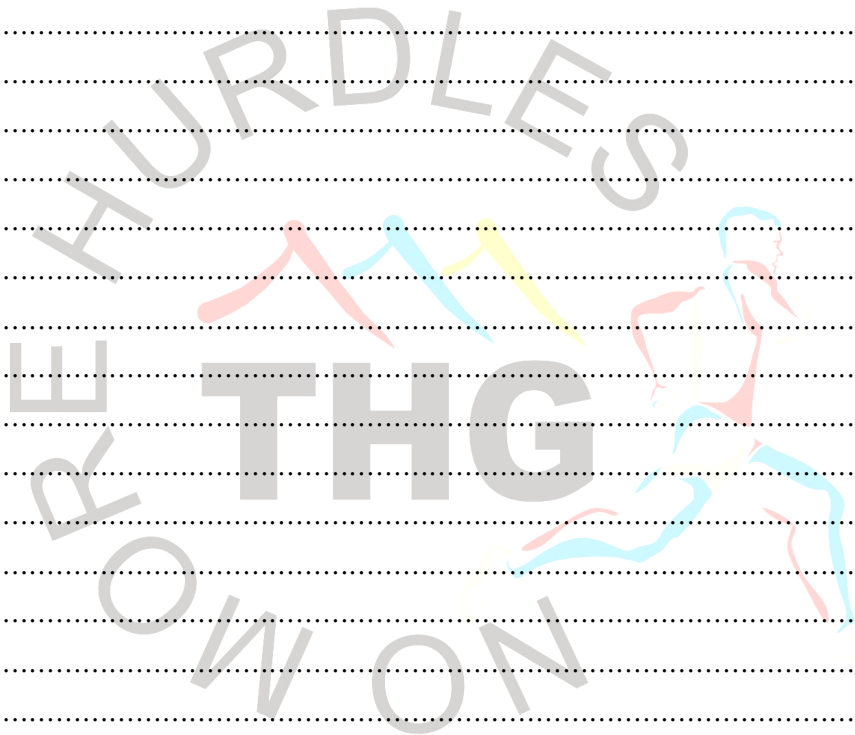
Address: .....

Telephone: ..... Fax: .....

Email: .....

Please describe how you wish to get involved or support The Homeless Games?

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**Please return to:**

The Homeless Games, c/o MAS, 102 Belmont Road, Anfield, Liverpool L6 5BJ

**Or email your responses to:**

takepart@thehomelessgames.org

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# Participant Sign-up Sheet

Name: ..... D.O.B.: ..... Age: ..... Gender: Male / Female

Address/Current Accommodation: .....

Telephone: ..... Mobile: .....

Email: .....

Source of Income: ..... Best way to contact you? Telephone / Mobile / Email / Address

Referrer / Agency: .....

Date Accommodation: ..... Length of time within Homeless System: .....

Emergency Contact Person & Contact No.: .....

**Please give details of any issues and how these impact on your daily routine, behaviour and social exclusion.**

Do you have any Drug(s) or Alcohol misuse issues? Yes / No

Details: .....

Do you have any Health issues? Yes / No

Details: .....

Do you consider yourself as having any disabilities? Yes / No

Details: .....

## SPORTING EVENTS

Please state which of the following events you would like to be involved in for the Homeless Games

- Football (5-a-side)
- Basketball
- Walking Football
- Suggest a Sport .....
- Softball/Rounders
- Cycling
- Kwik Cricket
- Pool
- Darts
- Table Tennis
- Swimming
- Track & Field
- Archery

## NON-SPORTING ACTIVITIES

- Steward
- First Aid
- Administration
- Team Guide
- Catering/Hospitality
- Publicity
- Interpreter
- Coaching

I agree/disagree to my image (either photographic or video footage) to be used in the promotion of The Homeless Games. (Please delete as appropriate)

Signed: ..... Date: .....

**Please return to:**  
The Homeless Games, c/o MAS, 102 Belmont Road, Anfield, Liverpool L6 5BJ  
**Or email to:** [takepart@thehomelessgames.org](mailto:takepart@thehomelessgames.org)

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