



# **DONATION AND DISTRIBUTION REPORT**

2017/18

# THE BACKSTORY



In June 2017 I returned to Trinidad and Tobago to play in a charity game with some of my former national teammates. The game was to be hosted by the T&T Police Service through their community outreach arm, Hearts and Minds. The opponents would be a team made up of aspiring young players from some of the country's most challenged communities. A tropical storm meant the game had to be canceled. The cancellation afforded us an opportunity to speak with the kids, share our stories, and hear theirs. Their dreams were exactly the same as those you'd hear from any boy or girl anywhere. Their challenges, however, were not. Their stories of growing up with the threats that come with living in those communities were startling and heartbreaking. I was left in tears.

I had taken with me two sets of girls' uniforms kindly donated by my good friend Steve Coxon of Connecticut Football Club. On presenting them to the officers of Heart and Minds they expressed a gratitude I didn't anticipate. The two sets of uniforms would be used to start their first girls' league. They told me they had noticed a significant decrease in crime when there were community activities going on. A girls' league would give the aspiring girls in the community an opportunity they never had and just as importantly give the communities another outlet. I left there vowing to help, not quite knowing how.



On my return to the US, I shared some of these moving stories of my trip with both Steve and Jason Dewhurst of FC Stars of Massachusetts. They both agreed to host equipment drives at their respective clubs. The response and outpouring of support from the families at both clubs overwhelmed me emotionally. The collected donations allowed Hearts and Minds and me to deliver on their promises, and to go even further in visiting with and supporting a number of other clubs who also serve other in-need communities.



Soccer has always been my guiding light. Playing soccer kept me out of trouble. It taught me the value of friendships and the importance of teamwork. It is through this game that I was able to find my own confidence, find my own purpose. My hope is that we can equip and inspire other boys and girls to find theirs.

~ Shaka Hislop, former professional soccer player, Trinidad and Tobago National Senior Team player and captain, current ESPN soccer analyst.

# THE MISSION

In many communities, one of the greatest hurdles kids face to playing and continuing in sport is a lack of equipment; a pair of cleats to call their own, a ball to kick around. Provide uniforms and they become a team, instilling in them a sense of unity, pride, and belonging.

I am aiming to help kids go from the sidelines to being part of a team by acquiring and distributing gently used equipment, footwear, and apparel.

By partnering with Hearts and Minds to manage and distribute equipment to clubs and facilities that provide coaching, mentorship and a safe place for kids in many of T&T's underserved and at-risk communities, the outcomes go well beyond the equipment's residual value.





# ABOUT HEARTS AND MINDS

## "CHANGING HEARTS AND MINDS TO FORM BETTER COMMUNITIES"

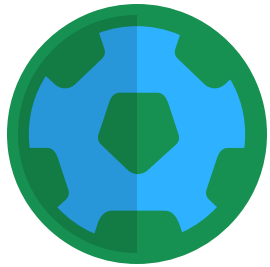
Hearts and Minds is the community arm of the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service Inter Agency Task Force. The Task Force is a combination of Police and Defence Force officers formed to tackle crime and criminality in so-called “hot spots” throughout T&T. The program, as a component of hot spot policing, was designed to impact the social issues of those affected communities. The philosophy of implementing this social development approach to crime fighting was born from interaction and solution-planning with community members.





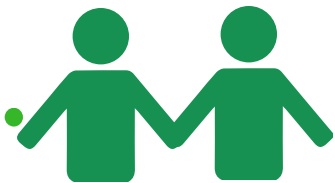
Throughout T&T there are 126 Police Youth Clubs, actively serving and supporting 15,000 young men and women. Each club has sporting activities as an integral part of their curriculum. East Port-of-Spain, the Hearts and Minds area of operation, has a population of approximately 94,000, encompassing 53 communities. Hearts and Minds operate eight Police Youth Clubs with 1,070 members. The program currently runs a 16-team under-15 boys soccer league, and a 10-team under-25 league, and now proudly boasts six girls teams taking part in the newly established Shaka Hislop Football League. The League serves as the development academy for the Police Service women's soccer team which competes in T&T's highest women's league, WoLF (Women's League Football). May's Futsal and indoor competitions brought the curtain down on what has been the program's most participated-in season.

# 2017/18 IMPACT



..... \$12,107\* of Donated Equipment

527 Players



5 Programs Supported

36 Schools Served



\*using the IRS FMV mid-point of equipment values, rounded up to the nearest dollar



# OTHER COMMUNITY PROGRAMS SUPPORTED IN 2018

Beverly Hills Block 8 Boys and Girls Club  
T&T Maestros Football Institute  
Sackies Coaching School  
Gasparillo and Environs Youth Sports Foundation  
Morvant Football Academy

