

Soccer Uniforms for Remexio Children

When I visited Remexio at Easter I had discussions with various village people about the next project for our partnership. The proposal that seemed most popular was the purchasing of soccer uniforms for the Remexio Soccer Club. The Club has about forty children aged between eight and fifteen years old, who play in several divisions against other clubs in the district. Anyone who has visited East Timor knows how popular soccer is and how adept and agile the children are with a ball. Perhaps because they generally don't have other toys, they develop incredible ball-skills. Whilst in Remexio a soccer match was played with great attendance and enthusiasm from the spectators, afterwards the victorious team rode past us, packed into the back of a large truck, singing songs, waving flags and colours and cheering their heads off.

I asked the village Priest, Father Armino Birrito, if he thought the purchase of the soccer uniforms was a worthwhile project or did he have other ideas about how we could support the village. After some thought (his English was good), he said "right now the children mostly play in bare feet and old clothes, if our children had uniforms and boots it would be an enormous source of pride for the village and it would be wonderful to do something like this for the children". That pretty much convinced me and the KV group has given this project the go-ahead. The Remexio Soccer Club will purchase in Dili, forty pairs of footy boots, forty pairs of footy socks, forty jerseys and forty pairs of shorts, with money raised by the KV-RP and given to them by Kathryn Morgan. The uniforms will remain the property of the club and be lent to the children for their competition games and practices.

Louise Morgan