

Samaritan's Feet – Go Barefoot for Bare Feet

Monticello, NY - Monticello and Washingtonville High School Head Basketball Coaches are teaming up to support Samaritan's Feet. Chris Russo (Monticello) and Todd Rose (Washingtonville) will be shedding their shoes to bring relief to impoverished children as both coaches will participate in Samaritan's Feet "Barefoot for Bare Feet" coaching initiative. This initiative is aimed at providing shoes to impoverished children and increasing awareness for worldwide outreach.

Coach Russo and Coach Rose will coach in their bare feet on January 13, 2010 when the two schools play at Monticello High School. The Barefoot for Bare Feet Coaches Initiative was conceived in 2007, when IUPUI Coach Ron Hunter coached a game in his bare feet to raise awareness for the plight of impoverished children who suffer needlessly from foot-borne diseases and infections, due to a lack of shoes. This year, Coach Russo and Coach Rose will join Coach Hunter and over 1,000 other coaches across the country by going barefoot to raise funding to put 1,000,000 pairs of shoes on the feet of children through Samaritan's Feet.

Fans can support Coach Russo, Coach Rose, and Samaritan's Feet by texting the word "shoes" to 85944. A donation of \$5.00 will be added to their next month's cell phone bill, and an impoverished child will be given a new pair of athletic shoes. Fans in attendance can also make a monetary donation at the doors of the gym.

Monticello Head Coach, Chris Russo, comments, "Coach Rose and I saw Ron Hunter at the BCANY Coaches Clinic this fall. He talked about Samaritan's Feet and the Coaches Initiative. We think it is a great way to raise awareness of the problem of poverty, and to provide an opportunity to help others. When we get dressed each day most of us have to make a choice of which shoes or sneakers to wear. We never think about the 300 million children around the world that do not have even one pair of shoes."

Samaritan's Feet is a non-profit humanitarian relief organization based in Charlotte, NC. It is dedicated to taking a life-changing message of hope and equipping the feet of impoverished children in the US and around the world with shoes. The organization was founded in 2003 by Manny Ohonme. Manny received his first pair of shoes at the age of 9 from a missionary. Manny went on to play basketball at University of North Dakota (Lake Region) where he earned his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. To date, Samaritan's Feet has donated over two million pairs of shoes to impoverished people in Africa, South American, the Caribbean, and the US.

"This is a great way for our two communities to help those that are less fortunate than we are," adds Washingtonville Head Coach, Todd Rose. "Coaching one game in bare feet is a small sacrifice compared to the millions of kids who have to live that way everyday. By doing this, we hope that others will join the cause and help Samaritan's Feet reach their goal of providing 10 million pairs of shoes to 10 million impoverished people over the next 10 years."

“We are extremely pleased that Coach Russo and Coach Rose have embraced our call to shed their shoes and coach a game in bare feet. These two coaches are using their platform to provide a voice for those children world-wide who have never owned a pair of shoes,” noted Manny Ohonme. “Their involvement, along with other coaches, has moved the Barefoot for Bare Feet Initiative to a new level in our ongoing mission to reach the world’s neediest children with the gift of shoes.”

Please help both coaches and schools support the Barefoot for Bare Feet Initiative by making a donation to Samaritan’s Feet. You can simply text the word “shoes” to 85944 and \$5.00 will be added to your next phone bill.

For more information on Samaritan’s Feet and their efforts to provide shoes to those in need by logging on to www.samaritansfeet.org or calling 1- 866-833-SHOE (7463).

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