

Worthing Herald
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(by Sarah Dale, sarah.dale@worthingherald.co.uk)

Coach makes shirts plea for street kids

Something as simple as a second-hand football shirt really can make all the difference to an impoverished child living on the streets in Africa.

Worthing man David Williams will be spending at least one month with street children in Senegal – a country in West Africa where extremely poor people live in close proximity to others who are rich.

David, of Longfellow Road, wants to take as many football shirts and kits to Senegal as possible.

He said: "Many of the street children I will be visiting barely have clothes on their back. Children in Africa absolutely love football, it's in their DNA, so it would be fantastic if I could bring a smile to the face of every child I encounter by giving them some kit."

David 28, will be travelling around the poor communities near St Louis in Senegal and working with homeless children, many of whom are orphaned.

"I will be working as a volunteer football coach educating children and working to build sport in the communities of some of the poorest locations on the planet," said David.

David will work with schools and homeless centres set up by Goring-based company Projects Abroad, an international volunteer organisation which offers a variety of volunteer placements and work experience in various fields such as teaching, community work and medicine.

David added: "By working with these children in West Africa, I will be helping to improve social inclusion, health, and reducing crime in these areas. I really want to help to make a difference and do my bit to help less fortunate people in the world."

Ian Birbeck from Projects Abroad said: "Volunteers have all sorts of opportunities from teaching English in local schools, working in care centres and even working on a French language radio station.

"They have a warm welcome from the community, stay with local families and really become part of the local community."

David will be travelling to Senegal in November.

To donate football shirts or kits which are in reasonable condition, drop them into the Projects Abroad office in Aldsworth Parade, Goring.

For more information, visit www.projects-abroad.co.uk