

BBE has built many strong and lasting relationships with its partners over the years. One such friend is Mr. Jim Guthrie. Jim has worked in logistics around the world in the oil and gas industry, for the most part. His work ethic and go anywhere do anything outlook is an inspiration to us all. Though a book could be written on Jim's exploits and his philanthropy, BBE wanted to share his story of one of his most recent ventures in Chad, of which they played a small role in.

I want to update you on an initiative that has turned out to be the "best thing since sliced bread!" A colleague sent me a clip from a Katie Couric CBS special about an American who has developed an indestructible soccer ball, and started a non-profit organization called One World Futbol. This guy had seen what I have seen all around sub-Saharan Africa, you hardly ever see a child with a toy, occasionally you see boys with a football and it usually has 5 or 6 holes in it, and is stuffed with grass or rags, and they just keep playing with it until there is nothing left.

These indestructible balls (Futbols) are filled with some kind of semi-solid nerf like material and so don't need air. The only thing a child can ever do to it, is lose it, they can not wear it out. One World Futbol sells them for \$18 each providing you buy 100, I passed the hat to my colleagues and we quickly came up with the money for an order.

You might know Braden Burry Expediting out of Yellowknife and Edmonton, an Inuvialuit owned company, they received the balls for me in Edmonton, paid all the customs duties and GST as a donation. Two of my colleagues carried 40 Futbols over with them in December, I carried 30 in my bags and will bring the remainder over next rotation.

You should see the boys' faces when they get a ball, it's difficult to realize the joy and fun they bring to kid's lives that have nothing else to play with, no toys and no sports equipment. I usually get a group of boys to elect the keeper of the ball so they don't get into a fight over who owns the ball! Now we need to get skipping ropes for the girls!"

A great story from a great person that BBE is fortunate to work with and to call a friend.

Thanks again to everyone from BBE for helping out with this great initiative, 100 balls probably made 2,000 children happy and not just for a little while, but for a long while.

Sincerely, Jim Guthrie

