



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Former Irish National Team Soccer Player Connects Cambridge School to Africa

--Cambridge Friends School Students 'Get a Kick out of Sharing' hundreds of soccer balls with African children

Cambridge, MA—April 15, 2010—Noelle Meeke, a former member of the Irish women's national soccer team and a longtime member of the W League's New York Magic, ardently believes that sports are a path to empowerment. In 2007, Meeke, a girls' soccer coach and physical education instructor at [Cambridge Friends School](#) (CFS), spent two weeks as a camp counselor and soccer coach at [Camp Sizanani](#), a camp for South African boys and girls who have been affected by HIV.

Meeke continues to bridge the gap between Africa and Cambridge. This year, for the fourth consecutive year, she will engage over 100 CFS students in an afternoon of soccer to benefit [World Vision](#), an international aid organization whose stated goal is to send 250,000 soccer balls to "children in need worldwide."

CFS is the *only* school in all of Massachusetts to participate in *Get a Kick*.

Here's How It Works

CFS students each bring a new soccer ball to the CFS gym. For 75 minutes, they run drills and play soccer, under Meeke's guidance. At the end of the session, they hand over their soccer balls to Meeke and to CFS Athletic Director Peter Hendrick, who ship them off to Africa via World Vision and directly to Camp Sizanani in Johannesburg.

Get a Kick is one more way that Meeke actualizes her belief that people can build bridges through sports. "Children need to believe from an early age that they can make a difference in our world, through actions both large and small," said Meeke. "*Get a Kick Out of Sharing* gives children one more way to participate locally as active members of a global community. The fact that they get to play while doing good is just icing on the cake!"

Boston Breakers Get a Kick, Too!

Boston's own women's professional soccer team, the [Boston Breakers](#), will join Noelle and CFS students twice during *Get a Kick Out of Sharing Week*. Breakers' GM Andy Crossley, who graduated from CFS in 1989, will bring two

surprise guest players from the Breakers to the CFS gym on April 29th and on May 3rd. The two Breakers will share the special experience of playing soccer with balls that will be shipped to children living more than 5,000 miles from Boston.

"As a former CFS student (1984-1989), it didn't surprise me in the least to learn that CFS is taking a typically pioneering role as the first school in Massachusetts to support *Get a Kick Out of Sharing*," commented Andy Crossley, general manager of the Boston Breakers. "Bridging global regions through soccer is something we do as well. 19 countries are represented in Women's Professional Soccer (WPS) this season, and the 22 women who play for the 2010 Boston Breakers represent four different continents. So it seemed like a natural fit for us to support Cambridge Friends School in this admirable program."

For More Information

Noelle Meeke is hosting *Get a Kick Out of Sharing* Week at CFS Monday, April 26-Monday, May 3 from 3:15-4:45 p.m. at the CFS gym located at 5 Cadbury Road, Cambridge.

About Cambridge Friends School

Cambridge Friends School (CFS), the only Quaker school in Massachusetts, is a co-educational elementary school enrolling 210 students in pre-K through grade 8. Established in 1961 under the care of Friends Meeting at Cambridge, Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), CFS's mission is to provide an outstanding education. Guided by Quaker principles—universal values such as equality, integrity, community and peace—CFS engages students in meaningful academic learning within a caring community strongly committed to social justice. CFS encourages all students to develop their intellectual, physical, creative and spiritual potential and, through the example of their lives, to challenge oppression and to contribute to justice and understanding in the world.

For More Information

For more information on *Get a Kick Out of Sharing* at CFS, please contact Maria Vetrano, media relations, via phone: 617.876.2770. For more information about [Cambridge Friends School](http://www.cfsmass.org), please visit: www.cfsmass.org. For admission inquiries, please visit: <http://cfsmass.org/admission/index.htm>