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Soccer for Middle East peace

Tourney to fund trip to Canada



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A Palestinian-born Vancouver man is using soccer to bring Israeli and Palestinian youth

to B.C. to attend the Gulf Islands Film and Television School in August.

Proceeds from this month's Wish Cup Soccer Tournament will pay for the trip, which will bring 32 youth of Muslim, Christian and Jewish back-

grounds together to make eight short films.



Adri Hamael

Adri Hamael started the tournament three years ago to raise money for the Make A Wish Foundation, which grants wishes to children with life-threatening illnesses. This year half the proceeds

will go toward helping youth caught in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict — a cause close to his heart.

Hamael grew up a refugee in Jordan, but he credits his parents for allowing him to escape the cycle of violence by giving him the chance to travel and study. Now, he wants to give those opportunities to the

next generation of youth, he said.

"They arrive as enemies and they leave Canada as friends," said Hamael.

The tournament takes place June 24 and 25 at David Lamb Park. More than 400 soccer players will take part, and the event will also feature music, food and a beer garden.