

Barb and Gus de Souza
620 W. Walnut St. (*NOTE new street address*)
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December 4, 2017

It was so wonderful to have Bel here last month and to show her around the city of River Falls where the initial support for the work in Brasil began. I was able to pay for this trip thanks to the sale of the book I wrote about my work in Brasil starting with the training course for Community Health Educators in which Bel was a student in my first group in Rio de Janeiro.

I hope you will look at the website Bel has listed in her letter and see the projects in action. How many young children will have their lives enriched with activities never even dreamed about in public schools? How many adolescents have been kept from drugs, crime and worse because of these activities? How many of these young people have become transformed by learning new techniques the public schools in Brasil do not teach? How many have been helped to go on to higher education, and how many may have a real impact in the future of Brasil? How many will prove that even children from low income communities can rise to the challenge? We may never know how many, but we do know that this NGO is building empowerment, pride, and self-esteem to young people who otherwise might go unchallenged.

Thank you! We are all hands in God's mission of love, justice and sharing.

Barb and Gus

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND MAY THE NEW YEAR BRING PEACE AND HOPE TO AN ANXIOUS WORLD!

P.S. Gus and I are fine. 2017 was a big year for us, especially this summer. Gus had a knee replacement of an old replacement done in Brasil over 10 years ago and recovered beautifully. We also moved soon after to a home on a beautiful street full of very old trees (even much older than we are!) and 2 blocks from a beautiful park. We have a wonderful corner lot with several lovely gardens we hope to cultivate next summer. Please NOTE our new street address listed at the top of this newsletter: 620 W. Walnut St.

Below is the translation of the letter that Bel left with me before she returned to Brasil:

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I am very happy to have the opportunity to be visiting the churches in River Falls and be able to thank you personally for all your support for our NGO, the Association of Community Health Educators, that we have received all these years and are still receiving.

And we also thank **all** the churches in the USA who have supported us for so many years. Please know that you have contributed and are contributing to the transformation of the lives of so many persons in our community, especially the children and adolescents. My life was transformed through the Health Educators Course. Because of this, I was able to discover my vocation as a teacher as I became a multiplier of the course, training many persons who today work as health professionals. With your support, I finished high school and began my university study graduating with highest honors in Pedagogy. Upon graduation I became the Coordinator of our NGO's projects.

As you know, the city built a large Family Health Clinic in our area which was inaugurated in March of 2016 with the name of Barbara Mosley de Souza Family Health Clinic. Thus our Association's building lost the rent the city had paid to use it, and our actual challenges increased for we need to maintain a minimum number of persons working in our building, so that we can keep the doors open for the community to participate in the activities we provide for the children, adolescents and older residents. Through these activities, and our

acquired partners, we can offer projects that can improve the quality of life of this low income community, such as: dental services as well as physical therapy not provided by the city, and booster courses to help students finish high school as well as professional courses. Also since children and adolescents are only in school half day, and so many come home to empty homes, we also offer other activities: music, dance, sports and reading support as well as care of the environment. (See pictures of some of these activities below.) We have other projects we want to initiate, but we need more financial assistance to develop them. The organizers of these projects help pay rent and help with the utilities.

I decided to be the leader of this Association, because I believe that together we can contribute to the building of a more just and humane society for all. I took this challenge as a mission, because just as my life, as well as the lives of many other women who took the opportunity the health course offered, was transformed, others can be transformed also. For this change and transformation to continue happening, we hope that we can continue to count on your support. We are working for the time when we can be financially self-supporting, but in a low income community in Brasil, this takes time. We can only offer in return our eternal gratitude and the promise of dedication to our work and our NGO. As Barbara well knows, one cannot always see the fruits of one's work, but we know that once the seed is planted and nourished, it will happen.

Please also look at our website and get more information: <https://eacsongri.wixsite.com/site>

May God bless each person who dedicates him or herself to help a neighbor, putting into practice all that Jesus taught: love God and your neighbor as yourself.

BEL

Isabel Maria Fernandes da Silva

Feliz Natal e un ano novo com esperanca de mais paz e amor no mundo.

(Merry Christmas and a new year filled with hope for more peace and love in the world.)





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December 4, 2017 update

Information regarding Rev. Barbara and Agostinho (Gus) de Souza's health ministry in Brazil.
PLEASE SAVE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE!

1. Address corrections:

If your address was incorrect on this mailing or if you wish to be removed from this mailing list, please send address corrections to the mail address or email address at the bottom of this page.

2. EMail address:

To save money on mailing costs and to get the newsletters to you faster, please consider adding your email address to our mailing list. Then we can send you the latest newsletter by email. Please send your email address to the email address at the bottom of this page.

3. Website: <https://eacsongrj.wixsite.com/site> The text is in Portuguese.

4. You can order Barb's book on Amazon: "WHEN SLEEPING WOMEN AWAKE, MOUNTAINS WILL MOVE" by Barbara Mosley de Souza

5. Video tape:

A 12 minute video tape of Barb's ministry is available by sending a \$6.00 check to the Brazilian Fund at the address at the bottom of this page.

6. Donations:

A. Brazilian Fund:

Donations to the Brazilian Fund will be used for the following:

- **providing for the Physical Therapy program costs not covered by the city, such as maintenance of equipment and salary for the PT coordinator**
- **providing support for the children's project and salary for the coordinator and part time assistants to enrich the children's program**
- **providing material used for the activities of the children's program including a meal**
- **providing financial aid for the new programs to be initiated this year for the benefit of the community (These programs are not considered a part of the City's Family Health Program, so no Government financial support is given.)**

Please make checks out to "Brazilian Fund" and send it to the address at the bottom of this page.

NOTE: For individuals needing an official tax deductible receipt, please make the check out to "First Congregational Church of River Falls" and note "Brazilian Fund" in the corner of the check. Send it to the address at the bottom of this page.

B. Endowment Fund:

Barb and Gus set up an endowment fund to ensure the continuation of their health ministry and health courses now that they are no longer able to oversee it in person. This fund will help fund all items listed above. Barb and Gus will continue to oversee the endowment fund at the United Church Foundation. However, checks can be made out to the "Brazilian Fund" noted for the "Endowment Fund".

NOTE: For individuals needing an official tax deductible receipt, please make the check out to "First Congregational Church of River Falls" and note "Brazil Endowment Fund" in the corner of the check. Send it to the address at the bottom of this page.

THANK YOU for all your support of Barb and Gus's health ministry in Brazil which will continue with your help in Christ's name! Barb continues to serve on the Board of Directors of the clinic as Assistant Secretary, keeping in close contact via email and phone, and continuing to give you updates with her newsletter, translating reports from Brazil. God bless you!

Sue Christopher
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