

August 21, 2021



With 25 years of social work, AECS (Association of Community Health Educators) has a lot to celebrate! When we founded our institution on May 20, 1996, we had no idea what was going to happen. All the changes and transformations in the lives of people and the community were of utmost importance for us to continue the journey, and that is our motto on our 25th anniversary picture here "Changing and transforming lives". During all these years, we have always believed in the strength of the NGO (Non-

Governmental Organization) as a transforming institution. To celebrate victories and achievements, we are helping other social initiatives achieve the same success we have achieved. Our mission includes supporting other Projects by passing on knowledge and experience acquired throughout our trajectory. Another commemorative activity will be an exhibition of photos, documents, and documentaries, which will tell the history of AECS. Our institution is proud to have transformed the lives of many people, mostly women, many of whom have become empowered and taken charge of their lives, changing and transforming their future. Since the founding of the NGO we have been able to count on the support of partnerships, including the sisters and brothers in the United Church of Christ, United Methodist Church, Disciples of Christ, and Global Ministries. Gratitude to all of you who have directly or indirectly supported us all these years, without your help our successful journey would not be possible! After so many years, our Social Projects, aimed at children, adolescents, young people and adults, collaborate for the transformation of the life of the population of the Canal do Anil community and the surrounding communities. Despite the challenges we face, we never stopped believing or lost hope. We are also always supported by our teacher who founded with us our NGO /AECS whose 25 years we have come to celebrate this year, Barbara Mosley de Souza and her husband, Agostinho Marcelino de Souza. With much gratitude to God and everyone, Isabel Maria Fernandes da Silva, Coordinator of Projects for AECS

We believe: *"We can not change everything, but together we can do everything to make change!"*

(Please note that the children removed their masks for some of these pictures, so they can smile at you!)



Festa Junina Presentation



NGO-AECS Dance Workshop



The Entrepreneurial Women Collective is an initiative of a group of women, supported by AECS and formed during the the Pandemic, to distribute Basic Baskets to families in extreme poverty. Inaugurated on July 24, 2021, it has had the support of the NGO since its creation. The work proposal is to develop activities through training courses, professional training and leadership. It is believed that giving food is important, but equally important is creating opportunities for the person to provide his/her own livelihood, rescue and return dignity.



AECS Board Presence with the Entrepreneurial Women Collective



Women's Community Education Project Partnerships



Dance Room activities



Library activities



Jiu Jitsu training



Theatre/Drama presentations

The Social Project Collective Women Entrepreneurs emerged from the initiative of the NGO-AECS in commemoration of the 25 years of the Foundation with the support of the residents of the neighborhood where the activities started and the Board of our institution. I proudly present to you the above report of the activities of The Association of Community Health Educators celebrating its 25th year, a celebration I hope to attend in person!

Thank you all for your support (emotional, financial, and spiritual) throughout these 25 years! Without you, we would not be so successful. I hope you are proud of everything we have accomplished together.

With much love and appreciation, we continue to be your hands in mission,
Barb de Souza

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Aug 21, 2021 update

Information regarding Rev. Barbara and Gus de Souza's health ministry in Brazil.
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3. Website: <https://ongaecsrj.wixsite.com/site> The text is in Portuguese, but you can use Google Translate to change it to English. Great pictures!

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

5. Donations to the Brazilian Fund: At this very difficult time for the world with the COVID-19 virus still spreading, Brasil has been hit very hard due to poor government leadership and health system. Loss of jobs is a crisis in favelas (Shantytowns) because of the types of jobs available to this community. One of the top priorities of AECS (Association of Community Health Educator Agents) during the pandemic is to ensure no family goes hungry.

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

- **providing meals for all families impacted by COVID, and partnering with the Entrepreneurial Women Collective to provide career and leadership training to assist persons who lost their jobs due to COVID**
- **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 programs that 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.

THANK YOU for all your support of Barb'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 and translating reports from Brazil.

God bless you!

Sue Christopher

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