

April 17, 2022

Dear Partners in Mission,

As you read the newsletter you will see that I was there to witness all the wonderful things that are happening in our NGO despite the extreme changes to the area because of the population growth. This is due to the building of a huge shopping center right next to the Canal do Anil favela (shanty town/slum). This caused the immigration of construction workers etc. from other areas to seek jobs building the shopping center, as well as new apartment buildings, which most favela dwellers could not afford to live in. This forced families to move to the nearby, already crowded, shanty town I was so familiar with, constructing or adding on to existing housing.

Here is an example of how this growth affected our health work: In the past during our NGO's administration of Family Health Clinic, each health educator agent had about 150 patient families to visit each month. Now with the new city clinic built by the city, each has about 2,000!!! Impossible!!! And the past Mayor had reduced the number of people in each doctor's health agent team! The health situation is chaotic!



This new clinic bears my name (see picture) because the population requested it, but I was unaware it was happening as Gus and I had already retired and moved back to the States. I was invited (and photographed) to talk with the director of the clinic, and she asked me to show an example of the training course for the Health Educators. She thought it was excellent, and it would help the community and the health clinic. The new Mayor of Rio de Janeiro has also promised to increase the health teams, so there again can be more Health Educators workers for each team.

It is so exciting that I made a decision to return to Brazil as a volunteer to work with some of my ex-students, now retired, to start training courses for community Health Educators. With the support of the local Catholic Priest, we have many who wish to be part of this training, and if it results in these women gaining the same empowerment as it did before, how wonderful that will be for the women and the community! (Of course, men are welcome, too.)

At age 91, many may feel my move back to Brazil is too risky but I am healthy for my age and lucid still, and my children can attest to this. I will be a volunteer and live in the low income houses built for the shanty town families who lost their homes in the floods of 1996. I am content and very excited to have the fire of possibilities lit again in me!

So once again I will be part of the partnership with Isabel (Bel), the fabulous coordinator of our NGO's project. I was told by the men who came to our 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary representing the Mayor's office that the work of our NGO is well admired in this area of the city as an example. For this reason, at the 25th year celebration, all of our Board of Directors and volunteers, myself included, received honor awards for exemplary service to the community of Canal do Anil.

I hope as you read Bel's report starting on page 2, you will be as enthused as I am! I continue to be your partner, but now I will back on site in Brazil most of the year. I hope to be there July-November 2022. I also do this proudly to honor Gus and the people of the country he loved. Born in a poor rural community, he knew the difficulties of the lack of health care and knowledge for low income families. Gus and his Brazilian neighbors may have been poor financially, but not spiritually! And Gus lives on in the library (see picture) in Canal do Anil named after him.



Thank you for your love, encouragement, prayers and financial support over this 25 year journey with our NGO! Our success would not be possible without you!  
With deep appreciation,  
Barb de Souza



**FOUNDER OF AECS:** Barbara Mosley de Souza

**President:** Kelly Cristina de Araújo

**Administrator-Coord. Pedagogical:** Isabel Maria Fernandes da Silva

**Celebrating 25 years! History from 1996 to 2022.....**

*When we founded AECS – Association of Community Health Educators - NGO - Non-Governmental Non-Profit Organization on May 20, 1996, we had no idea what was going to happen. All achievements and victories have surpassed the expectations. During all these years, we have always believed in the transforming power of the NGO.*

*However, before discussing our progress, it is important to report on the beginning of our journey.*

*In February 1994, Barbara Mosley de Souza began work with a women's group from the Canal do Anil community. The initial proposal was to address themes of family daily life, but gradually realized the need to work on self-esteem to empower these women. These activities developed, changed, and transformed many lives.*

*In February 1995, another program contributed to changes in the community. The training course for Health Educators taught by Barbara made a difference in the lives of the people who participated, all women, but with the presence of 1 man. This work can be considered the BASIS for the foundation of the AECS institution. Today, many nursing professionals and community health agents who make up the teams of the family clinics, have undergone our training.*

*In February 1996, the course already had been going on for 1 year, when a major flood affected some neighborhoods of Jacarepaguá including the Canal do Anil community. It was necessary to organize activities to assist the population. With the newly learned knowledge about disease prevention; part of the group joined with others to support the population, also distributing food, clothing, disease guidance, medical care, vaccination, etc. Several institutions supported these actions: Catholic Church - Chapel of St. Peter, represented by the priest Alfonso Garcia; NGO Viva Rio, today Social Organization - OS, represented by sociologist Rubem Cesar; Health Unit - Hamilton Land - represented by Director Ana Lourdes; and Volunteer physician Ana Lipke. This work was so important for the population, that soon the idea of creating an NGO was born. On May 20, 1996, AECS was founded, with a Constitution, containing Bylaws, Board of Directors, and its reason for existence: health care and education for the community. The next step was to find a center or property. Location chosen was Avenida Canal do Anil 128. This achievement was only possible because we received financial resources given by four Jacarepaguá laboratories: Knoll, Merck, Shering, and Wella. We are deeply grateful for the initiative of the laboratories mentioned above. Thus, in October 1996 the **Canal do Anil Health Center was inaugurated**. For 3 years the work was developed by volunteers. The actions developed drew the attention of the local press and health authorities in the municipality of Rio de Janeiro.*



In June 1999, **Barbara Mosley – President of AECS** signed a contract with SMS – Municipal Health Department of Rio de Janeiro, with the then health secretary, **Ronaldo Gazolla**, and Mayor **Luiz Paulo Conde**, for the management of the Family Health Program - PSF. This was one of the greatest achievements for the community. The NGO managed this work with love and dedication, showing how it is possible to transform a **TRAGEDY** into a **VICTORY!** Our history is marked by many struggles and challenges. We've always worked in partnership with leaders of the community, for without this support, surely our achievements would not have answered the needs of families. For the next 10 and a half years of our management and even beyond work in the Family Health Clinic, our NGO continued to work to better the lives of the families in the community.

In 2016, new achievements and challenges emerged. The community gained a Health clinic built and managed by the city Health Dept. the Family Clinic. This one was named after our great master BARBARA MOSLEY DE SOUZA, a fitting tribute in life to one who has done so much and fought for the community. Challenges and doubts arose, but they certainly weren't able to paralyze us. Our Board of Directors, which is composed of women, whose training base has always been part of our NGO/AECS

program, would in fact have to face a great challenge. Gradually we understood that to continue making a difference in the community we needed to join forces, and so it happened. After 6 years of activities for the community including our Physical Therapy Program with the transfer of the health unit to a new building (see picture), our institution continues to seek partnerships to contribute to our Projects. The current activities developed and available include dance workshops, theater, jujitsu, (see pictures), music, sports, reading aid, etc., and they make a difference in the lives of children, adolescents, young people and adults who participate in them. Our programs of physical therapy, psychology, psychopedagogy, school reinforcement/tutoring, adult literacy, etc. offer services of extreme importance to the community. For this reason and so many others, we believe that our mission must continue, though we know for this to continue, we will need your **SUPPORT** and we are always looking for **SUPPORT** through partnerships.



**We Choose to Believe! Inspire – Persist - Never give up!**





### **CURRENT BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President - Kelly Cristina de Araújo-Vice President - Maria do Espírito Santo Galdino; First Treasurer - Niceia de Cassia Dornelas; Second Treasurer - Maria Calé de Lima; First Secretary - Elizabeth Silva Araújo; Second Secretary - Dilva Paiva Silva; Fiscal Council - Jacqueline Siqueira, Maria de Oliveira Garcia, Marinalva Vieira Santos

***"We can't change everything, but together we can do everything to change"***



**AECS 25 year anniversary celebration!**







**Demonstration  
of a Health  
Educators class**

**The Board of  
Directors  
received  
awards from  
the city officials  
of Rio de  
Janeiro.**



**The clinic  
employees  
include many  
graduates of  
the AECS  
health classes.**





Street scene in Canal do Anil

Please contact Sue below for:

--**Address corrections:** If your address was incorrect, or if you wish to be removed from this mailing list.

--**Email address ADD or CHANGE:** To save money on mailing costs and to get the newsletters to you faster, please add your email address to our mailing list. Send email address changes to Sue.

--**Donations to the Brazilian Fund:** Please make checks out to "Brazilian Fund" and send it to Sue's address (as Barb may be in Brazil). **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.

**Website:** <https://ongaecsri.wixsite.com/site> The text is in Portuguese, but you can use Google Translate to change it to English. Great pictures!

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

**THANK YOU** for all your support of Barb's health ministry in Brazil, and God bless you!

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**\*Please note that Barb's cell phone and email availability will be limited while in Brazil. The best way to reach her will be using WhatsApp.**