



Jacarepaguá – Rio de Janeiro – Brazil

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Facebook: AECS Canal do Anil

FOUNDER OF AECS: Barbara Mosley de Souza

President: Maria Calé de Lima

Administrator-Pedagogical Coordinator: Isabel Maria Fernandes da Silva

January 25, 2026

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Vice-president: Kelly Cristina de Araújo

AECS will celebrate 30 years of social work on May 20, 2026! Throughout these years, it has always sought to offer the population of the Canal do Anil community and neighboring communities services in Education, Culture, and Health, believing that these areas of action are the foundation to change and transform lives. We have much to celebrate! There have been many achievements and victories. We can affirm that the work developed has made a difference in the lives of the citizens who were served in the workshops and services offered. The community where we operate, like many others, needs initiatives such as that of our institution. The difficulties we have faced over the years have made us stronger because we have had **PARTNERSHIPS** by our side that have always encouraged us to persevere, persist, and never **GIVE UP**. The current scenario of urban violence still prevents us from developing all the activities planned throughout the year, which is why we need to assess the risks every semester. Because of our commitment to social responsibility towards the people we serve through our projects, we strive to protect the well-being of each individual assisted by the NGO. This will be a year of many celebrations and commemorations. Despite the difficulties we face in this new reality, we never considered giving up; we continue to believe in the transformative power of **AECS** and in our **MISSION!**

Health – Physical Therapy

The Physical Therapy Project has been offering quality care to the population for 28 years. Unfortunately, the service was interrupted in April 2025, after the termination of the partnership that maintained the service. The sector was closed for eight months, but the **AECS** board never lost hope of continuing to offer assistance, which is so important and necessary for rehabilitating people who are candidates for this type of treatment. During the months that the Physical Therapy sector was closed, our search for a new partnership continued and, to our delight, after several conversations and exchanges of information, in October 2025 we achieved a great victory: we received a partnership with the **GLOBAL MINISTRY FOUNDATION**. A partner of **AECS** for many years, through the director Rev. David Giron, we received the long-awaited response that we would receive financial support to resume services. The continuation of the Project is a cause for celebration for all those who have always fought for its return, as the demand for services is high. This is especially true for the poorest population, since this private service is expensive, and the number of appointments offered by the public health unit is insufficient to meet the demand. Hence the importance of the Popular Physical Therapy Project offered by **AECS**. Our eternal gratitude to all the people who support us in this **MISSION** of helping those who need it most. God bless!

Education - Training for Caregivers of the Elderly

The provision of training in this area has been fundamental, given that the population is aging, making this occupation in the health field extremely necessary. Developing this work and training

professionals who are compassionate and sensitive to the needs of the elderly is very important for our institution. The team includes volunteer professionals from various fields: Psychology; Nutrition; Dentistry; Nursing; Pedagogy; Theology; Physical Therapy. The plan for 2026 is to offer a new class each semester with approximately 25 places for people seeking this training. In 2025, during the second semester, we graduated our fifth class of Elderly Caregivers. Many students who completed the course in November have already entered the job market. During the course, they received training from various professionals and had the opportunity to visit a long-term care facility for the elderly. This training project also received support from the Global Ministry Foundation. **We reaffirm our eternal gratitude!**

Environmental Project

We are starting 2026 with a new training program, now focused on environmental care. The goal is to train young people between 15 and 24 years old to become Environmental Educators and act as multipliers of information about environmental preservation, creating actions that can actually combat disrespect for nature. The idea is that after receiving the training, the young people will create other groups in the community to organize projects that can be put into practice, such as: Community space for selective collection of household and non-household waste; Group for replanting trees in areas devastated by the action of nature and humans; Educational group to visit schools, health units, churches, and other spaces; Clean-up campaign in areas with accumulated garbage such as streets, squares, and riverbanks. These are ideas and suggestions that will be presented to the group of Environmental Educators, so that they can create the actions they will put into practice. The training will be conducted in partnership with the company responsible for water distribution and sewage treatment in the area and **AECS**. The ultimate goal is for each group representing its community to create its own project and seek financial support **We are still seeking financial support for this project.**

WITH GRATITUDE

On May 20, 2026, we will celebrate 30 years of Social Work, which began after a climate tragedy. In February 1996, the Jacarepaguá neighborhood suffered a major flood. The Canal do Anil community was one of many that were affected. The sadness was immense at seeing so many families losing what little they had, but the courage to fight for each person remained. The impact was greater thanks to that great woman, Barbara Mosley de Souza, who stood by our side fighting and often struggling for those who had so little. We owe it to her and to all the people who came together to found the **Association of Community Health Educators** to help **AECS** continue working to rewrite the history of the Canal do Anil community and of so many residents and families whose stories have been changed and transformed from **TRAGEDY** to **VICTORY**. Thank you to everyone who has always supported us and continues to support us; know that all our achievements would not have been possible without your partnership and support!

God bless you all!

Isabel “Bel” Maria Fernandes da Silva, AECS Administrator-Pedagogical Coordinator

An update on Barb from her daughter Judy:

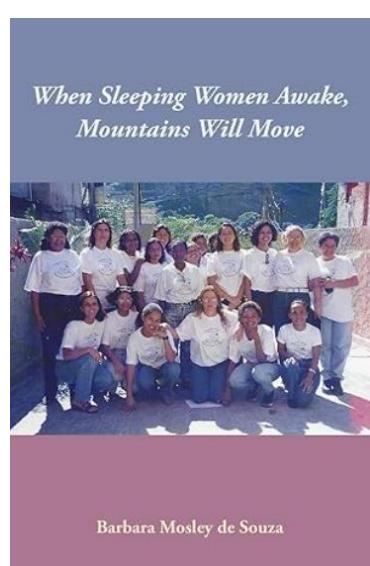
“My mom continues to be well cared for in her apartment with her two cats, who give her so much love. Last October she turned 95 and in typical Brazilian fashion she was well celebrated! Bel continues to manage her care in a beautiful and loving way. She manages 5 other caregivers in addition to being a cook, an accountant, a housekeeper, a shopper, and so many other duties that this requires. My sisters and I go to bed at night with full confidence, knowing that we couldn't ask for better care for our mother. What a blessing! Mom continues to be immobile and goes from her bed to her recliner daily. Her dementia and confusion continue to worsen, but she does have more alert

periods of time. She even shows us her dry sense of humor once in a while! My mom often complains of back and shoulder pain but her 3x a week physical therapy helps to improve her pain and keep it from getting worse. All of her doctors come to her. Wow! How wonderful is that! She spends her time taking naps, chatting with visitors, and watching music videos and novelas (Brazilian soap operas) on TV. Bel is an amazing cook, and so she is well fed!

She so appreciates all of the cards that she has received from many of you. I plan to return in a few weeks. Thank you so much for all of your prayers and concerns. She has a beautiful community both here in the US and in Brazil!" Judy P.S. If you want to send cards to Barb, I will deliver them on my next visit: **Barb de Souza, c/o Judy Brown, 2623 Fargo Rd, Hillsborough NC 27278**



Barb on her 95th birthday, October 18, 2025 with her beautiful cake made by the women who have taken her health education course and now help take care of her. Barb's love for these women and families has come full circle as they now help take care of her with much love and gratitude!



- Barb's book is available on Amazon: **"When Sleeping Women Awake, Mountains Will Move" by Barbara Mosley de Souza.**
- AECS website: <https://ongaecsri.wixsite.com/site> The text is in Portuguese but you can use Google Translate to change it to English. Great pictures!
- ADDRESS CORRECTIONS: if you wish to update your address or wish to be removed from this mailing list, contact me below.
- EMAIL 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.
- Donations to the BRAZILIAN FUND can be undesignated or directed to specific areas such as Physical Therapy, Elderly Caregivers Training, or the Environmental Project. Please make checks out to "Brazilian Fund" and send to Sue's address below (as Barb is living in Brazil.)

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 memo.

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



Pictures 1 & 2 above: Elderly Caregiving Training: Taking care of the Oral Health of the Elderly. Picture 3 to left: Students of the 2025 Elderly Caregiving Course. Pictures 4 & 5 below: Visit to a Long-Term Care Facility for the Elderly. Pictures 6 & 7 at the bottom: Training for Young Environmental Educators.

