



July 31, 2020

Rio de Janeiro Brasil - e-mail: aecscanaldoanil@gmail.com

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AECS is a non-profit non-governmental organization founded on May 20, 1996. It has been active for twenty-four years in the community with Social Projects in the areas of Health, Education, Culture, Leisure and Sports to create a better quality of life for its citizens. During all these years we have always been at the side of the most needy, since the community (FAVELA) Canal do Anil, like so many others in the city of Rio de Janeiro, suffers from the lack of public assistance policies. Our organization is considered one of the main examples of how to support a shanty town population. Our NGO is committed to working for their rights and the improvements of the quality of life of this population. We currently offer physiotherapy services (psychology, psychopedagogy, otorhinolaryngology, and, school reinforcement) as well as workshops (dance, theater, music, sport, reading support, physical therapy, and other activities).

With the onset of new coronavirus pandemic, our activities have been cancelled, but we remain on the front line educating the population in the prevention of COVID-19. This work is being developed in partnership with the Favela Vertical Collective Movement, which joined our NGO to promote health education concerning the virus in the community, as well as distribution of basic baskets (food and cleaning products) to low-income families. Since March, our community has also been affected with many positive cases of COVID-19. Unfortunately, there has been some loss of loved ones. Others were hospitalized and managed to recover. Among these was our friend Maria Calé de Lima who is part of the NGO'S board of directors and Renata Santos Carvalho, one of our physiotherapists. Both, fought hard for life and today are recovering. Going through this crisis has not been easy because the Public Health System of the city of Rio de Janeiro, as well as that of other cities of Brasil (and the Federal Government), were not prepared to give adequate assistance for COVID-19. We continue to hope for this pandemic to pass.

After all these months of battling the Coronavirus, we are better prepared for the return of some activities, when possible without risk. Most of our participants are children and adolescents, about 150-200. We are putting together a strategy for this return, with the support of our psychology professionals. We realize that the pandemic has created much emotional distress among the children, as well as parents. The activities will be developed in small groups, including workshop monitors, children, adolescents, and their families. The goal of this work is to minimize all the suffering that everyone is experiencing at this time. With no government assistance, we have depended solely on the kindness of those who know of our work.

We thank you for your support. God bless you all! We choose to believe!

Best regards. Isabel Maria Fernandes da Silva Pedagogical Coordinator of AECS.

Dear Mission Partners,

It is hard to contemplate all the changes that have occurred in each of our lives since the beginning of this pandemic – so much suffering and fear caused by illness and economic insecurity. And yet, most of us have not gone hungry or lost our homes or lives. In spite of all the challenges we face, we are, I believe, better off than shanty town communities.

I am inspired, as I have always been, by the Brazilian people who are cheerful and family- and faith-centered, even in the midst of hardship and crisis. This has been their strength. I love these people, Gus's people. The words that come to my mind at this moment are the words of John Lewis, a true hero of our country. "Speak out. Get into good trouble." In that spirit, I boldly request your help for our NGO as it struggles to see that no one goes hungry and to bring some semblance of normality to their community, especially for the children no longer in school because of the virus. With no activities, our NGO receives no rent for building upkeep from the leaders of the activities. The dentists also cannot contribute for their services. Your help is needed now more than ever.

I hope you can appreciate what our NGO is doing in the Rio community and can help them get through this devastating time. By helping with their struggle, we are able to give hope for a better life in the future – for all of us.

Your hands in mission,

I thank you, with Gus, for your concern for his people.

Barb

Basic Basket Distribution Action



Hope to Return to Ballet, Theatre Guitar and Jiu-Jitsu Activities



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July 31, 2020 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://ongaecsrij.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. 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 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, directly or indirectly**
- **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 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 and translating reports from Brazil. God bless you!

Sue Christopher
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