

Rio, Carnival and Community project

A review of the achievements made year by year;

2009

During 2009 we have worked at Casa Lar in 3 different fronts.

1- Assistance with maintenance and cleaning of the house, involving the boys in these activities in order to promote their own health and hygiene awareness. This has involved:

Plenty of shopping trips where volunteers had prepared cards with the names/ pictures of different items on the shopping list which assisted the boys in finding them at the supermarket. 2 volunteers have been on domestic duties every day encouraging the boys to tidy their cupboards, make their own beds, help with the cleaning of the house, washing clothes, dishes, etc... 1/2 volunteers were on lunch duties encouraging the Casa Lar boys to use their knives and forks, sit properly, etc. All volunteers were encouraged to help the boys at Casa Lar maintain good levels of personal hygiene by remembering to brush their teeth or wash their hands at the appropriate times.

2-Assistance with personal administration issues.

The boys at Casa Lar are not children anymore. This affects the running of the project at a number of levels, but most importantly, that they have become adults that must live in their society and therefore have all their papers up to date. There is a resident Social Worker in Casa Lar who should be helping the boys take care of this. However, she does not really do much about it. She complains that she lacks resources (material and human). I have been working really closely with her as Quest can readily provide all the resources needed. Our objective for the year was to help all the boys at Casa Lar get all the necessary documents to obtain the card that will grant them free public transport around Rio. After a few days it became apparent that this was quite an unrealistic objective for 2009 and we were happy to "start the ball rolling". By the time Quest left, ALL the Casa Lar kids had or were waiting to receive their national i.d card (RG), and the process was started for half of them to obtain their CPF (their fiscal identification : Cadastro Pessoa Fisica) I am working in this line on my time by myself at Mangueira and my objective is to leave everyone almost ready for the free transport situation.

3- Outings and Indoor activities

We have had trips to the beach and to a nearby park (quinta de boa vista). We have also visited the Rio Marinha and had a boat tour around Guanabara bay. We did also have a whole weekend trip to Teresopolis with all the boys and some of the Casa Lar staff. We coordinated and accompanied the kids during the children's carnival as there was no other staff around to do it. We have continued with jewellery making and arts and crafts indoors. English lessons have also continued and the boys have shown how much English they have learnt already. Treasure hunts and trips to the swimming pool at Mangueira have also occupied some of the time. Indoor games and activities also have been part of the work plan, to various degrees of success.

In 2009 Ted Waite raised an incredible £345 by agreeing to do get involved in the Fourth Annual World Naked Bike Ride in Brighton. The money will be used to support our Casa Lar project and will go towards new wheelchairs for Daniel (who is blind) and Junior, two of the physically and mentally disabled boys at the home - Good on you Ted.

2008

In Rio the team worked tirelessly in their preparations for carnival and came an incredible 6th - fantastic work. They also put their hard efforts into caring for and improving the lives of the 17 physically and mentally disabled boys of Casa Lar. The plight of the boys this year has been desperate; with funding from the government failing to materialize the team set up a fundraising page in their name and has nearly reached their target of £4000 - awe inspiring.

2007

Provided 100's of hours of care and support for the children of Casa Lar in Rio. Taught at Tia Neuma in the Mornings, helping to make costumes for Carnival.

2006

Casa Lar - helping the children with learning difficulties in all ways from shaving to dressing, to taking them on excursions and giving them English or capoeira classes. This was the most successful part of it all, the students enjoyed and will continue to enjoy lasting friendships with the boys since they became part of their lives. This group was wonderfully affectionate and caring to the Lar boys.

Basketball coaching - Ricky Shepherd devoted his time to helping coach the girls basketball team. Football coaching - Fred Gore Browne spent most of his time helping with the football squad although I fear they ran rings around him. Art classes at the Tia Neuma school. Sensory

room for the casa lar kids. Questers were fully involved in finding and creating a sensory room for the boys. Shopping trips were organised and they were hard at work creating the place. Physiotherapy - One or two students would help out when needed with the Doctors. Swimming - at times we were able to help with swimming classes. A highlight of course was participating in the Mangueira official parade.

