



EARLY CHILDHOOD FUND

FUNDAÇÃO CANTIDIO RODRIGUES ROCHA

A CRIANÇA COMO SUJEITO DE DIREITO
(THE CHILD AS A BEARER OF RIGHTS)



CONTEXT

Fundação Cantidio Rodrigues Rocha is located in a rural area on the outskirts of Teresina, where unemployment and underemployment are main concerns for most families. The Fundação is the only program in the area offering comprehensive care for children of 2-6 years, and works with children’s families (orienting them on childcare and helping them find jobs), while offering the children recreational activities. The organization was created at the initiative of a local family and has good physical facilities and equipment for sports, games and creative activities. However, in recent years, due to lack of funding, the organization was forced to reduce the number of staff, including the number of teachers and ultimately the students.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Provide educational programs tailored specifically to developmental needs of early childhood;
- Integrate curriculum of involving play, sport, and creative activities.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

FACILITIES

- Roof balcony constructed to avoid extreme sun exposure;
- Renovated restrooms and improved the “toy library.”

PEDAGOGY AND PUBLIC POLICY

- Active participation in the design of the re-ordinance of the “Plan for the Institutional Sheltering of Children and Adolescents at the Municipal Level.

FUNDRAISING AND RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

- New partnerships with the Federation of Industries of the State of Piauí, the Municipal Council for Children and Adolescents, and the Social Assistance Council, to generate an integrated fundraising platform;
- Guaranteed continuation of the Mesa Brazil food provision.



PHOTOS:
Group meeting with
parents and employees.

CRECHE ESCOLA FUTURA GERAÇÃO

ALFABETIZANDO E TRANSFORMANDO
(LITERACY AND CHANGE)



“On behalf of Creche Escola Futura Geração, I would like to thank all involved in the BrazilFoundation for believing in our project and giving us a chance to continue this work. I will be always side-by-side with the BrazilFoundation, following up and managing this grant in a responsible way for this partnership to move ahead with success throughout these two years and to allow for us to renew it.”

Márcia Menezes Santos,
acting volunteer at Creche Escola Futura Geração

CONTEXT

Creche Escola Futura Geração is based in a low-income community in Salvador, a Northeastern city that is one of the largest in the country. Similar to other northeastern cities, Salvador faces several social issues linked to poverty including high rates of drug use, violence, sexual exploitation and homelessness. The lack of early childhood services in this community puts children at risk, and perpetuates a cycle of poverty.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

To provide support and quality educational services to 60 children from the Polêmica community and surrounding areas, preventing them from at-risk situations due to being unattended.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

After working 12 years without partnerships or financial support, the daycare suffered a daunting time of financial instability and low team motivation. The institutional infrastructure was very fragile. The grant given by our joint fund was very transformative to an organization that counted on a precarious infrastructure, depended exclusively on volunteers that did not have a clear and strong pedagogical approach.

Even operating under challenging times, dedication and commitment from the daycare team made it possible to achieve a series of important results:

FACILITIES

- Several reforms were made, including roof waterproofing, new coating for classroom walls, house painting, improving restrooms, a new kitchen and balcony;
- Acquisition of multifunction printer;
- Received a donation of new furniture.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

- Developed educational materials through partnership support;
- Increased food distribution to families and offered more class activities such as capoeira, ballet, and handicrafts;
- Mobilized the community towards shared responsibility of the children.

HUMAN RESOURCES

- Ensured payments for daycare employees;
- Received regular visits from health professionals for children.

FUNDRAISING AND RELATIONSHIP MANAGEMENT

- Partnered with CS Construction and Developers for facility renovations;
- Partnered with Corrente do Bem Group, making it possible to create fundraising campaigns and mobilize resources, such as obtaining furniture, educational materials, and health services;
- New partnerships formed to provide extra food distribution and activities for children and caretakers - activities including English classes, capoeira, ballet, and handicrafts.

“I live with my four sons in a house that when it rains lots of water gets in and the walls are fragile. My sons attend the Daycare, where they are fed, cleaned and learn a lot. I’m unemployed and work as a volunteer in the Daycare. I eat here on a daily basis and on Fridays I receive a basic food basket, without it I would be facing hunger. The daycare is my hands and feet.”

Lenivalda Graciliano de Jesus,
single, 38 years old and Daycare’s beneficiary

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Institutional realignment;
- Planned and made goals to attract new partners;
- Regularization of pending legal issues.

RESULTS

- Recognition made it possible for the institution to recover and increase its value to the community; The staff feels invigorated due to the new partnerships and the increasing quality for children;
- Employees feel valued and respected with the cost support benefit;
- Elaboration of Pedagogical Project is a clear methodological tenet as, due to the emergency to offer any kind of basic and primary support to children, educational content was always behind the needs imposed by poverty, abandonment and violence;
- Partnership with health professionals in a huge advancement in terms of children health prevention and quality of life;
- Advancement in self-esteem and general behavior of children and mothers as well as better results in initial learning process.

GENERAL COMMENT

It is important to emphasize that the support given to the Daycare encouraged an internal transformative approach and commitment to consolidate and enhance the initiative. The recognition and the credibility that this support gave them made it possible, under a very entrepreneurial leadership, to consolidate and enhance the institutional processes; and, therefore, the Daycare took advantage to review its pedagogical approach, moving from understanding its role and staff as mere caregivers to true educators. Currently, they are able to influence profoundly the lives of children and adolescents under their care.



PHOTOS:
Kids during didactic activities at the center.

CRECHE ESCOLA FUTURA GERAÇÃO FACILITY RENOVATION

BEFORE



AFTER



ASSOCIAÇÃO CRIANÇA FELIZ

CENTRO DE EDUCAÇÃO INFANTIL BAÍA AZUL:
MULTIPLICANDO SORRISOS
(BLUE BAY CHILDREN EDUCATION CENTER:
CREATING SMILES)



GUARATUBA
PARANÁ

“We believe to be on the right path. Despite the challenges, but with the support of partners such as BrazilFoundation, associates and donors, we know this work will bear fruits in the longer term.”

Salete Aparecida Leprevost,
manager and educator

CONTEXT

Associação Criança Feliz is based in a low-income community that suffers from grave infrastructure problems. Drug trafficking is a major social problem in the area. Many of the children do not have access to daycare services, as there are not enough spots at these centers to serve the local public. Many families suffer financially as a result since mothers must stay at home with their children, instead of working. Associação Criança Feliz provides daycare services to children from this community, improving their food security and access to primary school, and allowing parents to return to work.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Expand center’s outreach to 60 children and increase the efficiency of the staff and the integration of parents and caretakers in the center’s activities.

CHALLENGES

The greatest challenge faced by the daycare is the relationship with public governmental agencies. Currently, the largest percentage of the organization’s income comes from other cities - mainly from individual donors. The municipal government lacks interest in supporting the Children and Adolescents Municipal Fund. Started in 1997 in the city of Guaratuba, the fund offers tax deduction incentives to donors who donate to projects that focus on Children and Adolescents Rights. This imposes difficulties in attracting and securing new donors.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

FACILITIES

- Constructed a storage place that freed one of the classrooms to be used for activities;
- Constructed a community room used for workshops with parents and families.

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

- Increased number of staff members, including hiring one pedagogical coordinator and one class aide;
- Undertook a 20-hour course for educators for staff on approaches to Children Literature and Storytelling;

RESULTS

The main change perceived was about the children’s behavior: they became friendlier, with a stronger sense of active participation, respect, empathy and generosity.



PHOTOS:
A group of 60 children play and learn at the center.



ACARI

TAMBÉM SOU PESSOA
(I, TOO, AM SOMEBODY)



“A specific case called our attention since the first encounter. A particular woman placed her seating chair behind the group, she did not smile, did not participate in the activities and did not speak. In the second encounter with the mothers, she asked us to change the criteria to give out the prizes to the mothers that arrived first at the meeting, which we agreed and did so. From the third meeting ahead, this woman became our assistant, because we recognized her efforts to mobilize the parents, to offer testimonies, to help serve the snacks, to share her doubts and attempts to promote change. She then started to smile again!”

Salete Aparecida Leprevost,
manager and educator

CONTEXT

The region in which ACARI is located has some of the lowest socioeconomic indicators in all of Brazil. Public policies have failed the children who live in this area, and as a result there is a great lack of quality services for this age group. Furthermore, women and children are often at a disadvantage due to gender inequalities. Three favelas make up ACARI's surrounding community, where many people live in precarious dwellings that lack basic public services.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

To apply the International Child Development Program's (ICDP) teaching methodology, designed to help improve adult-child relations, and to address the psychological well-being of the child.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

- Researched to diagnosis, identify and evaluate the socio-economic profile of the parent-child relationships of the 92 families served by Creche Lar Feliz;
- Four 2-hour workshops were held with the children and their parents;
- Two 8-hour workshops were held with the educators specialized in the ICDP's methodology.

RESULTS

Staff perceived greater teamwork. These changes, although subtle, were seen in the care provided by the staff in their interactions with the children, through the perceptions and reflections from the families about their children; and through the staff per se that are incorporating new ways of working and thinking.



PHOTOS:
Pedagogical material
for teacher's capacity
building.



AÇÃO SOCIAL COMUNITÁRIA

HORA DE BRINCAR
(TIME TO PLAY)



“We are the only option in our geographic district available to children up to 5 years of age. Dozens of people knock at our door seeking help, but unfortunately, we cannot help all of them. This project comes at a catalyst agent within a restructuring process, in which the entire staff is putting effort. We aimed at the end to have didactic material for consultation from all workshops, including theoretical and practical aspects, so we can have it systematized for future research.”

Rodrigo dos Santos Simões,
project coordinator

CONTEXT

The small town of Padre Bernardo has a population of 8,000 and is marked by poverty and low socioeconomic indicators. Child labor is also prevalent, with many families bringing their children to work in the fields or to the landfills to gather recyclable materials. As a result, children in this community suffer from poor nutrition, and various related health problems. AFMA is the only local organization providing early childhood services, working to improve the nutrition of children and promote activities for their mental and emotional development. AFMA also provide assistance and guidance to children’s families, and trains professionals involved in early childhood care.

MAIN OBJECTIVES

- Continuation and improvement of current program;
- Provide recreational, pedagogical, artistic and social activities (geared towards the nutritional and intellectual development of children);
- Assist and work with children’s families.

KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS TO DATE

PEDAGOGICAL PROJECT

- Acquired furniture and quality tools in an adequate amount to structure physical and pedagogical class room spaces where the activities take place;
- Two capacity building workshops held for the team focusing on the “Art of Playing;”
- Two workshops held for parents and legal guardians, in partnership with the Children’s Council and Education Secretary focused on “Best practices in raising children”.

RESULTS

The grant has contributed towards better nourishing of 130 children through the acquisition of a greater variety of fruits, vegetables and meat, positively influencing their nutritional condition; and in the acquisition of new methodological tools, such as games and toys, used in the educational process.



PHOTO:
Children and educators
at breakfast time.

