

# BRAYCE

Brazilian & American Youth Cultural Exchange



Newsletter, Spring 2008

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### Directors

President: Caitlin Calder

Bradford Bogue  
Margot Calder  
Richard Calder  
Barbara Delaney  
Holly Ridgway  
Dr. Nanko G. van Buuren

### Mission

To build bridges of opportunity to enable young people to develop the skills necessary to become effective leaders and inspired members of their communities

17 Baker Road  
Chester  
Connecticut 06412  
USA

Tel: (860) 526 2374  
Fax: (860) 526 3906  
Email: office@brayce.org

Rio de Janeiro Office  
Rua Henrique Dumont  
125  
Apt 301, Ipanema  
Rio de Janeiro  
CEP 22410-060  
Brazil  
Tel: 21 3204 2501  
Email:  
tobycalder@hotmail.com

[www.brayce.org](http://www.brayce.org)

## Welcome to the sixth BRAYCE Newsletter

The year 2008 represents a turning point in the development of BRAYCE as we complete PHASE II of our American Brazilian Cultural Exchange. We are thrilled to announce that in addition to increasing the number of Brazilian participants from 2 to 3, we have recruited our first American student to travel to Brazil to intern in community projects administered by our Brazilian partners, Nanko van Buuren of IBISS and Marie Helene Dantas, of ITAE. This opportunity represents more of a peace corps experience with participation in community projects such as habitat, youth leadership and education. At the time of writing, the planning is not completed but we will report this in the next newsletter.

Recruits from Terra Encantada will be Rafael Guerra (invited back by Camp Hazen as a full counselor this year) and Eduardo Fares, a bright, fun-loving seventeen year old. Pauline Batista will join the group from Paraty. She is a bubbly, talented young lady who has extensive experience working with children and volunteering in her community. All the kids are overjoyed at the prospect of attending Camp Hazen and we, in turn, are thrilled to make it happen.

BRAYCE's first young American selected to intern in community programs in Brazil is Teresa Tursi from New Haven. She is currently attending Springfield College where she is majoring in Youth Development with a minor in Outdoor Leadership. Teresa has been a long time camper at Camp Hazen and was a member of the LEADership Counselor Trainee Programs, the programs in which the Brazilians

## Chester Highlights

- Teresa Tursi, a junior at Springfield College majoring in Youth Development, has been selected to participate in community projects in Paraty in the summer of 2008.
- Brazilian partner, Nanko van Buuren, plans to visit Chester in July 2008.
- BRAYCE hosted a wonderful dinner at Restaurant Du Village in Chester for people eager to hear more about our cultural Exchange Program. A great time was had by all and we would like to extend our thanks to Cynthia and Michel Keller for preparing such delicious food.
- Area Rotary Clubs continue to demonstrate program support with generous contributions.
- Planning for volunteer acknowledgment is underway.
- Plans are in full swing for our newly named fundraiser, Samba Rio, to be held on February 16, 2008 in the Catholic Parish Center, in Chester. The event is part of the Chester Winter Carnivale.
- Graduate from BRAYCE 2007, Rafael Guerra, has been invited back to Camp Hazen as a full counselor for the summer of 2008.
- Chester Public Library will partner with BRAYCE to supply media materials for the new library in Terra Encantada.

## Rio de Janeiro Highlights

- Richard and Margot returned to Rio and visited graduates from the 2007 BRAYCE program, Gilmar and Rafael, in the favela of Terra Encantada.
- Our Brazilian partner and founder of IBISS, Dr. Nanko van Buuren, received a "Knighthood" from the Queen of Holland for services to humanity. [More overleaf >](#)

*Our nation will succeed or fail to the degree that all of us, citizens and businesses alike, are active participants in building strong, sustainable and enriching communities*  
Arnold Hiatt ex - CEO StrideRite Corp



Gilmar with his mother, brother and Nanko



ITAE Director Eduardo with Pauline



- The new Art Center is almost complete. It will serve three favelas, consisting of some 20,000 persons.
- At the Center, Gilmar will be teaching theatre, dance and music and will be responsible for running the new library. Rafael will teach English classes. Other young leaders will run the new Media Center and Radio Station.
- The media Center will be filming the Brazilian piece of the Brayce documentary to be produced by Essex Television in Old Lyme, Connecticut.
- Gilmar has enrolled at University and is taking courses in English and Portuguese
- Richard and Margot met potential candidates for 2009.
- Rafael is attending college and taking courses in Tourism.
- Richard and Margot visited the non-profit organization of ITAE in the colonial town of Paraty. ITAE is dedicated to helping youngsters to achieve their potential and become better citizens through a



Sandro, project chief at Terra Encantada and long time organizer for IBISS



With Nanko and team during 2008 visit to Terra Encantada



Marlies, English teacher, organizer, translator, Liaison between IBISS and Terra Encantada



No laundromat within miles so the old fashioned clothes line handles family wash. A view from the new Arts Center



The Hazen Cross Roads. After this camping experience, no child is ever the same



Typical view from the IBISS Center in Vila Cruziero, one of the Complexo Alemão favelas



Future software engineers in training!



The LEA 1 team on a work detail to help clean up around the Chester Meeting House

