



Brazilian and American Youth Cultural Exchange

Building Bridges of Opportunity



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Build a Future

One Person at a Time

Change a Life

Make a Difference



Americans student interns are recruited from colleges and universities in the northeastern United States where Brazilian Studies, including Brazilian Portuguese language instruction, constitute part of the curriculum. An interest in human rights and social justice, maturity, and experience in working with children are prerequisites for selection. Participation in community service projects and knowledge of Brazilian culture is an advantage, but not essential.

Interns perform community service in favelas under the aegis of BRAYCE partner organizations (see *BRAYCE Partners*). This includes teaching English and/or Spanish, and supporting projects such as habitat, mentorship, health education, sports, music and other enrichment programs for children and teenagers.

The Brazil internship is life-changing for American BRAYCE interns. They become role-models for the young people they teach providing excitement, innovative ideas and cultural interaction. Apart from improving Portuguese language skills, the experience can open doors to graduate studies, future employment and enhance long-term career prospects.



BRAYCE



Mission

To provide educational enrichment opportunities, life and leadership skills and cultural exchanges to empower Brazilian and American youth to realize their full potential

BRAYCE (Brazilian and American Youth Cultural Exchange) is a non-profit agency based in Chester, Connecticut, with a second office in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Established in 2005, the organization is dedicated to providing educational opportunities to socially excluded children and teenagers from favelas (slums) in Brazil and providing opportunities to American college-age students to perform community service in these same communities.

For young people from both countries, the experience of an international cultural experience creates an understanding, which, over time, will help to promote world friendship and peace.

BRAYCE Partners in Brazil and the US



Camp Hazen YMCA
Chester, Connecticut
www.camphazenyumca.org



IBISS (Brazilian Institute for Innovation in Social Welfare) Rio de Janeiro.
www.IBISS.com.br



Casa Azul/ FLIP (International Literary Festival of Paraty), Paraty, RJ.
www.casaazul.org.br



ITAE (Institute for Arts and Education) Paraty, RJ.
www.itaeparaty.org.br

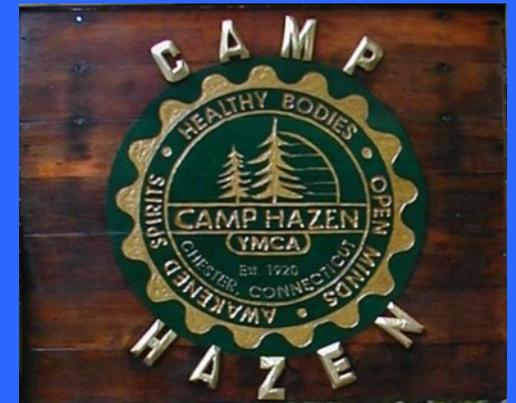


Vila Olimpica da Maré, Rio de Janeiro
www.dancaearteparaty.org.br



Cia. Dança e Arte Paraty, Paraty, RJ.
www.dancaearteparaty.org.br

BRAYCE partners are dedicated to human rights, social responsibility and equal opportunity for all



Children and young people in the favelas of Rio de Janeiro and Paraty wake each day to the challenges of favela life: drug trafficking; violence; poverty; disease; unemployment; persecution from police and militias and an education that is fragmented, at best. BRAYCE recognizes that adolescence is a particularly critical turning point for favela youth who without opportunity or hope of salvation, may inevitably succumb to prostitution, drug trafficking and petty crime.

Guided by Brazilian partners, BRAYCE recruits motivated, community-minded high school age youngsters with functional English, to participate in a Leadership Training Program at Camp Hazen YMCA in Chester, Connecticut. Here they acquire many new skills, confidence, self-assurance and fluency in English. In addition, with a conviction that with hard work and perseverance, like their American friends they can expect and plan a future.

Returning to Brazil, BRAYCE graduates have an incredible impact on their favela neighborhoods. Here they become inspirational role models, injecting a sustaining, positive influence on their peers and younger siblings and contributing to the enrichment of community life.