

BRAYCE

Brazilian & American Youth Cultural Exchange



Newsletter, Spring 2009

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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

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Welcome to the Eighth BRAYCE Newsletter

BRAYCE is celebrating its fourth year of facilitating cultural exchanges for young people in Brazil and the United States. Since 2005, with a strong infrastructure of partners: IBISS in Rio de Janeiro, ITAE in Paraty and Camp Hazen YMCA in the United States, BRAYCE has so far organized seven cultural exchanges. In Brazil, the real impact of these exchange experiences is measured by the returning program participants becoming inspired role models in their communities; assuming leadership roles in community projects; dedicating themselves to continue their education; developing the confidence to embark on a career path and plan a future. In 2009, with the addition of two Brown University students to participate in community projects in Brazil and with seven Brazilians traveling to the US, BRAYCE will have successfully facilitated a total of 16 cultural exchanges. The American interns will make a difference in the lives of many underprivileged, or at risk children, while enriching their own education and enhancing their prospects for graduate school, jobs and long term career opportunities.

Rio de Janeiro and Paraty Highlights

- Richard and Margot Calder visited Terra Encantada on several occasions to review progress at the Cultural Center and to observe and participate in the bi-weekly English lessons taught by Marlies.
- The Cultural Center (now known as Espaço IBISS) building renovation is almost complete and classes are already taking place. Daniel Sant'ano's class of twelve aspiring young guitarists, each equipped with a donated instrument, was very impressive.
- Jhonatan Cordeiro and Gilvan de Aragão were selected for Summer 2009 Leadership I training at Camp Hazen.
- Richard and Margot traveled to Paraty and were delighted to see the progress made at the new ITAE facility, still under construction.
- Pauline Batista, 2008 BRAYCE graduate, has been invited to return to Camp Hazen this summer as an assistant counselor. Once the new ITAE facility is totally operational in April she will be part of a team developing and expanding the language programs for parents as well as youngsters. She has already initiated English lessons for adults.
- Pauline received a special award from the Mayor of Paraty for her participation in the Camp Hazen Leadership Training Program.
- Richard and Margot met with ITAE Executive Director, Maria Helena Dantas. Maria Helena has offered an internship this summer for an American BRAYCE recruit to teach English and assist with many other program activities. The internship is for at least one month.
- Rafael Guerra held an orientation session for the families of Jhonatan and Gilvan. This was very well received and will ultimately form the basis of a formal parents support group.
- Pauline is developing a student manual to help new BRAYCE recruits prepare for the Camp Hazen experience. The manual is written in both English and Portuguese. A parents' manual is also in the works. This will explain the entire process of the cultural exchange from recruit selection to the ongoing commitments to BRAYCE, IBISS and ITAE.
- Nanko drove the Calders to visit the orphanage of Familia Santa Clara that is supported by IBISS. They presented a check donated by The Collette Foundation, Rhode Island, for renovation and supplies.

I realize that the way I thought before (I came to Camp Hazen) is completely different from how I think now. Now I am more responsible and doing everything. I can make a better future for myself, which means having a good education, studying and thereby being completely independent

BRAYCE Graduate Rafael Guerra



Enthusiastic participation in English class



Jhonatan

Gilvan



The next generation learns Bossa Nova



Delicious lunch with friends at Rafael's Mother's seafood shop and restaurant



Pauline's lovely family



Pauline Batista shares a joke with Executive Director of ITAE, Maria Helena Dantas, who is to visit Camp Hazen in July



Margot and Edna in Santa Clara's library



Efraim Silva and his team deliver an electrifying performance of capoeira



Margot talks with youngsters in Mare, the largest favela complex in Rio de Janeiro



The Terra Encantada Transport Company

Chester Highlights

- BRAYCE celebrated its Third Samba Rio Carnivale Ball. This extravaganza fundraiser was a huge success. Cantico, Trinity Samba and Efraim Silva of USA Capoeira entertained 250 dancers. **Mark your calendars for Saturday, February 20th, 2010.**
- This summer, Juninho de Nascimento, Romildo Paz da Silva and Leonardo Rodrigues dos Santos, from neighboring communities of Jardim América and Vigário Geral, will spend two weeks at Camp Hazen teaching capoeira (unique mix of martial arts, games and dance) and percussion to young campers. In preparation for their visit, all three are diligently studying English with Marlies.



Sophie Beal



Malay Khamsyvoravong



Carmen Miranda Calder & Friend

- Sophie Beal, BRAYCE intern, is a PhD candidate in Portuguese and Brazilian Studies at Brown University who has extensive experience teaching language courses and working with adolescents both in the United States and in Brazil. Sophie will be working with young people in Terra Encantada and plans to establish a theatre program.
- Malay Khamsyvoravong, also a Brown University student, has been recruited to be the first BRAYCE intern at ITAE, in Paraty. Malay is a Latin American studies major with experience studying, working, and traveling through South America. She is proficient in spoken and written Portuguese and has worked with children of diverse ages and backgrounds.

To all BRAYCE volunteers who enthusiastically support our events, donate endless time and effort and appreciate our work

THANK YOU



Camp Hazen YMCA



Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
Margaret Mead