

BRAYCE

Brazilian & American Youth Cultural Exchange

Newsletter
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Mission

To provide life-changing education opportunities for marginalized young Brazilians and socially conscious young Americans, empowering them to realize their full potential

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Welcome to the Ninth 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 thirteen 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. The two American interns made a huge difference in the lives of many young children as well as enriching their own

Rio de Janeiro and Paraty Highlights

- Sophie Beal, graduate student from Brown University and fluent Portuguese speaker, interned for six weeks at Terra Encantada. Responsibilities included teaching intensive English classes to BRAYCE 2009 students Jhonata and Gilvan, in preparation for the Leadership Training program at Camp Hazen. She also started and led a theatre group



Dynamic story telling at Terra Encantada

- Malay Khamsyvoravong interned with ITAE in Paraty for six weeks. She assisted in classroom activities and implemented her own interactive teaching techniques. Maria Helena Dantas, Director of ITAE, has agreed to continue the program with possibly two interns in 2010.

- In July, Malay also worked as a bi-lingual receptionist and announcer at FLIP, the highly acclaimed international literary festival in Paraty. It is anticipated that this will become an annual intern work activity

- We are fortunate to be introduced by Caryn Davis to Wendy Black-Nasta, founder of Artists for Peace. In addition to founding orphanages, she is very active in providing shoes to orphanages and delivered fifty pairs of different types of shoes and sandals that were transported to Rio by Jhonata and Gilvaan, delivered to Nanko and presented to the Orphanage at Santa Clara, much to the surprise and delight of the young residents.



The new Santa Clara Orphanage shoe

- Rafael Guerra is currently continuing his part time university studies in Tourism and is actively searching for a job in that field in Rio.

- Pauline Batista is now completing her final high school year, teaching English at ITAE and applying for University in the US.

- Jhonata already has a job at a local Internet Café.

- Gilvan is working at a Center for Hearing Impaired Children.



Sophie engages budding actors

Well...camp experience is absolutely a changing lives experience. While I was in camp, I felt changed every single day, I felt I was really growing up every day as a person and as a role model to the young people of my community, learning new "life-useful" skills, making new friendships and learning how to accept all the differences between people. Camp is something that literally changed my life every day when I share what I learned with my people

BRAYCE Graduate Pauline Batista, 2009



Jhonata and Gilvan's first flight—to JFK



LEA trainees ready to help the Chester Road Race



Pauline instructs a Creative Arts class



Wendy the Shoe Lady departs for BRAZIL



Shoes Galore!



Malay and Sophie in Paraty for the Festival

Chester Highlights

- Rafael Guerra returned for a third year at Camp Hazen and was rated one of the top counselors. He has been invited to return next year as Waterfront Activity Director.
- Pauline Batista returned for a second year as an Assistant Counselor. She has been invited back as a full Counselor in 2010 .
- A BRAYCE Volunteer Appreciation event was held at the Calder's home on sunny Sunday, July 19. Nearly fifty volunteers and supporters enjoyed a delicious Brazilian style barbeque, largely provided by Hernan and his brother Fred, owners of The Ivory Pub and Restaurant in Deep River.
- On August 23 BRAYCE graduates Rafael Guerra , Pauline Batista and intern Malay Khamsyvoravong spoke to a gathering of 40 congregation members of the St. Johns Episcopal Church in Essex. CT. A light lunch of Brazilian style food was again provided by the owners of The Ivory.
- The fourth annual Samba Rio carnival dance will again to kick off Chester's Carnivale Weekend on February 20, 2010. It will be held again at the St Joseph's parish Church Hall in Chester. Mark the date and purchase you tickets in advance at www.BRAYCE.org.



Gilvan and Pauline talk with volunteers

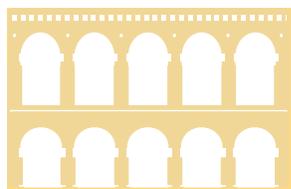


The Lifesavers



Explaining the joys of camp life

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



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