

BRAYCE

Brazilian & American Youth Cultural Exchange



Newsletter, Autumn 2007

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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 fifth BRAYCE Newsletter

In 2007, BRAYCE celebrated its second successful year in Phase I of its cultural exchange program at Camp Hazen. In late July, Gilmar Aragao and Rafael Guerra joined the LEAdership I counselor trainee group. They spent a life-changing month as enthusiastic participants in the program, excelling in a number of challenging activities. They received instruction in many aspects of leadership: team building both as participant and leader, leadership styles, time management, lesson planning, counseling and communication. At the same time, they were developing their own skills in areas such as program planning and scheduling, counseling young campers, safety standards, first aid, CPR and life-guarding. Both made many new friends and enjoyed a rich, cultural experience. Back in Rio, they are implementing their newly learned skills in their communities.

2008 marks a pivotal moment in the evolution of BRAYCE as we move into Phase II of the cultural exchange. In addition to 3 Brazilian youngsters joining the Camp Hazen Program, we are planning to identify young Americans to participate in IBISS programs in Rio. Working with our Brazilian partner, Dr. Nanko van Buuren, they will be assigned responsibilities in underprivileged townships where they will participate in community programs in areas such as habitat, youth leadership and education.

Chester Highlights

- A wonderful new partnership has been formed between Camp Hazen and Dr. Robert Ballard's Institute for Exploration (IFE) at Mystic Aquarium. Several IFE staff and member groups have already been to Camp Hazen for Team Building. Hazen's campers and families have visited IFE and the Aquarium for marine life workshop activities. Next year BRAYCE exchange students will participate in IFE activities
- Both Gilmar and Rafael (along with the 13 other LEA 1 trainees) delivered presentations to the 350 campers and staff, in English, on the subject of "Trust"
- Great news! Rafael Guerra is invited by Camp Hazen staff to return next summer as a fully paid counselor, thereby skipping the second level LEA counselor training!
- Area Rotary Clubs continue to demonstrate program support with generous contributions
- Over 50 volunteers and sponsors attended the Feijoada lunch festivity and celebration at the Calder's home on July 16
- Planning for the Saturday, February 16th, 2008 Chester Winter Carnivale Samba Dance is in full swing. Almost certainly at the St Josephs Parish Hall in Chester: **SAVE THE DATE!**

Rio de Janeiro Highlights

- Gilmar and Rafael prepared for the US visit assisted by IBISS staff
- Steve Ruken, US Consul in Rio, and his staff helped smooth the way for the visa application process - only just in time!
- Our Brazilian partner, Nanko van Buuren, accompanied by the boys' families and friends, saw them off in style from the Antonio Carlos Jobim International Airport in Rio on July 17, bound for New York
- Gilmar has returned to Terra Encantada to manage the new Art Center, Espaço Encantada, to teach theatre, music and dance to the many children and young people in the area
- Rafael has started a college course in tourism
- Suellen, a graduate of 2006, is continuing as the school homework mentor to 150 young children in Terra Encantada

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



Arrival Kennedy Airport, New York, July 18



The LEA 1 group was represented by France, UK, Brazil and the US. Their counselor leader, Peter Brooks from Australia, a three time Paralympic cycling medal winner, introduced many innovative leadership training activities



Gilmar, our President Caitlin and Rafael



Happiness is a night out bowling



Hazen Cross Roads



Happiness is dinner time



Board member Holly Ridgway, Rafael, Gilmar, Richard and Margot Calder



Rafael gives swimming lessons at the waterfront at Camp Hazen



Gilmar & Rafael talk in English on the importance of "Trust" to 350 campers and staff



At Ground Zero, New York City, en-route to Kennedy Airport



Work Team in Chester



Peter Brooks, the Leader of the LEAs



The Last Night

