

JUNE TO SEPTEMBER 2015.

Newsletter

Associação Viva a Vida



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Advocacy

Child Protection Officers Visit – Arembepe – 8th June

Psycho-Social Care Centre – Vila de Abrantes – 15th June

Students visited the Arembepe Child Protection Office, responsible for services in Vila de Abrantes, and were received by its technical team who were surprised by the visit. On the day, the students posed questions about Child Protection services, access to these services and data on violence. In the coming Term this information will be shared with other groups.

#young people finding out about the social services network



Continuing our visits to the social services network, students went to the Psycho-Social Care Centre in Vila de Abrantes to gather information about mental illness, in particular with regards to drug abuse. The psychologist that hosted our visit was similarly surprised by our visit, and the group's interest in the information.

#young people finding out about the healthcare network

The Viva a Vida Big Meet Up – Integrating Groups – 20th June

The Big Meet Up is an activity designed to integrate young people, mostly for them to reflect on the reality in their community, society at large, and how their activities with Viva a Vida relate to daily life. Our plan for this activity was to reveal the recurring indices of violence in the neighbourhoods where our service users live and where our activities are concentrated. We decided to reveal this data in a practical, realistic way, evoking feelings and not just numbers.





Child Protection Policy Workshop

Trustee Board, Team and Beneficiaries (young people and parents)

To support our mission, we are delivering a series of activities over a period of 12 months, which will result in a Child Protection Policy for the adolescents and young people involved in our projects, including their families, supporters, volunteers, and partners of the organisation. Three questions are guiding these activities: What is a Child Protection Policy for Adolescents and Young People?

We have already completed part of the Child Protection schedule:

- 22nd June – workshop with the Trustee Board, team, and beneficiaries – What is a Child Protection Policy?;
- 26th August – parents and community – Child Protection Policy and Human Rights;
- 12th September – Trustee Board and team – Child and Adolescent Statute (ECA);
- 23rd September – beneficiaries – Child Protection Policy and the Child and Adolescent Statute (ECA).

Trustee Board

Our new President Mr. Carlos Gonçalves and our Finance Director José Viana dos Santos met with the technical team on 20th June to get to know one another and improve their understanding of Viva a Vida's activities and the strategies that need to be incorporated into the board's agenda.

Thereafter, the Trustee Board and the Oversight Committee met on 11th June and 12th September to discuss strategic and financial aspects of the NGO. We are currently focusing on the development of new financial spreadsheets, and a Communications Brochure to give more visibility to our work.

We would like to thank the board for dedicating so much time to help improve our organisation!



Reflections on the First Term



On 13th July, we carried out a reflective workshop with seven members of our technical team to reflect on the first term and discuss our thoughts, feelings and findings. At the end of the workshop, the students made apples representing their hopes for a Viva a Vida Aspiration Tree! We recognise that our team is working with dedication and open-mindedness for continuous learning, and at the same time, that our work involves a constant effort to reconcile the important demands of our goals and the challenges that emerge in

Parents and Community

Our term got off to a great start! We carried out extensive workshops with parents, attended by 35 fathers and mothers, who met to discuss 'their role in school life and how the school is not responsible for domestic education' and 'the importance of affection'. The activity was led by social worker Deise Cruz, with support from Vila de Abrantes State College.



Vila Jovem Group

Thematic Saturdays

To contribute to the personal development of the young people in the community of Vila de Abrantes, the Vila Jovem Group has organised a **Thematic Saturdays** programme. The first addressed **STDs, HIV/Aids and teenage pregnancy**. Nurse Adriana from the neighbourhood's Primary Healthcare Unit was present and addressed the group from an educational point of view.





Group Integration – Cinema



To better integrate the group, following the brief hiatus caused by the departure of our previous group leader, we provided some group integration entertainments. We took the group to the cinema, had lunch and encouraged the development of pre-existing ties between members. The following week saw group membership increase from 10 to the 20 current members.

SARAU



A 'sarau' is a Brazilian outdoor arts event, gathering community members for evening performances of some kind. Our Vila Jovem Group decided to host a sarau for the benefit of their community. The event saw the participation of singers, poets and youth activists who use rhyme as an instrument for spreading information, awareness raising and social mobilisation. Our first activity was an open forum of conversation about 'Urban Violence', mediated by Geovane 'The Survivor'.

Buris Square was full of young people and information!



Life Plan Workshop with Oliver

Oliver, our twenty year old volunteer, used his experience of having co-founded an NGO in the UK, which employs and trains ex-convicts, to encourage our young people to consider a career of activism as a way to make the world a better place.





Cinema Viva A Vida

Bodies and Images: Art and Education in the Prevention of Drug Abuse

The short film, produced by the students of our Arts Education workshops, was shown to the group. The title given to the video was: Bodies and Images: Art and Education in the Prevention of Drug Abuse. The final product was conceived, organised and filmed by the students. Video editing was carried out by educator Ronaldo Vaz.

New Class – August

We started with 12 new students in the afternoon class. They have started a basic course of theatre classes, integrating with the advanced group wherever possible.

Extra Workshops – August and September

Tony, a Supplementary Theatre Teacher, offered additional activities to help put together our next show 'Sofia's Dream', contributing new techniques and learning.

Bahian Festival of Latin American Theatre

Theatre students participated in The Bahian Festival of Latin American Theatre, watching a performance of 'Olympia Andante'. This formed part of the groups exchange activities.



Community, Volunteering, Partners & Communication

OLIVER BREAM

It is with great satisfaction that we received our new volunteer, Oliver Bream McIntosh, a Latin American Studies student the University of Nottingham, UK. Oliver has founded an NGO in the UK working with ex-convicts and recovering drug addicts, and hopes to support Viva A Vida with a research project gathering data to contextualize our work, whilst carrying out some workshops with Viva a Vida's young people to reflect on his experiences.

RESPONSE DAY – CIPÓ NGO

To strengthen our network, we attended the event carried out by the NGO CIPÓ in the neighbourhood of Uruguai in Salvador. The activity was aimed at encouraging reflections on the conscientious consumption of alcohol.



Better Place

A couple of German friends, Marcus and Feli, are fundraising for Viva a Vida through their online German platform Better Place (we would like to thank our funder ABC Trust for facilitating this contact). Check out our page on their website here (in English):

<https://www.betterplace.org/en/fundraising-events/24750-street-kids-brazil>

All funds raised will be used to purchase materials and equipment for activities with our young people in 2016 – more news in the next newsletter! We would also like to thank these young people for their admirable allegiance to our cause!

Photo Session

Young volunteer David Bandeiraz, resident of the community, accepted our invitation to photograph our young people with a professional camera for us to use in our publicity material.



We welcome your participation and support. In order for Viva a Vida to carry out all this fantastic work, we rely on donated funds & materials, and on volunteers.

Sponsor the transformation of a community!!

Contact Cressida (cressida_vivaavida@hotmail.com) to find out how you can donate.

Associação Viva a Vida

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