



OFF THE STREETS AND BACK IN SCHOOL TO STAY IN RIO

Artistic activities, psychological support, reintegration with families & school for 100 street kids & at-risk youth, with the aim of participating in the construction of a world more fair & democratic.

Nine monitor salaries in the total amount of USD \$3960.00 to cover the costs of salaries for the monitors for 1 year.

ESCOLA DE CIRCO PEQUENO TIGRE – NUCLEO RIO DE JANEIRO

A Nucleus center of Social Circus activities located in downtown Rio to serve all of Rio's street children population.

According to the 1st Vara da Infância e da Juventude of Rio de Janeiro, (the children's protection court) the honorable judge **Dr. Siro Darlan**, estimates that approximately 300 boys and girls live and/or hang out on the streets of downtown and the upper class neighborhoods of the south zone of Rio de Janeiro. In spite of the public politics developed by the State of Rio, and the hundreds of community initiatives throughout the city, nothing has been done to solve this problem.

When **Dr. Siro Darlan** initiated a project which he hoped would offer these children a place to go, a place where the community could intervene with psychological care and attempt to re-integrate the children with family (or alternative housing) and school – a place where these children could use their artistic talents towards social and economic growth - a place where the boys and girls who are juggling for money at the stoplights will want to spend their time. **Dr. Siro Darlan** called on the **Pequeno Tigre** social circus school and **Dreams Can Be** to set up a nucleus center of social circus activities in the downtown area of Rio de Janeiro – easily accessible by all street children. .

On a piece of land donated by the city near the children's court, we have erected a brand new Big Top and have plans to build 2 classrooms, bathrooms and an office – a social circus Nucleus of Pequeno Tigre which currently serves about 100 children daily and plans on serving between 150 and 300 children daily. Our current mission is to engage institutions and companies who are socially responsible to help us expand this project. To help us build a world where street kids, like all other children, can be respected and realize their possibilities of growth and personal development, without indifference and violence. This project is modeled after the highly effective program **ESCOLA DE CIRCO PEQUENO TIGRE** run by *Programa Social Crescer e Viver* and created under and by the school of Samba Unidos do Porto da Pedra, one of the most respected samba schools in the Rio de Janeiro area. See **SÃO GONÇALO** below.

The project in Rio's Centro district was launched on Brazil's Children's Day October 12th, 2004. The program is in its infancy and still does not have the resources to achieve all of it's goals. Junior Perim the program's founder was recently named an Ashoka Fellow and this brings with it much recognition as it is one of the most prestigious awards that one can receive for social entrepreneurship. We hope that the new resources and contacts that come with this award will allow Junior to bring even more attention to the project.

The Nucleo Center project has some challenges that were not as prevalent in the program in SÃO GONÇALO and the project leaders have been making adjustments. For example, starting a project with just street kids has proven to be difficult to maintain discipline within the project, so we have been trying a mix of at-risk youth from the neighboring slum as they will come every day and help add to the continuity. As they spend more and more time in the project and they understand and gain from the rules, we find that there is no stronger motivator for these children in the programs than peer pressure and solidarity. Having at-risk youth with some stability in their lives means better continuity and visiting recidivism that they can make gains, witness the value of the program and carry that message to newly entering youth.

The project works with 100 children a day. Fifty in the morning session and 50 in the afternoon session; public school in Brazil is a half day.

THE PROJECT IS SEEKING SUPPORT FOR SALARIES OF 9 MONITORS TO WORK WITH 100 CHILDREN.

ESCOLA DE CIRCO PEQUENO TIGRE - SÃO GONÇALO

The ECPT is part of *Programa Social Crescer e Viver* and created under and by *the school of Samba Unidos do Porto da Pedra*, one of the most respected samba schools in the Rio de Janeiro area.

The ECPT began in January of 2002 with the goal to provide education and promotion of options for at risk children and adolescents between the ages of 7 to 14. Focusing on perspectives of citizenship and the rescue of cultural roots, Pequeno Tigre specializes in the social circus and has become one of the most well-respected and recognized social circus programs in the country.

The main objective of Pequeno Tigre is to implement an educational philosophy and put into practice the role of circus activities combined with educational reinforcement to provide knowledge reproduction and the exchange of experiences and ideas in order to stimulate other ways of learning for the youth they serve.

Classes are offered free of charge at the *Unidos do Porto da Pedra* rehearsal court, where circus activities are developed. The participants also get monthly food packages for them and their families and medical follow up. They are required to participate in discussion groups around themes related to citizenship, environment, drug use, violence, children rights, sexual education, etc. Reading and alternative ways of study are also encouraged.

Pequeno Tigre's achievements have exceeded their expectations.

- The school drop out rate of kids from the project is 0%.
- Eight kids who needed psychological treatment completed their treatment and were through in three months.
- According to parents and family reports, family and community relationships have shown significant improvement.
- Shows/performances have been put on and 50% were delivered at public network establishments and in poor communities. All performances were free of charge. Additionally, many larger institutions have invited ECPT to perform and in these cases the Little Tigre program has been the recipient of much additional support. (ie. Clothes, food, school material, etc).

Circus school activities are developed and carried out by a team of paid and volunteer professionals. The team is made up of Circus Instructors trained by The National Circus School and other health and education professionals. The circus group and others regularly attend lectures and group studies on the topic of social circus pedagogy in an effort to better understand and to incorporate the value of the work and influence of Social Circus on at-risk youth. This study has an emphasis on practical theoretical application and in terms of its pedagogical foundation the principals studied are those of the Network of "Circo do Mundo" .

- DCB is a very close working partner of the Pequeno Tigre team and supports them continually in myriad ways to support them in their efforts to realize their ambitious goals and we give them all the credit for their hard work, determination and excellent programs that they carry out on behalf of the children and the families as well as the entire community that they serve.
- In 2003 DCB donated R\$ 6.750,00 for general operating support.
- In 2004 DCB donated of R\$33,606.00. to launch the Rio Nucleo Project and to clear land that was donated to the project.