



Julio Otoni Community Development Plan for 2024

Background:

The youth in Brazil, especially in Rio de Janeiro, face significant challenges such as teenage pregnancies, high mortality rates due to violence, and a pervasive influence of crime and drug trafficking. Julio Otoni, a community in Santa Teresa, Rio de Janeiro, is particularly vulnerable, with approximately 500 families (2500 people) struggling with limited opportunities for young people and high susceptibility to criminal activities.

Current Situation in Brazil:

- Teenage births account for 24% of all deliveries at Pro Matre, Rio's largest maternity hospital.
- 79.73% of young deaths in Rio are due to homicide, suicide, or accidents, with a high homicide rate of 58.4% per 100,000.
- Historical data shows a concerning trend of youth involvement in crime, with an average age of entry dropping from 15/16 in the 1990s to 12/13 in 2000.

What do the young people in the Favelas of Brazil say:

"Eu estava indo à escola e trabalhando no tráfico; tinha treze anos. Mas estava sempre cansado. Um dia abandonei a escola. O diretor me chamou e insistiu para que eu voltasse. Eu era um bom aluno. Mas não teve jeito: eu gostava da escola, mas queria crescer no negócio, ser dono da favela" CLÁUDIO, 17 ANOS, GERENTE GERAL, MORRO DO BOREL, TIJUCA.

"Estava indo para o trabalho quando um amigo me chamou para ir roubar na cidade. Ele me ensinou a fazê-lo. Enfiei a mão no bolso do velho e peguei a carteira. Havia R\$450,00. Eu receberia R\$150,00 por mês. Era tão fácil, eu nunca deixei esta vida; tinha 15 anos. Hoje, não tem retorno"
ARIEL, 23 ANOS, GERENTE GERAL DE UM PONTO-DE-VENDA, PARQUE MARÉ, MARÉ.

"Depois que você entra no negócio, só existem duas formas de sair: debaixo da terra ou prisão. Estou fora"
ERNANI, 17 ANOS, BAIXA DO SAPATEIRO, M

Julio Otoni Community:

- A community initiative, with the support of REDEH (Network for Human Development), has made strides in addressing challenges and preventing youth involvement in crime.
- Julio Otoni faced problems due to increased population and lack of alternatives for its youth, making them vulnerable to criminal groups.
- Community mobilization efforts have led to positive changes, including the removal of threats and a significant decrease in drug trafficking.

Achievements Since 2004:

1- Literacy Program:

Running since 09/2004. 20 adults participated, with 15 achieving literacy equivalent to first grade.

2-Community Renovation:

Ongoing activities include play area renovation, house painting, and community center refurbishment.

Community involvement in "mutiroes" to improve favela conditions.

3-English Classes:

Started in February 06, with 50 children aged 6-14 participating regularly.

4-Capoeira Classes:

Traditional African dance taught by a local volunteer. Around 60 students, with a planned Christmas performance.

5-After School Support:

Average of 40 children in the program during 2006-2007. Increasing popularity with mothers trusting their children's safety in the center. Activities led by volunteers, with essential expenses for personnel, snacks, and materials.

6-Recycling Project:

Engaging the community in income-generating handcraft paper production.

Capacity building and sales support for 15 women, requiring improved marketing assistance.

7-Holidays Kids Club:

Three successful holiday kids clubs since 2004, offering recreational-educational activities.

Popular among children, organized for two to three weeks during holidays, aiming to make a positive

impact.

Our Plans for 2024:

Stage 1: Holiday Kids Club (Colonia de Ferias) 7th to 31st January

A three-week program during school holidays.

Targets approximately 20 children aged 7-15 for 5 hours daily.

Objective: Provide an alternative space for children to meet and play, reducing street presence.

Activities include Drama, Arts and Crafts, Sports, Dance, and Excursions.

Stage 2: After-School Club starting February 1st till November 2024

Addresses the need for extra educational support during the half-day school schedule.

Activities similar to the holiday play-scheme.

Includes a homework club with an on-site teacher.

Potential expansion to a Before-School Club for those attending afternoon school sessions if successful.

Stage 3: Beautification of the Favela (March - August 2024)

A community project focusing on improving favela infrastructure.

Involves road improvement, garbage disposal with children's involvement, art paintings with graffiti, tree planting, and creating a medicinal garden.

An ongoing educational activity promoting active citizenship among young people.

Overheads for 2024:

1- Holiday Club, Twice a Year (January and July):

Duration: Six weeks

Funding Request: U\$3,000.00

2-After-School Club, 10 Months (February - December), and (August-December):

Funding Request: U\$7,000.00 per year

3-Beautification Project: Fund is requested for this project

Funding Request: U\$10,000.00

End of 2024 Goals for Julio Otoni Community:

1-Community Empowerment:

Mobilize and leverage the talents within Julio Otoni to actively contribute to improving living conditions.

Cultivate a sense of community where residents actively participate in projects for their own betterment.

2-Inclusion of Street Inhabitants:

Harness the social capital of street inhabitants, fostering collaboration and integration with Julio Otoni's community.

Create a model of social interaction that embraces diversity and inclusivity.

3-Model for Social Innovation:

Establish Julio Otoni as a model for social intervention, showcasing successful integration and community-driven initiatives.

Inspire the development of similar projects in Santo Antonio and beyond, replicating the model to uplift other favelas.

By the end of 2024, our vision is to transform Julio Otoni into a beacon of community-driven progress, showcasing the potential for social integration and innovation that can be replicated in neighboring favelas



