

# ASSOCIAÇÃO BARRACA DA AMIZADE

## SHELTER OF FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION



**Location:** Fortaleza, Brazil

**Partner:** Global Fund for Children

**Issue Areas:** Armed Conflict, Universal Education

**Points of Interest:** Art for Social Change

### The Organization

Since its founding in 1994, Associação Barraca da Amizade (Shelter of Friendship Association) has worked with boys and young men between the ages of 12 and 24 who are living on the streets and often engaged in high-risk behaviors such as gang activity, substance abuse, and petty crime. The organization provides transitional housing, psychosocial counseling, academic tutoring, and vocational training in the performing arts, including dance, capoeira, and acrobatics. The Shelter also works directly with the boys' families to achieve the longer-term objective of family reintegration and harmony. Working from the principle that vulnerable boys have a strong need for identity and belonging, Shelter of Friendship's model is to create a tight-knit social unit that serves as a positive alternative to the streets.

In 2008, the organization made the strategic decision to expand to serve girls between the ages of 12 and 18, particularly survivors of sexual exploitation. The Shelter also engages in advocacy for the rights of children and adolescents, in close partnership with 11 other community-based organizations and two local government bodies in Fortaleza, raising awareness in the government and throughout society regarding the needs of street children.

### Why the Need?

The northeastern region of Brazil is not only the poorest in the country but also the single largest pocket of poverty in Latin America, with 47 percent of the population living on less than one dollar per day. In Fortaleza, poverty is aggravated by the urban context of overcrowding and inadequate infrastructure, resulting in the proliferation of *favelas* (shantytowns). Children who live on the streets are particularly vulnerable; in addition to lacking shelter, they lack the fixed address and often the identification documents that would allow them to access public services and support. The instability of life on the streets also precludes virtually any possibility of enrolling in school and obtaining a formal education. Officially nonexistent, these children are easy targets for police brutality and other forms of mistreatment.

### How Team Efforts Translate to Impact

Through a team of street educators, the Shelter of Friendships meets children and youth aged 12 to 18 every day in their own space and on their own terms, engaging them with games, art, and books as a means of gradually developing trust and building a relationship. The goal of the educators is to motivate the children and youth to change their course in life. The educators offer positive alternatives to life on the streets, helping the children either join the Shelter's comprehensive residential program, which includes education, healthcare, and psychosocial counseling, or find another suitable home.

Funds NGC Teams raise will go to support Shelter of Friendship's plans to continue its street education program and expand its services to reach adolescent girls living or working on the streets in Fortaleza who are victims of sexual exploitation.

## The Partner

The Global Fund for Children (GFC) is a leading institution on the rights of children. GFC advances the education and dignity of young people around the world. They envision a world where children grow up to be productive, caring citizens of our global society. GFC supports over 150 small, community-based groups that improve education for children who would otherwise be left behind.

## NGC's Approach to Sustainable Global Change

NGC and our Global Partners believe that people in communities all over the world are the real experts and know their community and solutions to their problems. We want to advocate and educate others on behalf of this model of sustainable global change. Additionally, we seek to empower our grassroots Global Projects with the financial resources to create change at the grassroots level. 100% of funds your team raises are sent to Associação Barraca da Amizade.

By sending your team's funds directly, your project organization has the power to decide the best way to use the money. Since money will be spent in the community, your funds will also support the local economy.

The Shelter of Friendship's programs address an important problem in their community, boys and girls living on the street. The organization takes a holistic approach to empowering street youth back into society as functional members of the community. They use local community members to facilitate traditional dance lessons and academic tutoring to provide alternatives to street life for boys and girls.

## Additional Resources

Partner Website: <http://www.globalfundforchildren.org/>

Project Website: <http://www.daclarkie.eu/barraca/>

CIA World Factbook (Brazil): <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/br.html>

Embassy of Brazil: <http://www.brasilemb.org/>

**See your team binder for more ways to educate your team about your project.**