



Partners for Women's Equality

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Casa Aberta: Opportunities for the Abused and Neglected

"I came to live in Casa Aberta when I was twelve years old," said Solange. "I have no memory of living with my natural mother because a family adopted me when I was just a baby. They suffered financial problems, and when I turned eight, my teacher at the time took me to live with her family. A very sad child, I was not the best companion for their children. I was beaten a lot."

"I was so thankful to come to Casa Aberta and escape the punishments. At Casa Aberta I put my life together, obtained my education and developed goals for myself. I also started helping the other children, most without families, at Casa Aberta. When I was fourteen, a wonderful teacher started inviting me to her house for weekends and holidays. She ended up adopting me."

"I currently attend the University and plan on being a diplomat. I still work with the kids

at Casa Aberta by teaching dance. I teach them to set high goals and never give up on themselves."

Casa Aberta is home for children who have been removed from their families by the court system. Children may be returned to their families or placed for adoption. Because of the difficulty in finding adoptive placements for older children, children can stay at Casa Aberta for years.

Casa Aberta could use volunteers with the following skills: psychologists, social workers, speech therapists, recreational directors/assistants, nurses, teachers, and fundraisers. Although Casa Aberta is not a school, the children need substantial educational support. Casa Aberta has commenced construction of an additional building and needs financial help in finishing the work.

Volunteers Needed!



Solange, (center) former resident of Casa Aberta, with PWE's Brazilian Program Coordinators and the Director of Casa Aberta



Facility under construction in São Leopoldo, RS, Brazil

Working with São Leopoldo's Poorest Children (Brazil)

Centro Medianeira has three centers for school age children in the poorest neighborhoods of São Leopoldo. The centers provide free educational and recreational activities either before or after school. Children in the community either attend school in the morning or afternoon. In addition, Centro has a vocational training center for high school age

children, providing opportunities to learn carpentry, sewing, electrical work and computer operation. Graduates are placed in jobs.

Centro Medianeira has received a parcel of land to build a new recreation center in an impoverished neighborhood. They dream of building a sports and culture center for

local children. This new space could enhance their ability to provide opportunities for children in the poorest communities of São Leopoldo.

Volunteers are needed to help with administrative work, planning, adolescent group facilitation and fundraising. Look at our website to find other volunteer opportunities