



## **Brazil, Campina Grande – Imagine – Sustainable development actions**

Enabling 30 children and adolescents from a marginalised community to dream of “another world”: this is the mission of the “Imagine” project run by AIC volunteers from Campina Grande. The activities are many and varied, including educational support, teaching about peace and citizenship, raising awareness about preserving the planet to guarantee a better future and art workshops to encourage artistic and cultural awakening.



### **Location**

The project is located in the town of Campina Grande, in the Paraíba state in north-east Brazil. It takes place in a very poor, marginalised community in the town of Campina Grande, the “Christ the King Community”.

### **Analysis of the current situation**

A large number of children and teenagers living in the community are surrounded by violence, drug traffic, illiteracy, alcoholism and prostitution. Many people are short of food. Ideas about protecting the planet are little known. Given this, the AIC volunteers decided to support these children and adolescents in their situation of social and urban vulnerability.

## **Beneficiaries**

There are 30 children and adolescents. The AIC volunteers are also working together with the parents, whose participation is very important to help reinforce the awareness-raising work.

Their strengths: Their ability to overcome problems and challenges in the situation of poverty and discrimination in which they live.

Their dreams: Finding a job, buying a house, giving their own children a better life, escaping from the deprivation and exclusion forced on them by society.

## **Aims of the action**

Social re-integration of children and adolescents through a general educational effort to awaken them to the idea of “another world”:

- Educational support
- Teaching about peace and citizenship
- Teaching about preserving the planet
- Education in the arts

## **Activities implemented**

The work with the children takes place outside of school hours, in the morning and evening. Volunteers are there 3 times a week. Dance and drama teachers and school support workers take part in the activities. Many of the mothers from the local community help with the project on a regular basis.

The activities organised with the children are:

- Educational support courses for parents and individuals
- Workshops such as dance, music (flute), Capoeira (Brazilian martial arts), drawing and craftwork.
- Shows attended by parents and local people
- Workshops on peace and citizenship, the dangers of drugs, child prostitution and protecting the planet
- Religious and ecumenical training
- Recreational outings
- Offering meals/snacks

Volunteers organise monthly home visits to meet parents, listen to their needs and share in the life of the children.

## **Evaluation and impact on sustainable development**

The project has been running for six years in this community. In the first few months, a relationship of trust was gradually developed with the children and their parents.

Volunteers now see a change in the behaviour of the children: less aggression, greater mutual respect, better respect of boundaries.

Volunteers are convinced that offering an attractive educational programme through artistic activities (dance, drawing, reading, and craftwork) is an effective way of opening dialogue and making the children aware of the topics of citizenship and peace. Working with the children also encourages change in their parents, and the volunteers can offer education in sustainable development.

It is important for the mothers in the local community to participate, as they form the link between the children and the family. Their participation is also a guarantee of the project's durability.

