

How **churches** contribute to society



2nd Partner's Consultation
of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria
São Paulo, Brazil, September 6-12, 2013

Brief presentation of the
projects to be visited

1. Programa Comunitário da Reconciliação [Reconciliation Community Program]

Located around 30km from the Center of São Paulo, this is a non-profit and ecumenical institution founded in 1986 by the Lutheran Church together with a group of women from the community which aims at helping the poor population. Based on the Christian values of justice, respect and tolerance, it wishes to offer these people hope, dignity and a base for a better future. They offer services in 3 centers:

- **Cantinho da Criança [Children's Corner]** – Attends 120 children from 2 to 3 years of age, from Mondays to Fridays, full time. The goal is to guarantee complete development and the right to a full childhood.
- **Headquarters – Center for the Child and the Adolescent** – Complementing school teaching, it offers in two half day periods, for 375 children and youth from 6 years of age on up, besides intensive courses and workshops, capability building, forums and seminars on themes about citizen actions, violence, among others.
- **Cantinho da Comunidade [Community Corner]** – A space where youth and adults find attentive ears to their problems. It offers workshops and classes for professional formation. Besides this, it offers conversation circles, psychological services, spiritual, therapeutic assistance and legal orientation.

2. Jardim Ângela and Casa Sofia [Sofia House]

A service carried out by the Santos Mártires Society, a civil, non-profit association founded in 1988. Its main goal is the promotion of human dignity. Some of the actions of the association are:

- The Center for the Defense of the Child and the Adolescent - CEDECA Jardim Ângela,
- The Casa Sofia – which attends women who are victims of violence;
- Care – which attends families of chemical dependents;
- Literacy courses for adult persons, day care centers and spaces for young people.

Jardim Ângela has already been considered the most violent region in the world. To change this reality, in 1996 the "Forum for the Defense of Life" was created. Once a month they gather together with people from the local community, representatives of the public power, of universities and of the legal system to discuss and plan actions which aim at overcoming the violence.

The Casa Sofia is a space where women, victims of domestic violence can be heard. For them to be able to overcome the cycle of violence in which they find themselves individualized psychosocial support is offered, as well as referrals to the shelters, legal orientation, courses on women's rights, besides capacity building as community agents.

1. Casa Mateus Community Center – Mauá

This is a diaconal, non-profit organization, founded on September 21st of 1980 through the initiative of members of the ABCD Parish, São Paulo, tied to the IECLB. The Community center is located in a neighborhood where low income people reside and are irregularly occupying territories.

It works with socio-educational services for children and adolescents from 7 to 18 years of age; it does family accompaniment; and offers professionalization workshops in the area of computer science for youth from 18 to 24 years of age.

It also carries out projects connected to art and culture which permit that the children and youth externalize their feelings and emotions in a natural way, to gain confidence and stimulate creativity, socialization, solidarity, combat discrimination, and gain respect for diversity and the environment.

Besides this it seeks to establish a relation with the social movements (neighborhood associations, women's movement).

2. Reju - Brasilândia

The REJU (Rede Ecumênica da Juventude [Ecu-menical Youth Network]) is made up of people who embrace the youth cause. The goals of the REJU are structured around four axes:

- Youth and gender equity, prioritizing eradication of violence against women;
- Overcoming Intolerance;
- Confronting violence against black youth;

- Interface between Youth and Socio-environmental Justice.

Ever since 2008, the REJU, together with a group of volunteer people, carry out a Popular Course, the goal of which is to improve the educational level of the northern region of São Paulo/SP, in Jardim Elisa Maria, a neighborhood of the Brasilândia district. The mission is to make it possible for information, knowledge and opportunities to reach the community which suffers with the violence against and extermination of youth.

Besides offering educational complementation, it seeks to stimulate in the people who participate, creativity, logic, reasoning and socio-cultural understanding, through the presentation of films, stimulation for reading and introduction to science.

The REJU has a radio program on Mondays in the afternoon on the Cantareira Radio, which is a space that it uses to speak about current themes and themes of interest for the youth and the local community.

1. São Martinho de Lima Community Center Providing services for the street population

People from 18 to 80 years of age receive services. The Community Center has been a reference in the region for more than 22 years. It is maintained by the Catholic entity Nossa Senhora do Bom Parto (based on the mission of Christ) and has a partnership with the City Hall. The house is also tied to the Ruas Network – a reference for policies for people needing services. It works against drug addiction, being as this is the greatest cause for people to be in the streets.

The goal is to offer the target population socio-educational activities that are participative and collaborative with specific strategies, aiming at strengthening self-esteem and the notion of rights and obligations; favor protagonism; develop skills for insertion in the work world, for income generation and increased autonomy as a way to prevent risk situations; develop potentialities, addressing the impact of social vulnerability, with the goal of providing tools for the families to become the main agents of their own development.

2. Casa do Migrante [Migrant House]

The welcoming services for the migrant people from the Scalabrinianos began in 1978, during the decade of the largest displacement of people from the fields to the cities. It arose as a counterpart to the migratory policy adopted in the State of São Paulo, at a moment when the local society saw the migrants as a problem. To the

welcoming services were added a series of activities which were already developed within the area of the Peace Mission, aiming at integrating the migrants, with prominence being given to carrying out professionalizing courses.

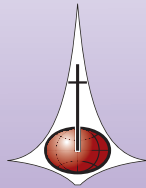
Through the Mission activities are developed through the Pastoral Center and the Migrant Mediation, fixed on five axes: work, legal / regularization, health, community / family and education.





Evangelisch-Lutherische
Kirche in Bayern

in cooperation with



Igreja Evangélica
de Confissão Luterana
no Brasil