

# NEWS FROM CHAIN OF LOVE HOMES, BRAZIL

May/June 2009

Dear praying partners of Chain of Love:

**We owe a huge thanks to God and to you.** For the past fifteen years, Chain of Love has provided loving Christian family homes to over 150 children who had no home and no loving family. God has been good: we grew rapidly and now operate at capacity—with 85 children, 11 homes, a multi-functional campus, a team of local volunteers and professional staff, and *many* faithful sponsors—a lot of whom sponsor multiple children or even entire houses. This rapid growth has presented us with a challenge.

**In the Midst of Much Change, Great Peace**—Our administration has been unable to keep pace with these changes; we found the backlog starting to block this ministry's exciting work. This is about to change, thanks to three significant (and very positive) changes. Changes that will ensure the ongoing health and operation of the homes we have and will make things better for tomorrow's children. 1) After a six-month re-evaluation of everything we do here, we produced an effective administrative plan to run Chain of Love. Our vision sees a sharing of the responsibility that too often fell on the shoulders of one or two. On top of this, we are in the home stretch of legalizing our payroll, which will entitle employees, including our housemothers, to health benefits, retirement benefits, and disability benefits. As a result of this process we have had to 2) implement occupational health and safety recommendations including installing fire extinguishers in all our buildings and building a brick fire-wall through the middle of our technical training center. Lastly, 3) we have been able to increase the working hours of our Brazilian administrative team including our volunteer coordinator/administrator, psychologist, social worker, and education coordinator. The children and house parents will benefit from the increased attention and involvement this provides. Our workers will be happier—they will not be stretched to the limit every day.



COL Administrative Team

Bringing about these changes required a significant time and financial investment. But the greatest benefit will be our ability to apply for philanthropic status in Brazil. Obtaining this will *significantly* reduce our operating budget thus enabling us to invest more in the lives of our children. God has been good and provided the people needed to effect these changes and the funds needed to pay for the significant costs. *We thank you for your faithful giving—past present and future.*

## Exciting Highlights

**Sarah** has a new job in a Campo Bom clothing store and really enjoys it. She is learning responsibility: a portion of her salary goes to fixing her glasses that she recently broke. Please pray for Sarah, her eyesight is terrible and it is going to get worse but she is in denial and refuses to wear her glasses.



**Rumour** has it that Fernando is getting engaged to Gabriela. What a blessing to see him taking responsibility in life and making good choices. Hard to believe he has been here for 13 years!

**Linda**, our special needs child who has been with us for nine years, is talking. One day she just started uttering understandable words. Wow! That's something we *never* thought would happen. It is amazing to witness.

**Volnei** has mental problems that require a professional intervention we are not equipped to provide. Unfortunately, he is a danger to himself and other COL children. We simply cannot give him the care he needs, so please pray that doors will open and that we will have clear guidance to handle this difficult situation.



Thank you for making all of these things possible and for investing in the lives of the children at COL and the many yet to come. *The future is indeed bright for this ministry!*

Rev. Christopher and Ingrid Kidd

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