

The Action for Brazil's Children Trust 2007/8



There are two Brazil's. One, full of opportunity and riches, and the other a place where people struggle to survive.



Photo: Wendy Marijnissen

## Mission statement

**ABC is dedicated to helping street children and the most vulnerable young people of Brazil.** By raising funding and awareness, we support locally-based organisations which give these children the support, education and inspiration they need to transform their own futures.

## Overview

Since we started, the ABC Trust has supported 22 projects across Brazil and has made grants of nearly £1 million. This money has reached community projects working with the most vulnerable children and young people of Brazil.

### During the course of 2007/8 we:

#### Provided funding for 11 community-led projects

##### Rio de Janeiro

- Crescer e Viver
- Cinema Nosso
- Solar Meninos de Luz
- Task Brasil

##### Salvador

- Casa Teatro Popular
- Circo Picolino
- Friends of Maria
- SIS
- Viva a Vida

##### João Pessoa

- Renascer

##### Lençóis

- Avante Lençóis

#### Strengthened the ways in which we offer support

##### Making grants

- Short term support and pilot projects (1 year)
- Longer term support and capacity building (2-5 years)

##### Using our networks to

- share information and experiences and access expert advice
- link to other organisations and companies who can provide support

##### Raising awareness

- through ABC website, supporter communication, events and working in partnership with others

#### Developed our strategy and internal systems

##### Sharpened our project focus

- Shelter, care and advice
- Education and training
- Developing self-confidence

##### Adopted a portfolio approach

- With impact at individual, family and community level

- Work on short and long term issues

##### Strengthened internal systems

- Improved project assessment and review processes; and launched new website

## Where we work

ABC Trust projects have reached over 12,000 children and their families in Rio, São Paulo, Salvador, Recife, and beyond.

### Fast facts

Brazil is the fifth largest country in the world with a population of approx. 190 million people

The gap between rich and poor in Brazil is one of the most extreme in the world

54 million people live in poverty with over 17 million people living on less than \$1 a day

Many of the rural poor leave their homes to find a better life - resulting in 78% of the population living in cities and towns

An estimated 7 million children live or work on the streets of Brazil

Official reports estimate up to 500,000 children live as child prostitutes

In 2006, over 17,000 young people between the ages of 15 and 24 were killed – largely due to drug-related gun crime in poor urban areas

References: UNICEF, Jubilee Action, International Labour Organisation, Human Rights Watch



#### ABC Projects in Brazil

- 1 São Paulo
- 2 Rio de Janeiro
- 3 Belo Horizonte
- 4 Lençóis
- 5 Salvador
- 6 Recife
- 7 João Pessoa
- 8 Fortaleza

## The Challenge

"When I see children sniffing glue, sleeping on the streets, or prostituting themselves for a tin of dried milk, I feel a real sense of duty to help."

Jimena Page, Founder of the ABC Trust

Brazil is one of the world's largest democracies and is diverse in culture, race and traditions with a population of nearly 190 million people. But as the country takes its place on the global stage the gap between the wealthy and poor remains one of the most extreme in the world.

Over 30% of the people of Brazil live below the poverty line. Of these, 17 million live on less than \$1 a day, the price of a soft drink. For many young people this poverty combined with deep inequality and poor access to a decent education means that very often there are few options other than to turn to a life on the streets.

UNICEF estimates that over 7 million children either live or work on the streets. This starts with petty trading and begging but can quickly move on to involvement in drug trafficking and prostitution. For many, a permanent life on the streets seems a better option than remaining at home. These children are especially vulnerable to threats of violence, abuse, drugs, and crime.

The Brazilian government is committed to reducing inequality and supporting poor families and their children, and national programmes such as Fome Zero (Zero Hunger) and the Bolsa Familia (Family support) are undoubtedly helping.

However, progress is slow, and the reality remains: every day, children are forced to face the violence, poverty and isolation on the streets of Brazil. For many there is little hope for the future.

Solutions must draw on energy and creativity from all possible sources – with the government, private sector and not-for-profit organisations working together with the communities themselves.

There is also a major role for international organisations such as the ABC Trust – but we are one of the very few NGOs outside of Brazil offering the kind of support they need.



### Hard facts

**Food, health and shelter:** half of the population have problems securing adequate food; the maternal mortality rate is one of the highest in the Americas; 800,000 people out of a total 5.6 million in Rio de Janeiro live in favelas.

**Education:** 60% of Brazil's children do not complete primary education; classrooms are over-crowded with up to 50 or more pupils; teachers lack reasonable wages and adequate training.

**Child Labour:** keeping many children out of school, child labour is widespread; recent official reports estimate that 1.7 million children aged 5 to 10 years old work; and up to 500,000 young people live as child prostitutes.

**Violence:** levels of violence in some large urban centres have been compared to conflict zones; Brazil has the world's highest murder and homicide rates; the poorest communities bear the brunt of tens of thousands of gun-related deaths every year.

References: Brazilian Institute of Geography & Statistics; World Health Organisation; International Labour Organisation, World Bank

## Our Approach

The Action for Brazil's Children Trust is a grant making and fundraising organisation. Our fundamental approach is to support local community leaders and the projects they have established.

The ABC Trust supports projects which give children shelter and care, education and training, and confidence and self-belief. We adopt a child-centred approach to all of the work we support – which means that as well as working directly with young people we also focus on strengthening the capacity of families and communities to access the resources they need in order to change their lives and that of their children.

Some of the projects we support aim to prevent children from reaching the streets – providing child care facilities and education which also allow

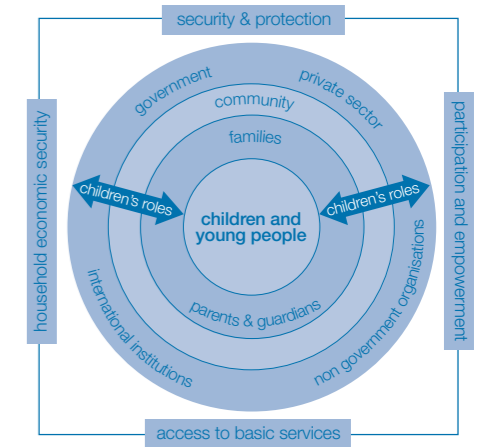
parents to go to work; others seek to get children off the street and offer shelter, health care, and legal advice; and yet others seek to offer young people a voice so that they can express their daily realities through film, music and theatre.

We offer three main kinds of support:

**Funding:** short and long-term grants for operational activities and capacity building

**Contacts:** access to expertise and links to other organizations which can provide support

**Profile:** raising awareness - in Brazil, the UK and the USA - of the issues and possible solutions.



Children and young people are at the centre of every project

### 3 main areas of focus

#### Developing Confidence and Self-belief

Inspiring self-belief and confidence by working through the arts - using film, dance, theatre and music. This kind of work opens new horizons and can bring profound change to individual lives as well as whole communities.

#### Education and Training

Providing opportunities to get a good education and to learn useful skills which lead to the possibility of reasonable jobs and a life beyond the poverty line.

#### Shelter, Care and Advice

Providing much needed shelter, care and advice, in a safe environment, to children and young people who are living on the streets and can not find a way back into a normal life.

## Developing self belief

### Cinema Nosso, Rio de Janeiro

Founded by ABC Patron and director of 'City of God', Fernando Meirelles, Cinema Nosso harnesses the power of film to inspire disadvantaged young people from poor and deprived communities.

The philosophy behind Cinema Nosso is to approach social exclusion and the resulting problems of violence and drug abuse through providing quality education in audiovisual arts. Cinema Nosso build on artistic and cultural expression using film making and photography

which is not available through public schools and can normally only be accessed by children from richer and privileged families.

The 80 young people who attend the courses offered by Cinema Nosso each year are between 14 and 25 years old, where the impact of working through the arts is often more profound than more traditional educational or community development activities. The courses at Cinema Nosso work as a catalyst for creative and critical thinking and successfully inspire a different way of looking at the world and life.

An important aspect of the project is that the young people make films from their point of view and show the viewer how they interpret their everyday lives. This process allows the adolescents to look at their reality from a critical, questioning perspective and contributes to a new sense of understanding where they can assume responsibility for their own futures.

With plans to expand their courses to include advanced level classes, Cinema Nosso aims to become a centre for a larger network of media-based initiatives in Brazil and Latin America,

and students' films have been exhibited in many festivals. In 2007 alone they participated in over twenty film festivals across the world.

With a new grant of £33,000 from the ABC Trust and the Lily Hastings-Bass Memorial Fund they are now able to take some big steps forward. They now have new editing equipment and screening facilities which will help with their outreach work through organising events and school workshops that prompt a wider public dialogue encouraging social awareness.

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"Children join Cinema Nosso when they are teenagers and they come with low self-esteem. It's hard to work with them, they don't believe in themselves, don't believe they can really make a film. We give them their self-esteem back, they like their culture, they like the place where they come from, they believe in themselves".

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Fernando Meirelles, Director of 'City of God' and ABC Patron

# inspiration:

### Engaging children and young people

Working through the arts can have a profound impact at a personal level, increasing self confidence, opening new horizons and giving expression to hopes and dreams.

### Community involvement and social change

Dance, music, theatre and film have the ability to cut across cultural and community divides.

### Awareness raising and campaigns

Arts projects have the power to inspire change and challenge the status quo by highlighting social issues and confronting prejudice.



## Casa Teatro Popular, Bom Juá, Salvador, North East Brazil

The people of Bom Juá experience severe poverty and a sense that nothing can ever really change. This community lies on the outskirts of Salvador, physically isolated from the city, with poor public services which are failing the children and families who live there.

The incidence of child labour in North East Brazil is especially high – and without support and encouragement many children and young people of Bom Juá drop out of mainstream education and leave school unable to read or write.

They then get trapped in very low paid work or spend a lot of time on the streets where they are exposed to high levels of violence, and can be drawn into a life of petty crime, drug trafficking and prostitution. Any opportunities to improve their future seem far out of reach.

Casa Teatro Popular is an organisation which not only supports the children and young people of Bom Juá, but also aims to bring about a wider change in the community. They have set up a very modest cultural centre based inside the Bom Juá community with staff who are known locally and are well loved entertainers.

With a team of trained artists, the centre offers activities for young people aged 8-18 in street theatre, circus skills, guitar, poetry and film. All the children come from families with extremely low incomes, and they can only join the project if they commit to staying at school. The activities are fun but also require concentration and commitment. Young people who have little hope for the future regain confidence in their abilities and begin to see that life could be different for them

This work also has a deep impact in the wider community who feel a real sense of pride when they see what their children can achieve.

Casa Teatro Popular deliberately promotes inclusion and access for all and proactively engages the community to expect a better quality of life and seek and demand better public services.

As a result this motivates everyone to take part in campaigns for social change. Through marches, processions and public performances in the centre of the city as well as their own neighbourhoods, Casa Teatro Popular are making themselves visible as campaigners for change.

Casa Teatro Popular is a small organisation that ABC believes has the potential to grow and develop. Their approach is broad in scope, creative and it brings real change to the lives of children and young people in Bom Juá.

The ABC Trust recently entered a new 3 year partnership to provide the support and assistance they need to expand their work and develop a long term plan.



### Changing lives and building community pride

Children have direct access to arts and music, learn new skills and have a safe place to play

Currently 60 children take part in 5 different workshop programmes

300 people are involved in wider activities at the centre

2000 people watch their performances in the city centre

School drop out rates and exposure to street life are reduced

Community members feel more confident about participating actively in local issues

Bom Juá is more visible to other communities in the city as well as the civic authorities

“I am from this neighbourhood and started the project here to give the children hope. Our work with art inspires everyone in the community to come together and believe they can make their goals a reality.”

Kuka Matos, Project leader



## Learning for life

### Sociedade Irmãos Solidários (SIS), São Bartolomeu, Salvador

The Sociedade Irmãos Solidários (SIS) provides educational support for very poor children and families in São Bartolomeu, one of the most dangerous and least visited parts of Salvador.

SIS reports that many primary school students aged 6-8 in this area of Salvador have serious reading and writing difficulties with many not even able to write their own names - and many young people simply drop out of the school system altogether.

This project aims to intervene early enough in a child's life so they get crucial support when they most need it so they don't fall behind. More importantly they aim to inject a love of learning which will stay with them over a life-time.

By providing sound educational support and stimulating their creative power and imagination the young people at the project become confident, articulate and better able to navigate life's challenges.

SIS work with 140 children aged 3-13 years. The activities and teaching are carried out by a dedicated staff, all of whom are local to the

community. The education they provide develops stronger academic skills so children consistently improve at school and there are extra classes to reinforce what cannot be touched on during school hours.

Families participate and assist with their children's education and also help at celebration and folkloric days bringing the community closer. Together with monthly meetings with parents and communications with the local school, issues affecting children are openly discussed ensuring the emphasis remains focused on the best interests of the students.

Since ABC began funding SIS in 2005, the capacity of the project has risen from 20 to 140 children and has gathered support from many different sources in the local community.

We are now looking for schools in the UK who would like to forge a link with this project and could include teacher and student contact and exchanges as well helping to provide the important funding support the project needs.

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Most schools are under resourced; classes are extremely over crowded, materials are not readily available, and support for teachers is inadequate. Currently 4 million children are not in school.

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# education:

### The potential of every child

Every child has a right to education; it is the fundamental means of developing a future free from the poverty into which many are born.

### Citizenship

For a young person a broader education fosters the ability to think critically about the choices they make and the changes they can bring to their communities.

### Family support

By encouraging and supporting their children through education family members also benefit and learn new skills.

## UMPM da Roupa Suja, Rocinha, Rio de Janeiro, Southern Brazil

The Rocinha favela is one of the largest urban slum areas in Latin America and looks over the famous beaches and richest areas of Rio de Janeiro. High up the hill-side, the Roupa Suja community is one of the most deprived areas within this favela.

### Hard facts

15 million adults do not know how to read or write

State schools only run for 4 hours a day and classes are overcrowded with up to 50-60 students

Children are often automatically passed on into the next grade - whether or not they have learned what the grade requires

60% of children fail to complete primary education

5.1 million children aged between 5-17 years old work, keeping them away from school

Children as young as 5 or 6 are induced to become aviaõzinhos (messengers in drug trafficking) for the price of a soft drink

The children of this community live in severe poverty with very poor access to health services, schools and any kind of opportunity to change their lives. They witness violence daily and many families are directly affected by gun crime and the drug trafficking that takes place around them.

The illiteracy rates are extremely high in this area - around 80% - leaving young people to face the prospect of low-paid menial work or getting drawn into crime. Local public schools are far away and in any case they are severely under-funded, classes are overcrowded and teachers lack adequate training, all of which means that regular access to a decent education is practically impossible.

The ABC Trust supports a local group of women who decided they could do something about this - the 'Uniao de Mulheres Pro-Melhoramento da

Roupa Suja' - the 'Union of Women for the Improvement of Roupa Suja'. Combating the social exclusion this community faces, this group creates opportunities for children to receive an education, develop self confidence, learn about citizenship and personal responsibility and take part in recreational activities in a safe environment.

This group has established the 'Oficina do Saber' - the 'Workshop of Knowledge' - the only education programme located inside the favela which is available free to families who simply can not pay. Behind this project is a dedicated team of trained staff and volunteers who are themselves from the Roupa Suja community. Operating on a shoe string over the last six years they have continually produced impressive results with plans to do much more.



ABC has established a 2 year partnership with UMPM that will sustain activities in the 'Workshop of Knowledge' and help develop a future plan and strategy for growth. There is great potential, and great need, to expand their work in Roupa Suja. They can reach more young people giving them much needed encouragement and support so that they have real choices in life.

### There are 3 main strands of work:

- **The Workshop of Knowledge –a school support programme**  
With spaces for 50 children ranging from 6-14 years old, children improve their reading, writing and numeracy skills and also take part in extra curricular activities such as football and capoeira. Teachers have the time to give help to students one-to-one. Each child is monitored and meetings with parents ensure families are involved and supportive of their children's education.
- **Crèche and day care**  
Between 50-60 children aged from 4 months to 5 years attend for free or small manageable fees, allowing parents the time needed to go to work.
- **Computer literacy classes**  
Children have the opportunity to learn basic computer skills, while older students take an advanced programme which has seen 10 students find IT related jobs.

“I was born in Rocinha and started to help my classmates when I was 12 years old. Now 38 and a qualified teacher, I see how a good education makes an impact on the young people of my community.”

Marcia Ferreira da Costa, Project Leader



## Basic needs

### AA Criança, São Paulo

AA Criança works with street children and vulnerable young people in the centre of São Paulo where it is estimated around 12,000 children live on the streets and are in need of help. Their programmes are directed at prevention as well as finding ways to re-integrate children from the street back into safe and supportive family relationships.

Often the children AA Criança work with have had violent and traumatic experiences and many

have run away from dysfunctional families who cannot financially or emotionally support their children. As a consequence of growing up in such hostile environments, exposure to drug use is common and many of the children slip into crime encouraged by older homeless children or adults who take advantage of their situation.

AA Criança runs the CASA 20 project which works directly with children by going to find and meet them on the streets and aims to give these children the opportunity to escape their current way of life and to re-build their trust in adults.

Staff from the project go to focal points in the central square of São Paulo where children of all ages go to spend the day. They then encourage children they meet to visit CASA 20, a drop-in centre, which provides a safe place to go during the day, where they have access to washing facilities and where they can leave the few possessions they may own.

AA Criança's sister project is the 'Ser Mulher' programme (to be a woman) which works with girls who have suffered abuse and addresses their particular risks and needs.

The programme promotes an understanding of the female body, sexual health and how to avoid or cope with pregnancy. Girls as young as 12 attend, some of whom are already mothers. The girls are made to feel welcome and they are looked after by educators and social workers and supported to find ways in which they can build lives for themselves and their young children.

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"Only the people from AA Criança come to spend time with us, stay close to us, defend us, give hope to us, and when they are here we are not afraid. They take us to the doctor, they play games with us, they help us to make the documents we need to be considered 'someone'."

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Alex, 15 years old

# shelter & care:

### Care for vulnerable children

The many children who live on the streets of Brazil need a safe place to sleep, food and the support to make a change in their lives.

### Building positive relationships

Many street children have left home because of abuse and neglect. Outreach workers have to work hard to build trusting relationships with children who feel vulnerable and let down.

### Reintegration and hope

Young people are supported to find a way out of homelessness and through counselling, re-introduction to their families and skills development, they can transform their own futures.



## Viva a Vida

Founded in 2003, Viva a Vida is the only therapeutic drug rehabilitation programme in North East Brazil aimed at the needs of street children and low-income adolescent boys addicted to crack and other drugs.

### Case study

Matheus (not his real name), now 14, thought about how Viva a Vida had changed his future.

"When I went to the streets I used drugs; cigarettes, marihuana, crack... I slept on the floor of the streets, like a beggar. I only ate once in a while. I wanted to stop using drugs, I wanted a new life that's why I decided to go to treatment. My life was bad."

Abandoned by his mother at the age of 10, Matheus went to live with a couple but when they began to maltreat him, he ran away to the streets where he started using drugs.

Through Viva a Vida Matheus and his mother have reunited and reconciled their differences. He has stopped using drugs and has gone back to school. He loves his studies and dreams of the life ahead of him, "I want to be a surfer and go to university."

Where substance abuse among street children in Brazil was once primarily limited to glue sniffing and smoking marihuana, it has now taken on new proportions as more children are consuming crack, a highly addictive and devastating drug. Crack was first introduced into the city of Salvador in 1997 and now parts of the historical centre of the city have even become known as cracolândia, or "crack-land."

Children and young people trapped on the streets with few hopes for the future often turn to substance abuse, which then leads to involvement in the drugs trade and petty crime as they have no other opportunities to raise an income and survive. Inevitably these young people end up in overcrowded remand centres and are subject to violence and abuse only to emerge from detention with nowhere to go and their addiction as strong as ever.



Photos: Optomagis Filmescom



Viva a Vida



**"Life on Brazil's streets goes hand-in-hand with drug use from a very young age. Glue sniffing, marijuana and even crack are common – at once both a means of escape and the chains which keep them on the street."** Gisella Hanley, Director of Viva a Vida

In order to address this, Viva a Vida provides young people with therapeutic support to understand and address their addiction as well as the educational tools so that once through the programme, they have the necessary skills to build productive and safer lives for themselves. The programme can last 6-18 months and provides shelter, therapy and training.

This is extremely difficult work, with no guarantees of success. However, Viva a Vida achieved national recognition for their work in June 2006, when they were awarded a Diploma of Merit by the Brazilian governmental National Anti-Drugs Office (SENAD) in a ceremony presided over by the President of Brazil.

Over the years Viva a Vida has also focused on giving substance abuse prevention talks with the participation of the resident adolescents at the Viva a Vida centre. These talks have been at local schools as well as at the centre where they have hosted visits of adolescents from other NGOs and schools. This proved to be so successful that in March 2008, Viva a Vida began its "Valuing Life" Prevention Project in schools.

The main objective of the "Valuing Life" project is to offer students of primary and secondary schools located in low-income neighbourhoods a series of workshops about sexual health and substance abuse prevention.

The first year plan is for the workshops to directly benefit 400 students from local schools

(16 groups of 25 students) as well as their families and school staff who can continue to work with children on these subjects.

Workshops are led by Viva a Vida staff – but the really powerful contributions come from some of the adolescents already on the Viva a Vida programme who speak of their experience and give life history statements which show the negative effects of substance abuse.

Viva a Vida can do so much more to help prevent children and young people from becoming involved with drugs. ABC has supported Viva a Vida over the last 3 years, more recently helping to expand their preventative outreach work as well as supporting the therapeutic centre.



## Other projects

### Patronato, Recife

Patronato works to help children and families in vulnerable situations and extreme poverty in the poorest neighbourhoods of Pina, Recife. As part of their approach Patronato deliberately combine their education services with community participation and family support.

They reach 180 children aged 7-15 years old, 150 families and 60 elderly members of the community each year. Beyond working with the local schools to monitor the children's progress they also:

- run supplementary school classes to ensure children get a good education
- have partnerships with the universities and local government and bring school, family and community together in planning their activities

### Luz de Escol, Nova Iguaçu, outside Rio de Janeiro

The Luz de Escol project is dedicated to providing refuge for abandoned children. Some are orphans or have been left on the streets, their parents too poor to look after them or afflicted by drug and alcohol abuse. The project attempts to reintegrate children back into their families where possible, which often means assisting parents to find work and access to health care services. If this is not possible, children remain at the refuge or are placed with families where the staff at Luz de Escol continue to support their reintegration into the community. ABC funding supported the employment of trained staff to assist the over-stretched volunteers and provided for improved facilities for around 150 children each year.

**Previous funding:** £52,000: 2004-7

- integrate education with fitness, art and culture by holding traditional Brazilian dance classes, led by professionals (also former students at Patronato)
- offer applied professional courses so that families can re-train and with assistance from the project, find new opportunities for paid work
- provide protection and legal advice to parents regarding issues of domestic violence.

In recognition of their achievements in 2005, Patronato won the ITAU (UNICEF Brasil) regional award.

**Previous funding:** £41,260: 2003-7

### Children in Hunger, Ceará, North East Brazil

Children in Hunger is a small UK-based charity which supports projects in two favelas in Fortaleza a major city in the North East, the poorest region of Brazil. Many children here suffer from malnutrition and ill-health, and together with poor educational provision in the area, many children and families feel excluded from any meaningful future. Their first project provides meals for 250 children per week, which is often the only meal they will receive during the day. The second project is a school where 100 children are offered support in improving their basic literacy and numeracy, and can learn computer skills. 35 teenagers have also come through the vocational training course and are now employed in local businesses.

**Previous funding:** £23,029: 2003-7

### Luta Pela Paz, Rio de Janeiro

Luta Pela Paz – 'Fight for Peace' began as a boxing centre but has now expanded to include wrestling and capoeira. Sporting activities provide a positive outlet for the frustrations and energies of at-risk children and young people and help develop discipline and self-esteem. In addition citizenship classes are designed to help build the community leaders of the future, with an emphasis on the need for a culture of peace. Activities are free for the children and a private gym is available to the wider community at a monthly fee. The proceeds from this help maintain financial stability, whilst also encouraging integration between young people and the rest of the community. ABC funding supported computer skills courses and citizenship classes.

**Previous funding:** £18,495: 2005-7

### Task Brasil, Rio de Janeiro

Task Brasil run five residential projects and one day centre for at-risk street children and young people. The project provides high quality care and support enabling children to develop their independence and confidence. Programmes are focused on specific needs including a specialist family reintegration programme for young children, support for young mothers, and income generation for older teenagers. ABC has provided substantial support for Task Brasil for many years, including funding for building works and refurbishments, as well as staff salaries.

**Previous funding:** £220,753: 2002-8



### Avante Lençóis, Lençóis

Lençóis is a town based within the Chapada Diamantina, an area of outstanding natural beauty and a popular tourist destination. However there are many serious problems affecting the city with an increasing number of people living in favela areas and excluded from the town's opportunities for development. Avante's wide-ranging work emphasises the importance of education and training to develop leadership and active community involvement. They run a community radio with daily broadcasts together with 'O Avante', a newspaper which has a readership of 6000. Both of these initiatives are run by young people and assist in campaigns and awareness raising in the wider community. Avante also has a library and internet facilities open 6 hours each day, a rare resource within the neighbourhood, and teenagers have the opportunity to take training courses in management with most graduates finding jobs soon after completion.

**Previous funding:** £43,680: 2003-8

### Somar, Salvador

Friends of Maria (a UK based charity) helped establish the SOMAR child care centre in the downtown area of Salvador, offering education, basic health care, meals, washing facilities and a safe place to play for 30 children. The children who attended SOMAR could not register at state schools either because there were insufficient

places or because many had no official papers or birth certificates and were therefore unable to enroll. During the course of 2007 there was a fire at Maria's refuge which ultimately led to the closure of the SOMAR centre. However, it has been possible to find new places at other projects.

**Previous funding:** £24,375: 2005-8

### Centro Cultural Monte, Olinda

The Centre is based in the town of Olinda and works to improve the quality of life for all children, regardless of ethnicity, social background or disability. This is achieved through a range of cultural and artistic activities, including capoeira and music, as well as supporting school work. Monte is a district in the historic city of Olinda, famous for its colonial architecture and annual carnival. However, there is high unemployment, and those who are working have low incomes, often at minimum wage. Dominant issues affecting the rapidly expanding favela in Olinda are the lack of access to medical care, sanitation and schooling. Severe poverty and lack of opportunities leads to many children becoming involved in drugs, crime, and prostitution. This project aims to give the children new options and inspire hope for their futures.

**Previous funding:** £8,530: 2004-7

### Renascer, João Pessoa

Based near João Pessoa, this project works in the favela Renascer III, one of the most violent areas of the city which is geographically separated from the main part of the state capital. Renascer provides educational opportunities for the poorest children of the favela with 50% coming from single-parent families. Home visits to families and regular involvement from parents is encouraged to make sure children are making good progress. The education programme focuses mostly on improving literacy but children are supported in all subjects and given one-to-one homework assistance so they don't fall behind. Teenagers also get the chance to do IT training courses aimed at helping them to enter the job market. ABC has funded the project for a number of years, enabling the refurbishment of buildings, the purchase of computers and covering the salaries of teachers.

**Previous funding:** £24,910: 2004-8

### ACER, Sao Paulo

Over the last 10 years ACER has been focusing on children and young people as agents of change within their communities with support from social workers and educators. The project is based within the Eldorado favela, the poorest area of Diadema, which itself is one of the most densely populated urban areas in the whole of Brazil.

The heart of the organisation is focused on a youth community agent programme – which helps young people living in the area identify and develop their own community interventions. After deciding that the local public schools needed to be improved they launched a film project which now works with 5 schools in conjunction with the national curriculum.

A second initiative, now well established, and in response to high levels of drug and alcohol abuse in the neighbourhood, is a regular Saturday night dance event with a strict policy of no alcohol, cigarettes or drugs. Many teenagers are rediscovering what it means to be young and have a choice not to take part in the drugs trade or gangs.

A third initiative just beginning to take off, in partnership with the New Economic Foundation from the UK and São Paulo State University, is a new project focusing on community enterprise – with the aim of supporting the emergence of 25 new community businesses.

**Previous funding:** £5,000: 2005-6



### Rainbow Farm, Belo Horizonte

Located near Belo Horizonte, one of the largest cities in Brazil, this residential farm project aims to help abandoned and abused children by providing them with a place to live on a short or long term basis. Set in the countryside of Minas Gerais, the farm acts as an antidote to the dangers of living on the streets of the city. Rainbow Farm's purpose is to give the children the space and freedom to learn in a safe environment. The young people who attend build hopes for a more positive life and the staff and volunteers at the farm help to find new adoptive families for those who have no home. Rainbow Farm also acts as a place for children to enjoy a free holiday weekend away when they might not otherwise get the chance. Children learn to build trusting relationships with their peers and carers and learn skills which prepare them for their futures.

**Previous funding:** £25,025: 2005-7

### Estrela de Amanhã, Paraíba Northeast Brazil

Estrela de Amanhã was founded by Adilson Ferreira da Silva, who was once a street child himself. This project provides food, medical and dental care as well as sport and art activities at its centre in Umbuzeiro. The community suffers from poor sanitation and high levels of disease, but the centre is one of the few places where children have access to clean water. Many children at the centre have been abandoned and others have extremely poor diets and suffer from malnutrition. The project also runs a child development centre with the aim of discouraging children from involvement in violence and prostitution, and instead promoting peace and citizenship through their counselling, education and training workshops.

**Previous funding:** £11,030: 2004-6

### Grãos de Luz, Lençóis

ABC was initially setup to support the Grãos de Luz project, which our Founder, Jimena Page, had helped to establish. The project began as a soup kitchen in Lençóis, but soon focused on education, extra-curricular activities and



an outreach scheme. The project has been incredibly successful, and was awarded a prize by UNICEF Brasil in 2003 for the Best Education and Participation project in the country, and in 2005, the project was highlighted by the Brazilian Ministry of Culture. Activities and workshops strengthen the cultural identity of children and young people, developed and expressed through the arts, including music, dance and converting 'scrap' material into ecological artwork. The 'griô' is an old story-teller in Afro-Brazilian culture and Grãos de Luz founded the Griô project to ensure children and young people are taught about oral history and Afro-Brazilian traditions. ABC Trust provided funding over a long period of time and now the project has achieved national recognition and is now sustainable.

**Previous funding:** £157,874: 1998-2007

### Solar Meninos de Luz, Rio de Janeiro

Solar Meninos de Luz – 'Children of Light' - is based in the Cantagalo favela of Rio de Janeiro. For many of the children at Solar their daily realities include extreme family poverty and unemployment.

The cornerstone of Solar's approach is the idea of prevention; their aim is to 'prevent the destruction of potential with which every child is born'. By preserving and developing this potential, the project gives the children opportunities to not only fulfill their aspirations but also to become leaders of the social changes needed within their communities.

Solar was established 24 years ago after a tragic landslide. Two favelas in Rio, Pavão-Pavãozinho and Cantagalo, were affected, leaving 12 people dead and many more homeless. The project began as a nursery helping 30 very young children, but discovered that, as they grew to 3 or 4 years old and left their care, they would be found on the streets, with nowhere else to go.

Solar realised they needed to offer care and education to children throughout their childhoods. By providing full-time education and care, Solar allows parents to work during the day. From 30 children, they now run a school of 400 students. Morning classes focus on offering strong basic education and the afternoons provide classes in art, music, sport, theatre,



dance, capoeira, crafts, cooking, chess and foreign languages – with most taught by skilled volunteers.

The establishment of Solar, and the results they are now producing, have been hard-won. Children develop a real sense of expectation and hope for the future. When asked what they want to be when they grow up, they say anything from actress to teacher, doctor to sailor. Long term commitments by project leaders have bound together volunteers, local businesses and the

neighbouring Paulo Coelho Institute as well as international support.

Solar are clearly successful – but even they acknowledge that it is only after 16 years that they are beginning to see the real power of what they are achieving. Last year, the school celebrated the graduation of the first year group to have been at the project since nursery age. All of the students have gone on to employment and university education.

**Previous funding:** £10,000: 2006-8

### Circo Picolino, Salvador

Children living in the Pituçu area of Salvador experience severe social and economic exclusion and often leave school early with little or no education facing a future of unemployment and exposure to drug-related violent crime which blights the lives of many community members.

Circo Picolino has had tremendous success using circus arts to engage children and adolescents in improving their sense of what is possible. Through working with dedicated staff these young people develop their ambitions and abilities to overcome barriers in education and society. Many instructors at Circo Picolino are former students and were themselves children living on the streets.

Circo Picolino has developed their strategy further to address illiteracy and tackle the ever increasing school drop out rates. With the 'Literacy and Much More' programme, Circo Picolino aim to make a long term impact on children's potential to learn. Children from the ages of 5-7 from particularly poor families are provided with high quality early childhood education including creative art-based activities which encourage a love of learning. Once they leave the programme, these children are then prepared with the skills to make the most of the state education available to them and pass through the next grades.

As there is no other opportunity available to children from the poor communities in this area, there are aims to expand this education programme further. As the children enter state education, Circo Picolino will continue to provide an after-school education programme which will reinforce their learning, giving the children the encouragement and support they need so that they can build the strong foundations needed to transform their futures.

**Previous funding:** £32,660: 2003-8



### Crescer e Viver, Rio de Janeiro

"The circus is not here to teach anybody to be a great artist but to build their collective citizenship, to build the intelligence of the community, to unite people and their differences and to make this space a more equal piece of Brazil, a more human Brazil...."  
**Junior Perim, Project leader**

In only a few years Crescer e Viver has become one of the most respected and recognised social circus programmes in Brazil. Their work reaches far into the community and touches many lives beyond the children that are directly involved in the project.

Crescer e Viver – "To Grow and Live" - uses a circus-arts approach to their work in combination with a wide range of other artistic and cultural activities – including dance, capoeira, music, theatre and literature. Their aims most broadly stated are to improve the life conditions of children and young people at risk and the communities in which they live.

The project is currently based in a central downtown area of Rio, one of the most deprived inner city areas of Rio where drug trafficking and violence are common-place and many children living on the streets and families struggle with poverty, poor education & health services and high unemployment.

Activities are free for all the children who take part and are carried out 6 days a week. There is a deliberate policy of mixing children, boys and girls, from different ethnic and social strata. Children are shown how it is possible to overcome differences and prejudices and break what are so often 'invisible boundaries' and build bridges not just between individuals but in their communities too.

In many cases what the children learn in dance, music, theatre, art and circus skills are also means by which the team at Crescer e Viver can engage children in dialogue about their lives and how they can overcome sometimes enormous difficulties and make the most of the opportunities presented to them.

**Previous funding:** £28,685: 2006-8

## Financial Information

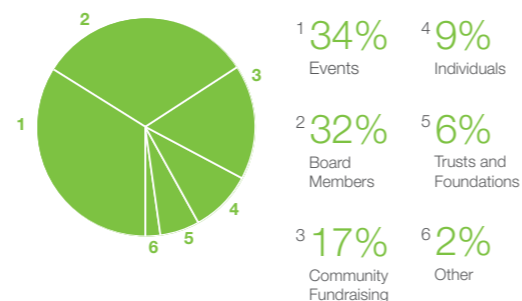
Since the ABC Trust was formally established in 1998 we have made grants of nearly £850,000 with a further £70,000 already committed for 2008-9.

During the first few years the Trust was very much operating out of a home office and providing support to Grãos de Luz in Lençóis – the first project supported by the ABC Trust and which our Founder was instrumental in starting. In 2001 our first offices were opened in Bury St Edmonds along with the recruitment of our first members of staff.

In 2007 we moved to London and embarked on a new phase of our development with the appointment of Andrew Webb as Chief Executive. This has involved developing our grants programme to offer longer-term support to our partners as well as diversifying our funding base so that ABC Trust itself has a basis for growth and stability.

During 2007-8 there was a decrease in overall income compared to 2006-7, however we increased the total funding available for grants. Our focus for 2008-9 is to continue to develop a wide range of fundraising initiatives and to secure long-term support for our work.

### Income by source – 2007



In addition we receive pro bono office, legal and accounting services

### Projects funded 1998-2008

Project	Location	Amount	Duration	Group
Crescer e Viver	Rio	28,685	2 years; 2006-8	Arts
Cinema Nosso	Rio	44,230	3 years; 2004-8	Arts
Luz de Escol	Rio	52,000	3 years; 2004-7	Shelter & care
Luta Pela Paz	Rio	18,495	2 years; 2005-7	Education
UMPM da Roupa Suja	Rio	9,300	1 year; 2006-7	Education
Solar Meninos de Luz	Rio	10,000	2 year; 2006-8	Arts
Task Brazil Trust	Rio	220,753	6 years; 2002-8	Shelter & care
Casa do Teatro Popular	Salvador	9,700	4 years; 2004-8	Arts
Circo Picolino	Salvador	32,660	4 years; 2003-7	Arts
Friends of Maria	Salvador	24,375	3 years; 2005-8	Shelter & care
SIS	Salvador	11,250	3 years; 2005-8	Education
Viva a Vida	Salvador	17,750	3 years; 2005-7	Education
AA Criança	Sao Paulo	28,730	3 years; 2004-7	Shelter & care
ACER	Sao Paulo	5,000	1 year; 2005-6	Education
Renascer	J Pessao	24,910	4 years; 2004-8	Education
Patronato	Recife	41,260	4 years; 2003-7	Education
Avante Lençóis	Lencois	43,680	5 years; 2003-8	Education
Grãos de Luz	Lencois	157,874	9 yrs; 1998-2007	Education
Centro Cultural Monte	Olinda	8,530	3 years; 2004-7	Arts
Children in Hunger	Fortaleza	23,029	4 years; 2003-7	Shelter & care
Estrela de Amanhã	Paraíba	11,030	2 years; 2004-6	Shelter & care
Rainbow Farm	Belo Horizonte	25,025	2 years; 2005-7	Shelter & care
<b>Total</b>		<b>848,266</b>		

### Statement of Financial Activities for year ending 31<sup>st</sup> January 2008

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds 2008	Total Funds 2007
<b>Incoming Resources</b>				
Gifts in kind, donations, services & facilities	38,000	-	38,000	45,000
Voluntary Income	180,008	39,090	219,098	235,175
Investment Income	2,181	-	2,181	2,702
Activities for Generating Funds	118,121	-	118,121	181,069
<b>Total Incoming Resources</b>	<b>338,310</b>	<b>39,090</b>	<b>377,400</b>	<b>463,946</b>
<b>Resources Expended</b>				
Costs of Generating				
Voluntary Income	62,488	-	62,488	74,360
Costs of Charitable Activities	93,732	-	93,732	261,995
Grants & Donations Made	56,958	43,300	100,258 <sup>1</sup>	195,910
<b>Total Resources Expended</b>	<b>213,178</b>	<b>43,300</b>	<b>256,478</b>	<b>532,265</b>
Net Incoming Resources before transfers	125,132	(4,210)	120,922	(68,319)
Gross Transfer Between Funds	(11,993)	11,993	-	-
Net Movement in Funds	113,139	7,783	120,922	(68,319)
Total Funds Brought Forward	94,555	15,000	109,555	177,874
<b>Total Funds Carried Forward</b>	<b>£207,694</b>	<b>22,783</b>	<b>£230,477</b>	<b>£109,555</b>

### Balance Sheet on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2008

	2008	2007
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	<b>1,230</b>	1,640
<b>Current Assets</b>	<b>1,230</b>	1,640
Debtors	3,571	5,775
Cash At Bank	230,791	121,432
<b>Less:</b>		
Creditors: Amounts Due Within One Year	5,115	19,292
<b>Total Assets Less Current Liabilities</b>	<b>£230,477</b>	<b>£109,555</b>
<b>Funds of the Charity</b>		
Restricted Income Funds	22,783	15,000
Unrestricted Income Funds	207,694	94,555
<b>Total Funds</b>	<b>£230,477</b>	<b>£109,555</b>

<sup>1</sup>A further £70,000 has already been committed to specific projects for 2008-9.

This is a summary of ABC Trust's income and expenditure in 2007/8, taken from our audited accounts which are available in full on request.

## Getting involved

With the help of our supporters, the ABC Trust can build a better future for many under-privileged children and young people in Brazil.

### Current support

We have a strong Board of Trustees which gives us essential organisational support and over-sight. They have donated office space in central London, and pro bono legal, accounting and banking services.

We also have an influential group of Patrons who lend their support whenever they can. And we are supported by a number of companies, foundations and individuals.

However there is much more we can do and there are many different ways in which you can get involved.

### Trusts & Foundations

If you know of trusts and foundations which make grants to organisations focused on international development, children, or using the arts and education to help overcome poverty and exclusion, you can help us by making an introduction.

### Corporate support

A growing number of businesses are looking to engage with the wider community in the UK and overseas and do something tangible to strengthen their ethos of social responsibility. There are many ways in which companies can get involved and provide vital support to ABC.

**Corporate sponsorship** – ABC has a wide range of events planned for 2008 and beyond as part of our fundraising initiatives. Companies

can help make these events a success by lending their support through sponsorship.

**Corporate donation** – companies can make a direct corporate donation to a specific ABC project, or can make ABC a beneficiary of a fundraising event or they can make us their charity of the year.

**Corporate challenges** – ABC Trust is currently seeking to run a variety of corporate team challenges. For more information please visit our website or contact us.

A team from Virgin Mobile decided to make ABC Trust a beneficiary of an 80-mile sponsored bike ride raising over £25,000 in the process.



## How you can help

Whatever you choose to do, you can make a difference to thousands of children and young people in Brazil.

Over the last ten years, ABC has supported 22 projects right across Brazil, reaching over 12,000 children and their families. Much of this success is owed to the individuals who have given their support to the ABC Trust in many different ways.

### What you can do

Introduce ABC to friends, companies, trusts and foundations

Tell everyone about the importance of our mission and the work we support

Support ABC events by simply coming along and spreading the word

Take part in one of our sponsored charity challenges

With the right skills, you might be able to volunteer on one of our projects

Create your own fundraising event

Or you can make a personal donation



ABC Trust values the support and generosity of the individuals who provide us with personal donations. There are many ways in which this is possible:

- **Regular giving:** ongoing donations help sustain our work and allow us to plan ahead, £10 a month will go a long way.
- **One-off donations:** single contributions can make a huge difference to our projects.
- **Payroll giving:** you can make a regular monthly donation through your salary.
- **Legacies:** by including ABC Trust in your will, you can ensure a long term commitment to our partners.
- **In Memorium:** you can make a donation in memory of someone you love or set up a special memorial fund to which others can contribute.

**£5** pays for a safe place to sleep for a child on the streets

**£30** pays for food for 20 children for a week

**£50** pays for healthcare visits for 25 children

**£120** pays for school education for a child for a year

**£300** pays for the training of youth workers on arts projects

“We can do a lot here in Brazil with very little. A thousand pounds goes a long way to help very poor children. The ABC Trust is making a big difference in my country.”

Fernando Meirelles, ABC Trust Patron & Director of 'City of God'

## Patrons

We are fortunate to be supported by a number of high profile Patrons from the worlds of film, music, theatre, art and sport.

### Jimmy Page

Composer, producer and one of the world's most influential rock guitarists and founder of Led Zeppelin. During a concert tour in Brazil, he saw the reality of life for many of the children in the favelas, and felt compelled to help. Jimmy became the founding patron of ABC in 1997.

### Fernando Meirelles

Best known for his Oscar-nominated film 'City of God'. Fernando initiated the media project Cinema Nosso (now supported by ABC) as a direct initiative from his film based on the favela community in Rio de Janeiro.

### Pelé

The world's most famous and talented footballer, Pelé led the Brazilian national team to three World Cup victories, dedicating his thousandth goal to 'the children of Brazil'. He has worked for children's causes through UNICEF and became a patron of ABC in 2002.

### Jeremy Irons

An Oscar winning actor, Jeremy Irons has made his name in film, and on the stage. Jeremy Irons agreed to present ABC's BBC Lifeline Appeal in 2005 raising nearly £100,000 for our work.

### Bebel Gilberto

The daughter of João Gilberto, one of the originators of bossa nova music, and the writer of 'The Girl From Ipanema', Bebel Gilberto is a popular and celebrated musician in her own right.

### Juliette Lewis

An Oscar nominated actress, Juliette Lewis is most famous for 'Cape Fear' (1991) and 'Natural Born Killers' (1994), and has since had great success with her rock band, Juliette and the Licks.

### Julian Lloyd Webber

A world famous cellist, Julian has collaborated with many and varied musicians, including Yehudi Menuhin, Georg Solti, and Elton John. Julian performed in a fundraising event for ABC and the Boys' Choir of Westminster Under School.

### Carlos Miele

The internationally renowned Brazilian fashion designer Carlos Miele held his first show in London in 2002. Carlos takes social responsibility seriously and supports social projects to revive Brazil's poorest neighbourhoods.

### Romero Britto

Romero Britto is one of the world's most successful pop artists. His instantly recognisable works are featured in more than 100 galleries worldwide, and bought by a string of high profile collectors. In 2007, Romero founded the Britto Foundation to help children around the world.

### Brian May

Lead guitarist of Queen, Brian May is also a prolific songwriter and producer. Brian May agreed to become a patron for ABC after joining Jimmy Page as a judge in the ABC Riffathon events which sought the best up-and-coming young guitarist in the UK.



## Supporting the ABC Trust

ABC needs your support to raise much needed funds and awareness to help make a change.

### Newsletter

Please send me the ABC Trust e-newsletter

First name
Surname
Email

### Credit or debit card donations

I wish to help the ABC Trust by making a donation of:

£

By Visa | Mastercard | Switch (Please delete as appropriate)

Card number:

Expiry date	Issue no. (Switch Only)	Last 3 digits of security no.
-------------	----------------------------	----------------------------------

Signature	Date
-----------	------

Thank you for you donation.  
Your contribution will help  
transform lives.

### Standing order donation

I would like to become a friend of ABC Trust, by giving a regular donation of:

£10 per month   
 £15 per month   
 £20 per month  
 £25 per month   
 Other

### Instruction to pay standing order

To: The Manager (Bank or Building Society)

Name of bank
Address
Post code
Account sort code
Account no.
Account name

Please debit my bank or building society amount as follows

£  per month    1st payment date

Signature	Date
-----------	------

### Gift aid

If you are a UK tax payer, please consider making your donation under the Gift Aid Scheme. This will enable the ABC Trust to reclaim the tax payable on your gift, thus increasing the value of your donation.

I would like the ABC Trust to treat this and any other subsequent donations as Gift Aid donations until such time as I notify you to the contrary.  (please tick box)

Title	Forename (s)
Surname	
Address	
Post code	
Tel	Email

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ABC Trust is a UK Registered Charity, number 1069022

## Supporters

We owe our thanks to all of those whose support makes our work possible - individuals, trusts and foundations, companies, and our patrons, trustees and volunteers – all of whom have given their time generously. Thank you.

### Patrons

Jimmy Page OBE  
Bebel Gilberto  
Brian May  
Carlos Miele  
Fernando Meirelles  
Jeremy Irons  
Julian Lloyd Webber  
Juliette Lewis  
Pele  
Romero Britto

### Trustees

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**Chair:**  
Graeme Hutchinson  
**Secretary:**  
Katrina Dick  
**Treasurer:**  
Juliano Zappia  
Maria Graca Fish  
Peter Hall  
Lynda Colborne

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Andrew Webb  
**Projects Officer:**  
Aliana Monodee  
**Marketing & Fundraising:**  
Fatima Luna

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Carmen Caberlon  
Angelika Berndt  
Dayse Nunes-Black  
Doug Stanley  
Meera Chindooroy  
Rhonda Lynn (USA)

### Pro bono services

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Joan Hudson & Co  
**Legal:** Lovells  
**Offices:** Peter Hall

### The Lily Hastings Bass Memorial Fund

### Companies

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Virgin Mobile  
Varig

### Trusts & Foundations

Awards for All Lottery Fund  
BBC Lifeline Appeal  
Cazenove Charitable Trust  
Comic Relief  
FC Burgess Sunday  
Appeal Fund  
JA Clark Trust  
King/Cullimore Trust  
Leroe Family Foundation  
Little Way Association  
Lloyds TSB  
Oakdale Trust  
Toy Trust

### Support for Festinho - the ABC Trust music festival

A special mention for all the artists, companies and individuals who have made Festinho possible - and for the core group of volunteers for their countless hours of hard work: Lynda, Josefa, Simon, Rupert, Paddy, Rachel, Tom, Charlotte, Will, Piers and Mike.

### Individuals

We are lucky to have many individual supporters who give regularly, who have organized community fundraising events, or have done a sponsored event themselves, and have helped out in many different and valuable ways. They should be in no doubt that they receive our heart-felt thanks.



“As a Brazilian I know first-hand how difficult these kids’ lives are. The ABC Trust provides them with the support and inspiration they need.”

Bebel Gilberto, ABC Trust Patron



# Contact

## Andrew Webb

Chief Executive

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For general enquiries please  
email: [info@abctrust.org.uk](mailto:info@abctrust.org.uk)

Registered Charity No: 1069022

### Patrons:

Jimmy Page OBE  
Fernando Meirelles  
Pelé  
Jeremy Irons  
Bebel Gilberto  
Juliette Lewis  
Julian Lloyd Webber  
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