



Every single child
should have something to smile about...





Sadly millions of children across Brazil lead lives dominated by extreme poverty, fear of violence and little or no hope for the future – forced to survive on the cities' streets.

But with care, commitment and creativity, the ABC Trust offers practical support and inspiration to thousands of children to help them transform their own lives.

Who are we?

Action for Brazil's Children Trust (ABC) is dedicated to helping the most vulnerable children and young people of Brazil. By raising awareness and funding we support the work of local, community-led organisations who give children the education, support and inspiration they need to transform their lives.

Our supporters' generosity ensures that many children living on the streets have a safe place to spend the night, as well as food and basic health care. But more than that, through theatre, film, arts and music, the young people we work with build the skills, the confidence and the self-belief they need to fulfil their potential.

How we work

Over the last ten years ABC has witnessed the incredible power of local people to tackle the problems faced by children and young people within their own communities. We have built up strong partnerships with over 20 community-led organisations.

These partners not only deliver vital training, education and support for young people – they also fire their imagination and creativity through dance, film, drama and music; developing their self-awareness, pride and sense of possibility in their lives.

They also work with the children's families and the wider community, tackling the problems of extreme poverty, drug addiction, violence and abuse that drive children onto the streets.

Over 3000 children and their families are reached every day by projects supported by ABC. From counselling to medical care to arts-based activities, our work provides an all-too-rare source of hope for some of Brazil's poorest and most vulnerable children.



“the young people we work with build the skills, the confidence and the self-belief they need to fulfil their potential”

“60% of children who start school don't complete their primary education”



Projects we support

ABC works with partners right across Brazil. Our projects support children and young people through a wide variety of activities. Here's just a selection of the work our supporter's donations have made possible.

RIO DEJANEIRO | Nos do Cinema

Set up by 'City of God' Director Fernando Meirelles, an ABC Patron, in August of 2000, Nos de Cinema brought together 200 boys and girls from Rio's poorest neighbourhoods to prepare and work as actors in his award winning film. They now provide training for 100 young people each year in all aspects of film development and production, and promoting 'digital inclusion' of favela communities. This hugely successful media and film project has allowed disadvantaged young people the chance to learn new skills, find jobs and tell their stories to the world.

SAO PAULO | A. A. Crianca

Working directly with long-term street children to help them leave the streets and take up new opportunities, this project ensures they get the emotional, practical and legal support they need to succeed. AA Crianca run a drop in centre, and informal educational workshops to help children living on the street deal with the huge number of problems and issues they face every day.

RIO DE JANEIRO | Task Brasil

Working directly with street children – boys and girls of all ages - this project runs a programme which offers counselling, day centre facilities, long-term residential care and rehabilitation and work opportunities.

RECIFE | Patronato

Based in a community centre in one of the poorest favelas in Recife this project provides food and education alongside arts, craft, dance and music activities, to more than 300 children. They also provide training on income generating activities for the poorest families in the wider community.

SALVADOR | Circo Picolino

Through a mix of class room activities, circus skills training and public performances this highly respected social circus project enables children to build practical skills and self-confidence. Over 200 children benefit from this opportunity to achieve and excel by working and learning together.

SALVADOR | Viva á Vida

A therapeutic community in Salvador for young boys and adolescents (aged 11-16) addicted to crack and other drugs. It is the only project of its kind in the region and also carries out educational work with local schools.

LENÇOIS | Graos de Luz

'Seeds of Light' was a UNICEF Brazil project of the year in 2003. Combining art and craft workshops and an outreach programme this project encourages young people to generate an income by using their skills to set up small businesses.

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

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



Matheus' Story

Life on Brazil's streets often 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 children on the street. Viva a Vida works with young boys to break the vicious cycle of addiction.

An intensive support programme guides them through their battles with addiction and prepares them for a life where they can support themselves and stay off the streets.

One boy, Matheus (not his real name), now 14, thought back over his life and how the ABC-supported project had changed it completely,

“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 stole or did the traffic lights (*acrobatic stunts for money*) to buy drugs. I wanted to stop using drugs, I wanted a new life that's why I decided to go to treatment. My life was bad. The life of drugs is bad.”

Abandoned by his mother at the age of 10, Matheus went to live with a couple who began to maltreat him. Because of this 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 managed to stop using drugs and has gone back to school. He loves his studies and is taking computer lessons. Now Matheus dreams of the life ahead of him, “I want to be a surfer and go to university.”

Thanks to ABC's support Matheus life has changed forever. Although hesitant to live with his mother again, he is very happy to be reunited with his extended family. He now lives with his older sister and her family and takes part in Viva a Vida's aftercare program.



Standing Order form

I would like to become a friend of the ABC Trust by giving: £ per month

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Gift Aid Declaration

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

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**If you want to get involved
please contact:**



Andrew Webb

Chief Executive

E andrew@abctrust.org.uk
T +44 (0) 20 7494 9344
W www.abctrust.org.uk
A 53 Frith Street | London | W1D 4SN | United Kingdom

For general enquiries please email: info@abctrust.org.uk
Registered Charity No: 1069022

