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## Sponsor a Child Guide

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### INTRODUCTION

Sponsoring a Child is exciting and extremely rewarding and we would like first to thank you for your interest and support.

Without our sponsors, it would not have been possible to care for over 300 children and adolescents at Casa Jimmy since October 1998. Most of these children have been reunited with their families or relatives.

To secure the long-term running of Task Brasil's projects for street children and adolescents, we still need the number of existing child sponsors to continuously increase in order that we may continue with our vital work, so to keep increasing the number of children and teenagers benefiting from Task Brasil's projects by having the opportunity to be reunited with their family or substitute family in a healthier environment than the one they found on the streets..

We hope you enjoy reading this information sheet. If you would like to contribute to the Sponsor a Street Child Scheme in any other way, you will be able to do so by contacting us on +44 (0)20 7735 5545 or [info@taskbrasil.org.uk](mailto:info@taskbrasil.org.uk) or on line at [www.taskbrasil.org.uk](http://www.taskbrasil.org.uk). If you have any questions on the work of Task Brasil Trust, please do not hesitate to contact us.

### GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CHILD

You can choose whether you would like to sponsor a girl or boy at Casa Jimmy (Casa Jimmy receives children aged from 0-6 years), a pregnant girl and her baby, the children involved in the Street Approach Project, or the teenagers living at Forest House (Epsom College Farm). You can also start sponsoring Casa Roger Turner overnight shelter and day centre which will open later in 2005.

You may of course write to the child you are sponsoring and send birthday, Christmas and Easter cards, either in English or Portuguese. Depending on the age of the child you may receive a reply in Portuguese, which we would be delighted to translate into English for you. We have volunteer translators in Brazil and the UK.

Suitable topics to write about would include details about yourselves, your children and families and any pets, where you live, where you work, hobbies and interests, etc. your own childhood and what you enjoyed doing as a child. You could also ask them about their brother or sister, if applicable. You may wish to sponsor siblings at Casa Jimmy.



Children love to hear about school subjects and activities sports and games you like to play or your children enjoy. You could also talk about British culture and ask about Brazilian culture. The teenage girls love to hear about sports, music trends and fashion and interesting information about the place and country you live in.

It is important to remember that the children, as opposed to the teenagers from Casa Jimmy

Home and older children and teenagers from the Street Approach, Forest House and Casa Roger Turner, are very young, some are just learning to read and write, so probably just a photo of yourself and family, your home and pets or a postcard would be more appropriate, along with a few words of greeting.

It is better not to write too much in one letter or card as all your experiences will be new and strange to the children. We suggest that 2 to 4 letters or cards per year are probably sufficient. It is unlikely that you will receive more than two replies a year from your child. He/she will be assisted by an educator to write you a short greeting. Most of the information about your child will be in the form of a life history and progress report. The children are encouraged to do drawings and paintings for all sponsors and the older ones are encouraged to write short letters.

It is very important to remember that the teenagers and older children you are sponsoring from our Street Approach Project are still based on the streets and have very disorganised lives, scraping by from day to day and possibly never having attended school. Their reality has been tragically distorted by the dangers and threats that confront them on the streets. Many are not always ready to accept the care and attention from our educators, and it is likely that most will not be able to write or even be contactable on a regular basis to receive sponsors' letters, etc. Initially, the most important part of our work on this street project is to build up the young people's trust and then their self-esteem.

If you are more than one individual sponsoring a child, such as a whole family, school group, club or church, it is best to send one payment on behalf of the group and allocate one person to write for the group.

## SENDING LETTERS, CARDS AND PRESENTS

All correspondence must be sent to:  
**c/o The General Co-ordinator**  
**Task Brasil Trust**  
**Project Daiana**  
**PO Box 4901**  
**London SE16 3PP**

Tiny enclosures in letters and with cards are preferable, such as stickers, small plastic toys, stationery, pens, pencils or erasers, balloons or any flat, light items.



However, we are lucky enough to have the help of the Royal Navy and British Airways with shipments of large goods to Rio, such as household furniture and domestic appliances, clothes and toys. This means that you could contact us to find out what items are needed for our projects and send them with the next shipment. There are no more than three shipments a year and large gifts for one child/ adolescent could cause jealousy and discrimination so please send items that can benefit all the children in the home. Alternatively we also count on the generosity of DHL which enables Task Brasil to send letters to Brazil, once a month

Please do not send parcels or packets to Brazil by post as these are liable to import duties and will cause delays from bureaucracy at customs for our employees. Furthermore, they are more likely to go astray!

All gifts of money must be sent to TBT in London where they will then be paid directly in to our Sponsor a Child bank account with Banco do Brasil. Cheques should be made payable to Task Brasil Trust.

## MAKING PAYMENTS

Please send your donation to TBT's London postal address with the relevant Sponsor a Child form signed and completed as indicated.

Payments can be monthly, quarterly, bi-yearly or yearly. The suggested sum is £15 per month. We prefer standing orders for monthly and quarterly payments because they save on administration costs. However cheques and postal orders are also greatly appreciated.

Only a very small proportion of monies sent by sponsors goes towards administration costs as we attempt to keep all our UK office expenses as low as possible. Nevertheless, postage, printing and stationery, telephone and electricity bills have to be paid. We rely on sponsors' commitment to give regularly and it is a great strain on our finances when sponsors stop donating. Should you find it difficult to continue to support a child over a certain period, please do not hesitate to contact us by phone so that we can discuss how to overcome the problem and ensure that you maintain a relationship with your child.

If your preferred method of payment is still by cheque or postal order, Task Brasil will send you a receipt confirming your previous month/quarter/year's donation along with an addressed envelope to facilitate your regular commitment.

## HOW SPONSORS' MONIES ARE USED

The monies you send are to cover all the needs of the child; medical, nutritional, educational and psychological care. Clothes, toys, childcare and baby equipment are also, most of the time, donated either locally or from the UK.

The quality of care of Task Brasil's projects is heavily regulated by TBT in the UK and by our general co-ordinator in Brazil along with our partners, the Municipal Council of Rio and the Rio Council for the Defence of the Rights of the Child and Adolescent. In addition, Rio de Janeiro's Juvenile Judge frequently inspects the homes and refers the children and pregnant adolescents to Casa Jimmy.



The educational requirements for each child are individually assessed. The very young ones, under 2 years, living at Casa Jimmy, will be taught and stimulated by our carers/educators in the

home itself. The ones from 2 to 6 years will attend local crèches approved by the Municipal Council and ourselves. From the age of 6, the child will attend a local primary school.

## VISITING YOUR CHILD AND ADOPTION



You may visit your child by contacting us in advance so we can organise a suitable date for you to visit your sponsored child/project. Visits can strengthen the bond between you and your child/project and it can be reassuring for sponsors to see their child's daily reality for themselves. You could make your visit part of a business or pleasure trip to Brazil.

It is not possible, however, to take the child back to your country as the primary aim of Task Brasil Trust is to re-integrate the child back into Brazilian society, either by re-uniting him/her with a family member, who will in turn, if possible, become the legal guardian, or by finding a suitable adoptive home in Brazil with the help of the Brazilian adoption agency, CEJA.

## SPONSORS' DOUBTS AND PROBLEMS

We request sponsors to commit themselves to sponsoring a child for one year but naturally, you can continue your sponsorship for as long as you want or can.

If for whatever reason you cannot continue and need to cancel your sponsorship, we would ask that you try to find a friend or relative who can take over your sponsorship so that we do not lose the funding. Otherwise, do contact us as soon as possible so we can start to find another sponsor.

You can sponsor the same child for as long as you like and even during the entire period the child is in our care.

You may have to change your sponsorship to another child if the circumstances of the child whom you are sponsoring improve and he/she returns to a stable family life. This could be because the child has gone back to its parents or to a suitable relative or the child may have been adopted. As stated above, adoption is not organised by Task Brasil Trust.

Changing your sponsorship to a new child can often be good news for a child; for the teenage girls it may mean that they are able to support themselves through the education and/or training they have received whilst under Task Brasil's care.

If you have any doubts or problems about your sponsorship please do not hesitate to call us at the London office. When queries arise it is better to address them at once. The London office is in constant contact with Brazilian administrator/legal representative and general co-ordinator and our Brazilian office is based in the same complex as the children's home, so any pending issues from either end can be quickly dealt with.

## OTHER WAYS TO HELP

- **Events and Marathons:** If you are planning an event, why not raise funds for Task Brasil Trust by collecting sponsorship money?
- **Matched Giving:** The company you work for may have a policy of matching any funds you give to charities.
- **Give as You Earn:** The government now gives an extra incentive to those who donate through the Give As You Earn scheme.
- **Gift Aid:** Changes to Gift Aid legislation earlier this year mean that we can now claim tax back on any donations that are made. If you are a tax payer, your pledged gift is worth an extra 28% at no extra cost to you. Please complete the enclosed Gift Aid Declaration Form and send it with your sponsorship form.
- **A legacy:** While guaranteeing the future of your loved ones, you can also make a difference to the future of many street children.
- **Fundraising events:** Parties, Coffee mornings, Brazilian evenings, sponsored runs etc...
- As a **Volunteer** in the **UK** or **Brazil**.

If there is any other way you feel you can help, we would love to hear from you. Please tell a friend about Task Brasil Trust and the work it carries out.