



NEWS FROM CHAIN OF LOVE HOMES

May/June/July 2017 Newsletter

Dear Friends of Chain of Love,

This issue of our newsletter brings you information regarding Chain of Love's adjustment to new Brazilian laws for organizations caring for abandoned and neglected children and teenagers. It also discusses church services on our campus, provides an update regarding Cristina Carmargo's health issues, and shares prayer requests.

NEW BRAZILIAN LAWS RESULT IN BIG CHANGES AT COL

Since last January, a new regulatory framework has come into effect for non-governmental organizations. This set of laws establishes new rules for organizations that take in children and teenagers. Little by little, Chain of Love is adjusting to this new situation.

Unfortunately, other organizations that are unable to meet the requirements of this new regulatory framework are closing their doors. Among the requirements is an increased ratio of caregivers to the number of children looked after. This has raised the expenses of organizations, many of whom have been left with no option but to close down after being unable to meet this new legal requirement.



**Our two social workers:
Carina (left) and our newest
staff member Patricia (R)**

Chain of Love is increasing our staff to be in accordance with the new law. We know we will have more expenses, but we count on God's help and the help of our partners who have always been with us in our struggles and endeavors to give our children a higher quality of life. We have already hired an additional psychologist and social worker, both of whom are believers in Jesus. We also recently hired a special new caregiver, Sandra, after saying goodbye to the previous caregiver

The children and teenagers that were in the organizations that are closing down have unknown destinations. Some will be put up for adoption, some will go to other organizations, and others, amazingly, will be returned to their families.

In the coming weeks, Chain of Love will receive about 20 of these children/teenagers from other organizations. We are preparing for this not only by hiring additional qualified people but also by improving our physical structure. We are seeking new loving houseparents, who must be Christians and committed to Biblical principles.



Sandra, our new caregiver

Our campus is quite full with eight houses, the technical center, the carpentry shop, the gymnasium, and other small buildings. As a result, we are taking it upon ourselves to manage a second off-campus home in the city of Novo Hamburgo. Some of the children who will come to us will be placed there.

Before the new regulatory framework, we used to take in children aging from 0 to 12. Now, we will have to take in older teenagers too. This is a significant challenge, as older teenagers often come with manners and behaviors that would theoretically be easier to be changed if they were younger. Also, we have to be prepared and qualified to take in children who are HIV positive.

**CHAIN OF LOVE HOMES, CP 2040, NOVO HAMBURGO, RS 93.511-970, BRAZIL
chainoflovehomes@gmail.com www.larcolmeia.com.br**

This is a new stage for Chain of Love, brought about as a consequence of the new regulatory framework. We would like to ask you to please pray for this adjustment to the new law. We also humbly ask you to please continue your prayers and support in helping us meet the needs of the nearly 100 children/teenagers that we will soon have, providing them the same very high quality of life that we have given since 1994. These young souls that are soon coming to us need in their lives love, dignity, and above all Jesus.

As a favorite saying here goes: some of our children are born from us; some of our children come to us.

SUNDAY SERVICES AT COL



Sunday morning service at Chain of Love

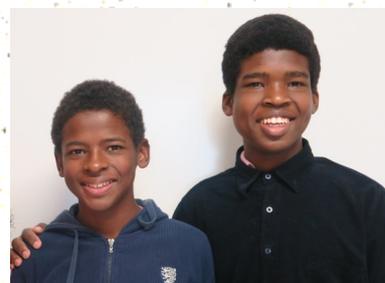
What was supposed to be only temporary has become permanent. Last January and February, summer months in Brazil, we decided to hold Sunday services at Chain of Love. Summer is a time of year when many people travel to the coast, and when the number of people that attend churches drop considerably. As most of the people who attend Boas Novas (Good News) Baptist Church are from Chain of Love, we decided it would be better if the Sunday morning services were held here in the summer.



COL teenage worship team at a Thursday night evening service

The idea went so well that now we have services every Sunday morning at Chain of Love. The services are led by Pastor Élder, senior pastor at Boas Novas Baptist Church. In addition to this, every other Thursday Pastor Luís Toledo comes to lead services for houseparents, children, and teenagers. He leaves Florianópolis, in the state of Santa Catarina and travels about 500 km (about 310 miles) to help us strengthen our spiritual foundation. We are continuously giving our children and teenagers a chance to

have a real encounter with Jesus. Some of those who already accepted the Lord have been baptized and now are seeking spiritual growth and maturity. Jesus really transforms lives! For example, after having an encounter with Christ, two teenage brothers who live in the off-campus home, Henrique and Kaue, are steadfast in attending church. They also now have a desire to be just like their pastor! They want to have suits to be “good-looking and more presentable” just like the pastor.



Kaue and Henrique

CRISTINA CAMARGO HEALTH UPDATE

Cristina, who is the wife of COL Executive Director Telmo Camargo, continues to recover well from the health problem she had at the beginning of this year. We are still waiting for the results of the tests. The tests were sent to the US and we expected to have the results very soon, which didn't happen. All we know is that Cristina has an unknown disease that keeps her body from absorbing vitamin B12. Please continue to pray for her.

PRAYER REQUESTS

We would like to ask you to continue to pray that we may have a pastor working full time on the campus. Thanks to some brothers and sisters in North America, we already have the funds to hire a pastor. However, it's a hard choice. We are looking for someone who has the right profile and personality to work with our children, teenagers, and houseparents. May God lead us to the right person.

Defend the cause of the weak and the fatherless; maintain the rights of the poor and the oppressed. Rescue the weak and the needy; deliver them from the hand of the wicked.

Psalms 82:3-4

God bless you richly,

Jaques C. Ribeiro

Sponsorship Coordinator

