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| |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **MARCH 2019**  **ANOTHER DREAM COME TRUE - TWO CARNOVO CAMPS!**  https://gallery.mailchimp.com/2976a9764d7b43e1b0e1f427a/images/9dd82533-4316-47ec-b268-fdc541cfb134.jpeg  We have been running the 'CARNOVO' camp every year since 2013, during the week of Brazilian Carnival.  Our boys, especially the ones who are on the edge of the drug scene or have been involved a little bit , are so at risk of being sucked right in at this time of year, and the girls as you might imagine are also extremely vulnerable for other reasons, during the all-night street parties. We have always dreamed of doing **CARNOVO for the girls too**, but with our accommodation as it is at the moment, we felt it wasn't wise.  https://gallery.mailchimp.com/2976a9764d7b43e1b0e1f427a/images/bbc980d6-4247-4135-8835-13407ccbf256.jpegHOWEVER, this year, as well as running our **boys camp at ND**, for the first time ever we managed to rent the farm across the road from them and run a separate camp there for our older girls.   **We had 21 boys and 15 girls altogether at the two simultaneous camps** and we were thrilled that so many of our youngsters who were most at risk, took part.  Some boyfriends and girlfriends made the choice to come and therefore hardly saw each other for five days. We were so proud of them for making that decision!  https://gallery.mailchimp.com/2976a9764d7b43e1b0e1f427a/images/d675c116-2ce7-45c9-b06b-13053aec0ea1.jpeg The theme was, 'I choose God', which we had used in one of the early CARNOVOs and it felt right to use again. Just by making the choice to be there, they were choosing God's path for their lives instead of a destructive alternative. Isn't that awesome?!    All the staff really came together, each using their particular gifts to make the camps more special and to make the children feel more loved and cared for.  Sadly, as has happened nearly every year, a couple of the boys had to be taken back home due to not respecting the rules and making the camp difficult for others, but even that we pray, will serve to help them in the future.  It's actually heart-breaking to have to do that, knowing what they are going back to, https://gallery.mailchimp.com/2976a9764d7b43e1b0e1f427a/images/84942e77-fa99-4544-a90d-591480916f25.jpeg  but in the end, it's so worth it when you see their behaviour change, and when they start to value what they took for granted before.  We were so happy when the two lads in question were at the bus stop as usual the next week, waiting for the ND bus to go to their 'Transformers' group on the farm.  **HELPING OUR TRANSFORMERS TO IMPROVE THEIR CHANCES IN LIFE!** **Transformers 2019:**The groups started up again in February and we have 100 children taking part this year plus a waiting list!  **Homework and Tutoring:**  The Transformers programme consists of activities like Bible story time, cooking, crafts, games, music and drama, sport ... the list goes on.  And last year we began a new activity, which surprisingly enough, most of the children seem to really enjoy - homework!  Susie is developing this area, by providing more structured activities and even giving some one-to-one maths tutoring, so that the children are getting the help they need in order to improve their grades at school and have a better chance in life!  https://gallery.mailchimp.com/2976a9764d7b43e1b0e1f427a/images/0483bd14-4589-44bf-ba50-35c622cd8059.jpg  **Adventure Camp places:**  Also, for those of you who don't know, only the children who are regular in school and who are working to the best of their ability, are given a place at one of our adventure camps in the second half of the year. This is obviously a real incentive for them to stay on at school and do well.    **NETWORKING**  **Visits:**We have had several visits recently from different social work Projects, who have heard about our work and come to check it out.  One was the staff from a local council Project who work with families in need, another was from a Project similar to ND near Rio de Janeiro.  It's great that we are getting more and more opportunities like that to develop links with other organisations, but at the same time, we always have to be careful not to compromise our values or identity as a Christian Project.  **ND CHURCH** It's so great that even when our children get too old for Transformers, they can still be a part of our church community.  The church is made up mainly of the staff and their families, plus some of our Transformers and their family members.   **The men's discipleship group**: This is led by Gabriel with the aim of the guys helping one another to keep strong in their faith and support each other, especially through the hard times.   **Women's discipleship group:** Last year Sandy started a group for the girls.  It's been so encouraging so see them beginning to open up more, as the trust develops. and to see them growing together in their faith.  Some of the young folk who come to discipleship groups don't go to our main church service, but we don't really mind to be honest, as long as they are getting to know God! **Kids church in the slum:** https://gallery.mailchimp.com/2976a9764d7b43e1b0e1f427a/_compresseds/81b6e8f6-64ef-4eb7-8e51-72590eef472d.jpg Amazingly, every single child in the neighbourhood where we meet, who is younger than 11, takes part in the Thursday night services in their community hall!  And the service for the older ones, which runs on Wednesday evenings, also has a core group of committed regulars.    **COULD ANYONE HELP SUPPORT DAVI OR TAMARA?** https://gallery.mailchimp.com/2976a9764d7b43e1b0e1f427a/_compresseds/6a2d1ad3-7f71-4f5c-80ce-e66a8c72f3ca.jpg  As you probably know, our staff depend on monthly sponsorship, which comes from amazing people like some of you reading this!  Davi has been with us for over a year now. Tamara started officially in February although she's been helping out for a lot longer than that.  We don't have any support for either of them yet.  If you would like to help us to pay their salary each month, please send an email to [moira@ndaventura.org](mailto:moira@ndaventura.org) saying how much you would like to give per month and Moira will set it up for you.  It's really easy. God bless you!  Thank you for continuing to be there for our children, their families and our staff.  We love you all!  Morven, Gabi, Rafa, Susie, Mariana, Edison, Thais, Du, Edvaldo, Sandy, Jeremy, Luiz, Margareth, Gil, Davi & Tamara xxx | | | | |
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