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## **WHAT A DIFFERENCE US\$ 55'000 CAN MAKE !!** **... Visit to "Julian Haranzky Community Centre", Uirapuru in São Paulo, Brazil**

During the international Mid Year Meeting (MYM) in January 2005 I joined the AP/IP (Area President/International President) group visiting the above mentioned YMCA Centre, which has received support from Time of Fast (TOF) ... I must say: "I am impressed!"



In 1991 the centre received US\$ 35'000 from TOF (TOF 91-06) and in 2000 TOF supported a project, "Professional Training for Youth" (TOF 00-08) with US\$ 19'922 for a total of almost US\$ 55'000. The TOF-funding was spent for purchasing sewing machines, typewriters, carpentry-machinery, serigraphy-equipment, education-equipment and alike.

Even now when the first purchased items are now as much as 14 years old, it is still in daily use and extremely well maintained.

### **São Paulo slum area**

The centre is located centrally in the poorest São Paulo slum area. Children and youth from the area are educated here, getting a bath and 1-2 meals a day. In this slum the best-paid workers are having a total family-income of not more than US\$ 170 per month, and most families have considerably less.

The centre is run by YMCA and is supported by the Y's Men's clubs of São Paulo. The centre has 52 volunteer helpers. In 2003 the centre had 101'697 visits, served 119'276 meals and serviced 5'647 individuals.



On a weekly basis the centre is servicing approximately 800 children and young persons who are educated in text processing, typewriting, serigraphy printing, and furniture-production. In addition some 140 children are receiving educational homework support, and a variety of leisure- and sport-activities are getting attention as well.

### **Skills are certificated**

The trained youth are getting a certificate, which proves, that they were trained and got skilled at the centre. The good contact of the centre to a number of enterprises enables the majority of the skilled youth from the centre to get jobs here.

At the centre the youth is also trained in producing clothing, furniture and serigraphy-prints on T-shirts and the young children are sewing and making decorative items.

What is produced is being sold locally, and the profit helps running the centre. The main part of the centre-costs are paid by the São Paulo YMCA and the Y's Men's Clubs of São Paulo.



All education and training is done in cooperation with the children's parents. This way the loyal support of their parents is in the best way secured. This is enhanced by the fact that the centre runs its own pharmacy and has a nurse offering service to the families concerned.

### **YMCA leisure-centres for funding**

São Paulo has a population of 20 million persons from who the majority is living below the limit of poverty. So the local need is substantial.

YMCA tries to meet this giant challenge by raising money running fitness-, swimming- and sport-centres for the privileged minority of the population. YMCA in São Paulo has more than 2'600 volunteers and is running 16 such leisure-centres ... .. Some 25 per cent of the YMCA income is spent for social charity. Unfortunately this is far from sufficient to meet the giant needs.

*I must say: I am impressed by the extremely fine work the Y's Men's clubs and YMCA in São Paulo are doing ... And I impressed and surprised by what just US\$ 55'000 from our TOF-programme can help to bring about".*

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