

Bahia STREET



2007 Annual Report

Bahia Street breaks cycles of poverty and violence through quality educational programs for impoverished girls and young women living in the shantytowns of Salvador, Brazil.

In 2007, the Bahia Street Center enrolled sixty-one girls and continued to mentor an additional twenty girls now in high school. Bahia Street Center staff developed new initiatives focused on early literacy and health and well-being, strengthening their ability to provide holistic support to girls as they journey from illiteracy to university.

Bahia Street-United States raises a significant portion of the financial support needed to run the Bahia Street Center. Additionally in 2007, Bahia Street-US staff launched a series of educational programs aimed at engaging students and community members in conversations and service related to poverty, race, class, and international development.

We have spent the past year building on the energy and renewed commitment that came from our 10th anniversary celebration in 2006. We launched 2007 with plans for the year developed in partnership with Bahia Street Center director Rita Conceição. Today, Bahia Street is stronger than it has ever been in the past.





Bahia Street Brazil

On the front cover: The Bahia Street Center Library

Bahia Street set out in 2007 to create a bi-lingual library at the Center. The Center now has a library filled with books through donations and financial gifts.

Portuguese books: Bahia Street collaborated with Bloomsbury Publishing in the U.K. in seeking donations of books from Brazilian publishers. We appreciate the support from Companhia das Letras, Editora Rocco, and Yazigi Language Schools.

English books: Bahia Street received a generous donation from an individual supporter to purchase books for the library. We also received a \$1,000 book grant from online bookseller Alibris and had many books donated through Book Mooch and the Alibris "Donate-A-Book" program.

More than twenty girls have passed the 8th grade. Nearly all are continuing to study and five are now in their final year of high school.

Camila, who has just entered high school, was elected vice president of her class. Her mother died some years ago, and after her father was assassinated a few years ago, she has been living with her grandmother, an active volunteer at Bahia Street. Through Bahia Street's help, her grandmother was able to set up a small business selling food on the street which now nominally supports them. That Camila was elected into this leadership role reflects her own personal strength and the effects of the support Bahia Street has been able to give her.

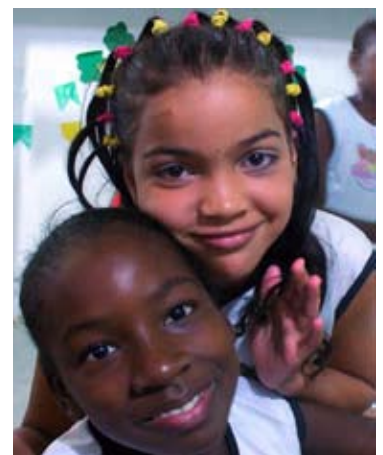
Three girls from the Bahia street program are now studying for their university exams in a specialized study course. Bahia Street is partnering with the NGO that is providing this course and paying the girls' tuition. Of these girls, **Macria** has just passed the first portion of the exam and will know in a month or so if she has passed the second portion.

Jana, who is eleven, is showing an impressive aptitude and love of writing. As a part of this, she submitted an essay to the essay contest for the local Salvador newspaper. She did not win the contest, but now wants to try with other writing projects. Another girl, **Ivanda**, began playing the violin on an instrument someone brought by the Center. Her immediate connection to the instrument was so great that a local teacher has loaned her a violin and is teaching her to play. Remarkably, she has already begun playing with a youth orchestra.

Bahia Street Center director Rita Conceição has been meeting regularly with the girls' families, discussing reproduction, violence, nutrition, and childcare with parents and caregivers. A major focus of these discussions is building the self-esteem of mothers and sisters so that they feel a part of their child's success at Bahia Street.



Bahia Street launched an early literacy program to help ease the transition of new girls into the program. The initial priority was to teach basic study skills, engage the girls in learning, and work with neurological effects of malnutrition. Bahia Street teachers are having the older girls help with games and other interactive techniques, promoting leadership skills in the older girls and improving the social interaction and communication skills of all the girls. Although it has just begun, this program is proving to be very effective at helping the youngest girls focus and begin to read.



Bahia Street Center: Plans for 2008

In the next year, the Bahia Street Center will continue to develop programs and provide services addressing the academic, emotional, and social learning of 60 enrolled students. We will also expand our early literacy programs for new students and will strengthen our health programs to ensure that girls receive the mental and physical healthcare they need to thrive.

EARLY LITERACY PROGRAM

2007 HIGHLIGHTS



Leveraging our local knowledge and contacts in Salvador, Bahia Street has developed programs in Brazil that educate visitors about poverty, race, class, and effective local programs.

“Culture, Climate, and Change” Bahia Street–UW Chemistry Department (August 2007)

Bahia Street collaborated with the University of Washington Department of Chemistry to create a four-week exploration seminar in Bahia, exploring climate change in the context of local culture.

“Bahia Street’s prerogative to show us Brazil from a perspective absent of our accustomed comforts has been my favorite part of this whole trip.”

—Chemistry trip participant



Above: Chemistry students in Salvador. Top right: Two UW students take ozone measurements in Bahia.

“Society, Equality and Change” Bahia Street’s 4th Study Trip (June 2007)

Our fourth annual study trip to Bahia had seven participants. They experienced a lively São João in Ituberá, hiked in a natural preserve south of Salvador, and visited the Bahia Street Center to see the project in action.

Work Party (January 2007)

Each year, during summer break at the Bahia Street Center, we engage volunteers in a variety of painting and building projects.

Participants: Seth Bundy, Angela Light, and friends

“The program was beyond what we ever expected. Volunteering at the Center allowed us to join an instant community, not be a traveler or outsider. The beauty of volunteering at the Bahia Street Center is that you can see the trail that you leave.”

—Angela Light

English Volunteers

Working alongside the Bahia Street faculty and staff, Bahia Street English volunteers teach up to three sections of English to Bahia Street students and teachers.

Participants: Elaine Alden, Becky Dumas, Nicole Howard, Sofia Zieve

“I was very privileged to be granted a small insight into the way that a large percentage of Brazilians live, away from the tourist sights and usual traveler perspectives. And it also let me see a wonderful example of how an NGO can intervene and make long-term changes in life outcomes, for the lucky few that can attend.”

—Nicole Howard

Seattle Interns

Interns in the Seattle office support the day-to-day administration of raising money, creating educational programs, and providing outreach to diverse communities. Typically, students intern as part of their academic programs, and this year interns ranged from under-graduates to one PhD student.

Participants: Hazelruth Adams, Eva Holm, Angela Ju, Stephanie Kim, Rebecca Sayre, Catherine Souva

“Working with Bahia Street has been inspirational in so many ways. It enables me to spend my time doing something that I know will make a difference in the right way: empowering the very people we wish to help, as well as their entire communities. We know we are on the right path when we are changing the paradigm of how ‘aid’ works.”

—Eva Holm

Seattle Volunteers

Our work is supported by around fifty local volunteers who run and staff fundraisers, help in office administration, and spread the word about Bahia Street. These volunteers contribute tremendously to our effort by reducing the amount of administrative overhead needed to run Bahia Street in the United States, thereby allowing the majority of our funds to go directly to the project in Salvador. Thank you, volunteers, for being the heart of Bahia Street!

Dance Lest We All Fall Down published

Bahia Street co-founder and international director Margaret Willson published her book, *Dance Lest We All Fall Down: A Journey of Friendship, Poverty, Power, and Peace*. Willson describes how she, a middle-class white American, joins forces with an African-Brazilian shantytown activist, Rita Conceição, to change the violence and despair they see around them. Their pledge

to the shantytown residents to create a top-quality educational center for girls becomes a remarkable journey that takes readers from the shantytowns of Northeastern Brazil to urban Seattle to high-society London. With the author, readers will experience a world of drug dealers, street urchins, capoeiristas, English socialites, power-hungry ‘do-gooders’, and wise teachers.



Available through Cold Tree Press on their website, www.coldtreepress.com or by calling (615) 309-4984.

Bahia Street director receives Citizenship Award

Margaret Willson received the 2007 Thomas C. Wales Award for Passionate Citizenship at “A Night Among Heroes” event in Seattle in November 2007. The award recognizes Puget Sound residents who inspire positive activism through passionate citizenship. Margaret attended the event with Bahia Street US board president Joyce Mork-O’Brien.

Beyond Brazil: Plans for 2008

In 2008, we will work again with the UW Department of Chemistry on an exploration seminar on climate change and culture, and we will launch a new partnership with the UW Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity and Latin American Studies to bring 25 students to Bahia as part of a course on race and identity. Our study trips and volunteer programs will continue to bring friends new and old to the Center to see our work in action.

Bahia Street Financial Report

Bahia Street's International Advisory Board provides guidance on our international activities. In 2007, Robert Barclay (Rio de Janeiro) played a key role in funds sent to Brazil from the United States and United Kingdom. Connie Wong (Seattle) visited the Bahia Street Center as part of the study trip.

The Bahia Street budget is now based on actual expenses rather than available income, a shift that increases the amount of money

needed in Brazil but which provides for better programs at the Bahia Street Center. For the first ten years of Bahia Street's history, we sent what we could afford, which was never enough to pay for all of the services the girls we serve needed to meet their full potential. The Bahia Street US board of directors voted to adopt a budget that accurately represents what Bahia Street Center staff needs to run the Center.

For Bahia Street USA

Year End December 31, 2007

ASSETS

Cash and bank accounts*	\$20,172.42
TOTAL Cash and Bank Accts	\$20,172.42
Other Assets	
Bahia Street Center building	\$100,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$120,172.42

LIABILITIES

Liabilities	\$0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$0

NET ASSETS & NET WORTH **\$120,172.42**

**Excludes \$35,000 for 2008 Brazil expenses transferred to the Unibanco fixed income fund on October 23, 2007. These funds were transferred to take advantage of a 1.82 exchange rate and are now part of the R\$176,607 referenced in the Financial Report.*

Bahia Street USA tax filings are available on-line through our profile on Guidestar.org.

Financial Report from Robert Barclay, International Finance Advisor (Rio)

Bahia Street (United States) and the Bahia Street Trust (United Kingdom) remitted R\$190,680 between December 2006 and April 2007 for 2007 programs at the Bahia Street Center (Brazil). By investing this in a fixed income fund at one of Brazil's major banks, Unibanco, in Rio de Janeiro, we earned an additional R\$9,013 during the year, leaving R\$199,693 available for spending.

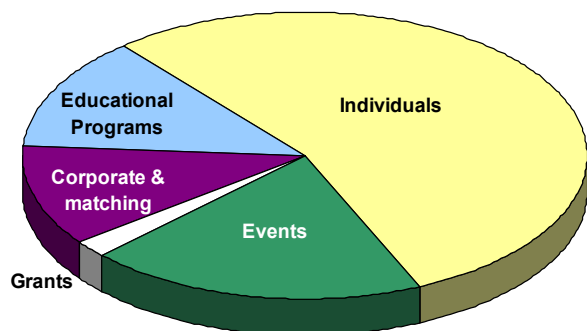
During 2007, monthly remittances were sent to Salvador to cover all the running costs of the house, totaling exactly R\$100,000. An additional R\$56,828 was spent during the year on building works and educational trips. We also suffered R\$1,939 in bank charges and tax, though I am glad to report that this tax was abolished from 1st January 2008, so we will not pay it in future!

There was therefore an overall surplus on 2007 activities of R\$40,926. Much of this resulted from the educational trips and from the interest earned and the better exchange rates achieved by remitting the funds in larger amounts through channels paying better rates. We also exercised a tight control over spending during the year.

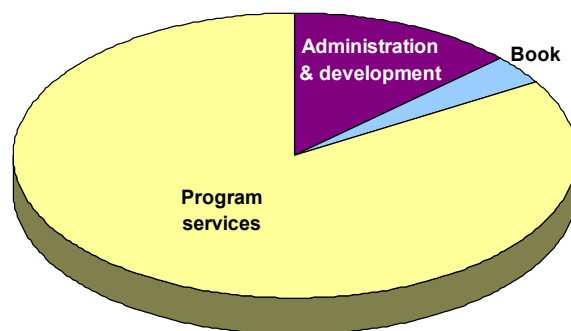
At the end of 2007, we received remittances from the US and UK totaling R\$115,804 to be used in 2008. Adding these to the 2007 surplus and the balance at the end of 2006 (R\$19,877) means that Bahia Street had R\$176,607 in the Unibanco fixed income fund at the end of 2007 in readiness for 2008.



2007 Income



2007 Expenses



Breaking cycles of poverty and violence through education since 1996.

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