



Paiva Netto writes in his article “Awareness Today . . .”: “Our motto is this: Educate. Conserve. Survive. Humanly we are also Nature.” (Read full article on page 4)



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GOOD WILL



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Ecumenical and Solidary Citizenship at the Top of the Global Agenda

Learn how the **LGW**'s social and educational programs help vulnerable communities become resilient and prepared to overcome current and future challenges.

Udson Ikaro de Arruda, 6, lives in the Tadarimana village, close to the Pantanal region.



Legion of Good Will
Legião da Boa Vontade

68 years

The Legion of Good Will presents its recommendations of best practices to the delegations participating in the High-Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), held at the United Nations Headquarters in New York (USA). The LGW is a Brazilian civil society organization in general consultative status with the ECOSOC since 1999.

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GOOD WILL

Non-political and non-partisan
magazine of Ecumenical
Spirituality

SPECIAL EDITION — JULY
3, 2018. AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH,
FRENCH, PORTUGUESE, AND
SPANISH.

GOOD WILL *Sustainable Development* is a magazine of the Legion of Good Will, edited by Elevação Publishing House, registered under number 18166 in book "B" of the 9th Titles and Documents Notary and Register Office of São Paulo (Brazil).

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PRINTED BY

Mundial Gráfica

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The GOOD WILL *Sustainable Development* magazine does not take any responsibility for the information and opinions in its signed articles. The publication serves the high purpose of encouraging the debate on relevant Brazilian and world issues in addition to reflecting on trends of contemporary thinking.



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Why I Became a Biologist



A large, colorful pile of trash, including plastic bottles, cardboard boxes, and other debris, is scattered across a sandy beach. The trash is piled up in the background, creating a stark contrast with the clear sky and the sand.

SOLIDARY DEVELOPMENT

AWARENESS TODAY...

...Before It Is Too Late for the
Earth's Tenants.

João Preda



JOSÉ DE PAIVA NETTO is a Brazilian writer, journalist, radio broadcaster, composer, and poet. He is the President of the Legion of Good Will (LGW), effective member of the Brazilian Press Association (ABI) and of the Brazilian International Press Association (ABI-Inter). Affiliated to the National Federation of Journalists (FENAJ), the International Federation of Journalists (IFJ), the Union of Professional Journalists of the State of Rio de Janeiro, the Union of Writers of Rio de Janeiro, the Union of Radio Broadcasters of Rio de Janeiro, and the Brazilian Union of Composers (UBC). He is also a member of the Academy of Letters of Central Brazil. He is an author of international reference in the defense of human rights and in the concepts of Ecumenical Citizenship and Ecumenical Spirituality which, according to him, constitute *“the cradle of the most generous values that are born of the Soul, the dwelling of the emotions and of the reasoning enlightened by intuition, the atmosphere that embraces everything that transcends the ordinary field of matter and comes from the elevated human sensitivity, such as Truth, Justice, Mercy, Ethics, Honesty, Generosity, and Fraternal Love.”*

The theme of this year’s United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High-Level Segment, *“From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities,”* which is going to be held from July 16–19 in New York, is very timely. The Legion of Good Will (LGW) has been addressing this topic in several ways (as you will see on the following pages of this magazine) and has been taking into

special consideration socially vulnerable populations. They have been trained and empowered by the Organization so they can overcome the socioeconomic difficulties they face, as well as the personal hardships that so often afflict them. This undertaking has enabled these populations to build a better future, not only for themselves but for future generations as well.

Our contribution has also been that of fostering environmental awareness among

Divulgação

“The situation is extremely serious. It is estimated that if there are not significant changes in the current scenario by 2050, there will be more plastic in the seas than fish (measured by weight).”



all peoples, because as I have defended for decades, the destruction of Nature is the extinction of the human race. It is evident that this is not just a simple catch phrase to grab the attention of Humanity, always in a hurry and often towards its own extermination.

In general, human beings act like there is no tomorrow. For this reason, they fail to assess the future results of their present actions. This is worrisome, because when the devastating effects of bad sowing reach us, the situation may be irreversible or followed by enormous losses.

Sustainability is the word of the hour. However, do we act according to its meaning? Problems related to natural resources increase every day. Look at how water levels in reservoirs are getting lower in several Brazilian cities and across the world!

From time to time, new studies have demonstrated that any unbridled action against the environment causes some kind of local or distant imbalance. Even so, trees continue to be an “inconvenience” or the

object of endless greed in the Amazon, in the Atlantic Forest, or anywhere else on the planet. Until when?

WAR ON OCEAN PLASTICS POLLUTION

Look at the proliferation of disposable waste and microplastics found in cosmetics and personal care products. Over the last twenty years, this issue has become a worldwide emergency, to the point that in February 2017 the UN launched its *Clean Seas* campaign. For five years, the initiative will work to combat marine litter, 60 to 90 percent of which is composed of several types of plastic of different sizes and at different stages of degradation.

The situation is extremely serious. It is estimated that if there are not significant changes in the current scenario by 2050, there will be more plastic in the seas than fish (measured by weight). As **Erik Solheim**, the Executive Director of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and the person in charge of the campaign, very clearly warns: “It is

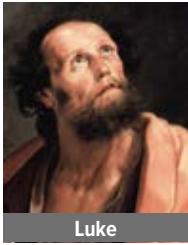


GLOBAL EMERGENCY
UNEP Executive Director, Erik Solheim, addresses the Ocean Conference held in June 2017 in New York. At the time, the world's main Heads of State and government discussed the issue in order to support the implementation of SDG 14: to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development. In highlight, the *Turn the Tide on Plastic* team of sailors, whose mission is to increase people's engagement in the United Nations' *Clean Seas* campaign.

Photos: Reproduction GW



Jesus



Luke

Divulgation



Stephen Hawking

past time that we tackle the plastic problem that blights our oceans. Plastic pollution is surfing onto Indonesian beaches, settling onto the ocean floor at the North Pole, and rising through the food chain onto our dinner tables. We have stood by too long as the problem has gotten worse. It must stop."

There is hope that people all around the globe—from the simplest individual to those who govern nations—take resolute actions to conserve our species. If things continue as they are, we could be reading reports like this in the future: *"Few human specimens remain in such location. The region, once full of life, has become hostile, totally damaged by drought and the lack of vision of its residents."* It may seem shocking, but the children of the current generation and subsequently their grandchildren are asking for help from those who today waste in a condemnable manner what the planet has to offer.

HAWKING: COLONIZE SPACE TO SURVIVE

Renowned English astrophysicist **Stephen Hawking** (1942-2018) came to the point of affirming to the website Big

Think that *"our only chance of long-term survival is not to remain inward looking on planet Earth, but to spread out into space."* He continues: *"I see great dangers for the human race. There have been a number of times in the past when its survival has been a question of touch and go. . . . Our population and our use of the finite resources of planet Earth are growing exponentially, along with our technical ability to change the environment for good or ill."*

It should also be stressed that many idealistic and pragmatic people have given an active voice to the fauna and flora around us. Yet this awareness needs to be multiplied everywhere, starting with children, at home, and in schools (see page 42).

CALMING THE STORMS

Confident, we pray to God for the appeasement of the inclement weather conditions that cause suffering to a great number of people around the world every year. And let us be citizens aware that, if we are worthy, **Jesus**, the Ecumenical Christ, the Divine Statesman, in person again, will work the miracles reported in the Gospel

Archive GW



The LGW constantly promotes and coordinates meetings and debates during the events of the United Nations. In 2012, the *Constructive Cooperation* thematic panel at the Rio+20 (photo) was held with the support of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN/DESA). Businesspeople, authorities, and delegations from several countries gathered to discuss the bases of sustainable development and in what way multi-stakeholder partnerships can help drive it forward.

according to **Luke 8:24**, when the Celestial Helmsman calmed a storm.

The Master of the Millennia will come and rebuke the wind and the fury of the water, also symbolized today by its very scarcity. Enjoying peacefulness in the present time depends on harmonious coexistence with Nature.

To conclude, I bring you extracts from the article “LGW, 1992 Rio Earth Summit, and the Challenges of Rio+20,” through which I humbly addressed the world’s Heads of State and their delegations, as well as the representatives of civil society present at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (UNCSD), the Rio+20, held between June 13–22, 2012, in Rio de Janeiro. Specially for this event, we sent the *GOOD WILL Environment* magazine published in English, French, Portuguese, and Spanish.

STRIVERS

In order for our planet to survive the effects of so much greed over the centuries, let the truth be told, we have seen notable efforts by researchers and citizens engaged in improving the quality of life around the globe. Allied to initiatives aimed at healthy eating—through organic agriculture, alternative means of transportation, environmental protection, recycling, proper waste management, and use of rainwater—excellent work being developed by scientists and other scholars promise good results in the short and long term. For example, intense research is being conducted in the energy area, particularly in relation to renewable and clean sources: biofuel, biomass, blue energy, geothermal energy, hydraulic energy, hydroelectricity, solar energy, tidal energy, wave energy, and wind power, not to mention other little-known objects of study and those that have yet to be discovered. **Faith is the fuel of Good Deeds.**

“DO NOT THROW IN THE TOWEL”

I feel impelled to emphasize the militant effort in favor of the environment made by



Bruna Gonçalves

“Educate. Conserve. Survive. Humanly
we are also Nature.”

serious and active government entities and civil society organizations in Brazil and throughout the world; multitudes of idealists who **“do not throw in the towel”** and remain on the frontlines battling for a truly better planet.

Our motto is this: **Educate. Conserve. Survive. Humanly we are also Nature. ■**

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Leilla Tonin

EDUCATION FOR GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP

Written statement by the **LGW**
translated by the UN into its official
languages

LGW: Present where people most need it!

Mariany Kiga Bororogaro, 6, is one of the 22 thousand students who benefited from the distribution of school supplies through the LGW's *A+ Child — To Protect Childhood is to Believe in the Future!* campaign. She lives in the Tadarimana village, located 50 kilometers from Rondonópolis, Mato Grosso (Brazil).

In this special edition, the GOOD WILL Sustainable Development magazine publishes the statement of the Legion of Good Will (LGW). It presents the Organization's proposals for the theme of the High-Level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2018, held from July 16-19, in New York, USA—"From global to local: supporting sustainable and resilient societies in urban and rural communities." The LGW defends that quality education is a determining factor for ensuring that the goals agreed upon by the United Nations and its Member States be achieved.

We, from the Legião da Boa Vontade / Legion of Good Will, recognize that to make societies sustainable and resilient—as proposed by the 2018 session of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) High-Level Segment—the following topics need to be urgently prioritized:

(a) education for sustainability and for global citizenship; and

(b) increase participatory mechanisms in public issues, as established by the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, particularly in the target 11.3: *"By 2030, enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries."*

It is expected that by 2050 more than two-thirds of the world's population will live in cities. On their own, the more than 90 megacities that make up the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group account for a quarter of the world's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). It is imperative to ensure their commitment to the promotion of sustainable development. That is why we carry out in seven cities in Brazil the *Solidary Society Network* program. It provides assistance and advocates for people's rights supporting 436 organizations and civil society actors so that they may contribute through institutional channels with public officials for improving city policies of social advancement and sustainability.

It is essential to recognize in the long term the vital connection between SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, and 15—focus of this year's session—and SDG 4, particularly target 4.7, which states: *"By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development."*

UN Photo/Mark Garten



Bruna Gonçalves



LGW'S MISSION STATEMENT

To promote Social and Sustainable Development, Education, Culture, Art, and Sports **with Ecumenical Spirituality**, so there may be Socio-environmental Awareness, Food, Security, Health, and Work for everyone, in the awakening of the Global Citizen.





UN Photo/Kim Haughton

2



UN Photo/Manuel Elias

3

A NEW DUO IN THE UN HIGH-LEVEL DECISION-MAKING PROCESS

The LGW greets these women, who joined the United Nations Secretary-General, António Guterres (1), in high positions in the organization: the Permanent Representative of the Czech Republic to the United Nations in New York, Marie Chatardová (2), who was elected the seventy-third President of the ECOSOC; and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Ecuador, María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés (3), the fourth woman to preside over the UN General Assembly in the history of the international organization.



Leilla Tonin

Foz do Iguaçu (Brazil)



Marcos Antonio

Natal (Brazil)



Leilla Tonin

Vitória (Brazil)



Leilla Tonin

Manaus (Brazil)

- To this end, UN Member States and local governments that are committed to sustainability should prioritize the adoption of mechanisms that allow the approach to SDG-related content to be measured and encouraged in their national educational systems. These subjects could be categorized in accordance with the 17 SDGs in order to foster compliance with the 2030 Agenda in its entirety.

LGW AND UN WORKING WITH ALIGNED AGENDAS

All 95 LGW's educational and social service centers across Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Portugal, the United States, and Uruguay have set out actions that contribute to the SDGs and had a positive impact on more than 600,000 people in 2017.

Through an internal information platform, we have promoted an exchange of experiences between these centers, and a great effort is made to systematize best practices and improve the Organization's efficiency and effectiveness. In order to improve the LGW's sustainability policies, in 2017 our sustainability team (ECOTEAM) engaged volunteer specialists and employees from a wide variety of backgrounds, from the operational level to the executive board, in participative management processes.

The data collected by the ECOTEAM identified that in 2017, more than 60 percent of the Organization's centers carried out projects that addressed SDGs 11, 12, and 15, which are being discussed at this conference. These social and educational activities for people of all ages accounted for 985 hours. The team also monitors the indicators related to SDGs 6 and 7, which deal with the consumption of natural resources, waste management, the conservation of green areas, and the human development of its employees.

We believe that the mass media play a key role in education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles. That is why we produce the *Biosfera* TV show, which gives voice to activists, researchers, and organizations working on behalf of sustainability. This theme is also addressed transversally in all the content produced by our other media platforms, reaching the widest possible audience.

The Super Good Will Communications Network in Brazil directly reaches more than 35 million individuals through radio, more than 18 million on open TV and more than 11 million households by cable. The contents are also available on several online platforms, among them the main social media and an app for smartphones and tablets.

Thus, we foster the sustainable awareness of our



SCHOOLS





Vivian R. Ferreira

The José de Paiva Netto Educational Institute in São Paulo (Brazil) demonstrates that high-quality Education, Solidarity, and an all-encompassing Ecumenical Spirituality are indispensable to the character building of complete citizens. Such values reflect the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy, which comprise the educational proposal created by educator Paiva Netto and are successfully applied in the schools and social and educational programs of the Organization. In bold gold letters next to the facade, the LGW's president requested that the following quote by Aristotle (384-322 B.C.) be put: *"All who have meditated on the art of governing mankind have been convinced that the fate of empires depends on the education of youth."*



Vinicius Ramalho

Curitiba (Brazil)



Bettina Lopez

Montevideo (Uruguay)



Vivian R. Ferreira

Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

- employees by way of the ECOTEAM, of the general population through radio, TV, and the Internet, and of those who attend our schools, homes for the elderly, and social service centers, which annually provide more than 13 million services and benefits to underprivileged communities.

FOCUS ON CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

In addition to investing in new technologies that reduce the environmental impacts of human activity, we need to call for change in patterns of consumption and behavior. For this reason, we point out a warning given by **Marie Curie** (1867-1934), quoted by our President, educator **José de Paiva Netto**, in the Legion of Good Will's message to the participants of the 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women:

"The notable Polish scientist—the first woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize and the only person to win it in different scientific fields (Nobel Prize in Physics 1903 and in Chemistry 1911)—was recognized not only for her efforts and countless sacrifices in favor of scientific progress, through the pioneering research into radioactivity that cost her own life. . . .

"From the height of her perseverance and humanitarian spirit, this brilliant woman—from whose breakthroughs resulted significant technologies for the field of Medicine—concluded:

"You cannot hope to build a better world without improving the individuals. To that end each of us must work for his own improvement, and at the same time share a general responsibility for all Humanity. . . ."

"With the educational power of women and mothers, let us use the technological resources available and those that are yet to be created by human audacity to persevere working on the path to Peace and Justice.

"In my book Reflexões da Alma [Reflections of the Soul] (2003), I stated that if we continue fighting for the Good, there will come a day when weapons will finally have their sinister voices silenced. In this millennium, which I consider to be the millennium of women—even though it may take time—human beings will understand that the essence of power does not selfishly lie in them, but in the spirit of Solidarity, which must unite all. There is still a lot to be done. Future generations expect bolder attitudes from all of us. If this is a difficult undertaking, let us begin yesterday!"

To promote the enhancement of current and future generations, however, it is necessary to ensure the effectiveness of our education, whether it is at schools or not. For this reason, we apply the Pedagogy of Affection

Vivian R. Ferreira



Volta Redonda (Brazil)

Leila Tonin



Teófilo Otoni (Brazil)



**HOMES FOR
THE ELDERLY**

Leila Tonin



Uberlândia (Brazil)



15,5 MILLION

services and benefits in 2017

The data account for the work of the LGW of seven countries: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Portugal, the United States, and Uruguay.



95

EDUCATIONAL AND SOCIAL SERVICE CENTERS

71 million

services and benefits provided to families in vulnerability or at social risk from 2013 to 2017.

614,884

people benefited from the work of the Legion of Good Will in 2017.

Social Communications



In addition to schools, social service centers, and homes for the elderly, the LGW has a broad social communications network dedicated to fostering education, culture, and citizenship values. In 2017, the daily programs of the Super Good Will Communications Network (radio, TV, websites, and publications) had the participations of 3,202 specialists from all across Brazil.

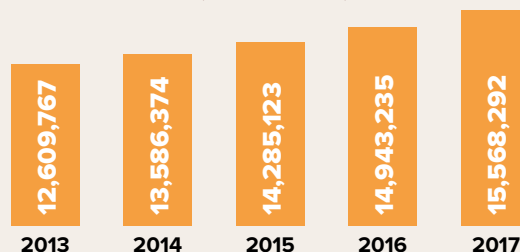
GOOD WILL IN THE WORLD



Between 2013 and 2017, the work of the LGW had an impact on 2,602,371 people.



Continuous growth in the past five years (2013-2017)



In Brazil, it is audited by Walter Heuer, external independent auditors.

* For more than two decades, the Legion of Good Will has its general balance sheet audited by external independent auditors, by initiative of the LGW's President, José de Paiva Netto, long before the Brazilian legislation required this measure to come into effect.

- and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy, which provide an education with spiritual, ethical, and ecumenical values. They comprise a pioneering educational line created by Paiva Netto, which introduces significant curricular and methodological innovations and have been analysed in academia and congresses in Brazil and abroad. The outcomes of this modern teaching proposal can be measured by the greater engagement of the families we assist in the development of their own communities, by the improvement of the academic performance of the students, and by the increase in the income of the families, even in situation of extreme vulnerability.

In our schools, we developed contents aligned with the mandatory curriculum for each age group, whose objective is to guarantee that all students have the necessary experience to prepare them to exercise their global citizenship. *“Ecumenical Citizens are solidary and therefore not selfish. They are the ones who do not allow themselves to be seduced by fanaticism, because they understand that it makes no sense hating in the name of God, who is Love. In short, they know how to respect the sacred human creatures without prejudice and sectarianism. What is ethical cannot become intimidated,”* explains the creator of the aforementioned teaching proposal.

Regarding our methodology, we establish connections between the syllabus and these experiences. To do so each subject is worked on in six stages that complement each other. The student is the protagonist in them and counts on the supervision and mediation of a teacher. The stages are: “Content identification,” “Individual search for knowledge,” “Sharing and systematization of knowledge,” “Collective production,” “Results presentation,” and “Individual conclusion.” On our website (<https://www.lgw.org/social-inclusion-through-quality-education>), we publish additional information about our teaching proposal and about the Learning Method through Rational-Emotional-Intuitive Research (MAPREI).

In the collective production stage, concrete actions are being undertaken to achieve SDG 15, such as planting seedlings and seed bombing—that are being planned for six municipalities. Among these municipalities are Mogi das Cruzes, which is part of the “green belt” around the city of São Paulo, which is located in southeast Brazil. This “green belt” is a sensitive region dedicated to protecting springs and where family farming is responsible for supplying food to the largest Brazilian metropolis (São Paulo) and other important cities in the states of São Paulo and Rio de Janeiro.





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SOCIAL SERVICE CENTERS



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Brasília (Brazil)

→ Another example is the municipality of Nova Friburgo, in the mountainous region of Rio de Janeiro. The city was one of the worst affected by Brazil's worst climate disaster: in 2011, floods and landslides caused more than 900 deaths and hundreds of people went missing. The heavy rain and the irregular occupation of conservation areas are some of the causes of the tragedy.

Several cities in Brazil are to hold workshops on how to take full advantage of the food (in view of the fact that Brazil is among the top ten food-wasting countries), on how to reuse solid waste and dispose of hazardous waste properly. These actions are crucial in Brazil, which, according to the latest available survey, collected 91 percent of all urban waste, but sent almost half of it to inappropriate landfills and dumps, thus endangering the health of the population and the conservation of the environment. The data were taken from the 2016 *Panorama of Solid Waste in Brazil* report.

The LGW organized educational visits to parks and conservation areas in dozens of cities, such as Paranaíba, located in the Pantanal biome, and João Pessoa, where the challenge is to conserve the mangrove swamps. In Campinas, participants in the *Youth: the Future in the Present!* program went to a water treatment plant, where they learned about the challenges of water management in São Paulo, the most populous state in the country, with more than 45 million inhabitants. If it were a country, it would have the fifth largest population on the American continent.

In the USA, the *Good Will Students for Peace* program has engaged children and adolescents in public schools in extracurricular sustainability projects that encourage the adoption of a healthy lifestyle, prevent violence, and help promote a Culture of Peace. A survey carried out with the teachers and students showed that those taking part in the program improved their school performance and had their self-esteem raised.

The commitment to education for Ecumenical Citizenship, or global citizenship, is for us, from the Legion of Good Will, the most important tool for building sustainable and resilient societies. Therefore, we emphasize that SDG 4, especially target 4.7, should play a central role in national strategies aimed at achieving SDGs 6, 7, 11, 12, and 15. As educator Paiva Netto states, *"To educate with Ecumenical Spirituality is to transform—and let it naturally be for the better. If the human being is transformed, the planet will be restored."* ■



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RESILIENCE TO SUCCEED IN LIFE

SUELÍ PERIOTTO



How the **LGW's**
Pedagogy of
Affection and
Ecumenical Citizen
Pedagogy provide
a high-quality
education and
instill in its students
spiritual, ethical, and
ecumenical values



Mirele Sena
Cerqueira, 14, student
at the Good Will
Educational Complex,
in São Paulo (Brazil).

Vivian R. Ferreira

Having Education with Ecumenical Spirituality as its flag, the Legion of Good Will's schools have developed a curriculum that helps its students score highly on university entrance exams of the most selective universities in Brazil.

Many of these students are the first in their families to go to college. This is why it is important to boost within them the confidence that they can continue their studies in higher education preparing them for whatever challenge they may face over the course of their lives, which includes landing a good job in this competitive world of work.

The LGW also helps them on how to deal with adversity, to overcome pressures and obstacles, and to respond positively to difficult situations, keeping a psychological and emotional balance. Thus, they become more resilient individuals.

The students we assist endure several social and/or economic hardships, such as poverty. Many of them want to learn, but because they come to us malnourished they struggle with the subjects; others do not believe in their own intellectual capacity; some are sociable, but have learning disabilities, usually because they were not well fed in their early childhood, as we have seen several times with students who come to us when they are 7 or 8 years old in these conditions. Not to mention even more serious situations.

I recall the story of a former student of the Good Will Educational Complex, located in São Paulo, Brazil, who was in high school at the time. One day he came to school right after his brother had been killed at their doorstep. His mother called the school secretary and told us about the tragic incident, asking us to take care of her son. Both the teachers and students helped him cope with the pain of his difficult loss, reassuring him that he was not



Vivian R. Ferreira

SUELÍ PERIOTTO

is the supervisor of the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy and the principal of the Good Will Educational Complex in São Paulo, Brazil. She has a Doctorate and a Master degree in Education from PUC-SP. She is also a conference speaker.

Janine Martins



Taguatinga (Brazil)

The teaching line created by the president of the Organization is also an effective response to the dropout problem affecting public and private schools in Brazil, since the dropout rate among students at the LGW is zero.

Vivian R. Ferreira



Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

alone. Thanks to the support he received in the LGW, he was able to make it to the end of the school year. He finished high school, went to college, and graduated in electrical engineering. It is not hard to imagine what would have happened if he had not gone to school because he did not feel protected enough during that painful moment. . .

LGW: SUPPORT AT ALL TIMES

Like the case we just mentioned, many of the families we assist face serious challenges, such as drug addiction and domestic violence, which usually interfere with the academic performance of the students. As a response to that, the schools' multidisciplinary team is constantly watching over them so they do not quit their studies. These measures integrate the educational line created by the LGW's President, educator **Paiva Netto**. It is comprised of the Pedagogy of Affection (aimed at children up to 10 years old) and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy (for students from the age of 11 onwards).

With its pioneering concepts for a more humane school, this proposal defends a holistic observation of the student's behavior (*"a view beyond the intellect"*), taking into account other aspects of their life outside the school walls. After all, if the frailties and problems experienced by students in and out of school are not addressed and solved by professionals, their complete development may be hampered. We cannot deprive them of such empowerment that occurs every time they overcome a challenge, a factor which will help them overcome a variety of predicaments and anxieties that can hinder them from pursuing their studies and goals in life.

The teaching line created by the president of the Organization is also an effective response to the dropout problem affecting public and private schools in Brazil, since the dropout rate among students at the LGW is zero. This proposal



EDUCATION FOR LIFE

The motto of the LGW's schools, among them the Good Will Educational Complex in São Paulo (Brazil), is: *"Here one studies. Brain and heart are formed."* Based on this quote by Paiva Netto, the Organization inspires children and adolescents to overcome all challenges in their life, not only the academic ones.

Vivian R. Ferreira

takes one step further by strengthening the resilience of our students, preparing them to face up to and overcome social and economic problems, and by constantly encouraging them to look for new possibilities for improving their own quality of life and that of their families and communities as well.

HOW IT WORKS

In order to meet the demands mentioned before, the LGW's educational proposal is implemented in the lesson plan through an Ecumenical Spirituality content, developed through a *Topics Program*. It takes into account the background of our children and

* Information disclosed in June 2017 by the National Institute for Educational Studies and Research "Anísio Teixeira" (INEP) and by the Ministry of Education of Brazil reveal that 12.9% and 12.7% of the students who enrolled, respectively, in the 1st and 2nd years of high school in the country dropped out, according to the School Census of 2014 and 2015. The junior year of high school has the third highest dropout rate (7.7%), followed by the senior year of high school, with 6.8%. (Source: INEP webpage.)

WHO

Pedro Lucas O. Silva, 18, a former student of the Good Will Educational Complex.

FROM WHERE

São Paulo, Brazil.

COURSE

Physics at the University of São Paulo (USP).

ACHIEVEMENTS

Also accepted to the Mackenzie Presbyterian University to study Pharmacy, scoring 740 points on the National High School Exam (ENEM) in 2017.



Personal archive



"The education I received at the LGW combines concepts of citizenship, empathy, and altruism with the regular subjects we studied. This interdisciplinarity is very interesting because I graduated and, at the same time, I built a good character during my school years. It was a unique education, a high-quality one, based on moral and ethical values, which were very useful to me. I can see that. The LGW educated me both academically and morally."

Personal archive



“Although lots of people choose engineering just because of the financial aspect, it also has the ability to help others. Many projects reach out to poor communities with no sanitation and drinking water. One day I’ll be part of a project like that. . . . We need to help society as a whole; we have to help one another. I learned this at the LGW and I’ll take it with me for the rest of my life, free of selfish feelings.”

WHO

Henrique S. Costa, 19, a former student of the Good Will Educational Complex.

FROM WHERE

São Paulo, Brazil.

COURSE

Mechanical Engineering at the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP).

ACHIEVEMENTS

Also accepted to the Federal University of São Paulo (UNIFESP). Of the 1000 possible points on the ENEM essay, he scored 940 in 2016 and 900 in 2017.

curriculum, planning classes and coming up with topics and activities that promote equality in terms of gender, class, ethnicity, and other relevant issues that favor social inclusion and put end to any prejudice and discrimination.

Fraternal and ecumenical debates in the classrooms encourage respect, more than just tolerance among students. Their different points of view, resulting from a variety of cultural, religious, and ethnic backgrounds, contribute to the teaching-learning process. The knowledge shared is highly beneficial and proposes multiple reflections on current challenges. It also strengthens student’s resilience in the face of adversity—that if unchecked can lead them to dropping out of school, drug use, alcoholism, and many other issues.

All this work is based on Ecumenism, which inspires our teaching proposal. It can break down the walls that belittle or separate individuals because of their standpoints. It also favors teamwork, which promotes interaction and strengthens ties between students, so that they are able to live ethically and fraternally in society.

Our teaching method, therefore, invites students to nurture solidary feelings, and to use their knowledge on behalf of the communities where they live and the people that surround them.

NEW HORIZONS

By combining intellectual knowledge and good values in an education with Ecumenical Spirituality, the LGW demonstrates, through the good outcomes it has achieved with the zero dropout rate, no violence inside the school, and in the academic performance of its former students in universities, that it is possible for every student to shine, since their talents and possibilities for change are greater than their current social and economic status. For this reason, resilience can be the key to the positive transformation that we expect from them

teenagers, so that we may work on the much-needed development of both reasoning and good feelings, according to “*a view beyond the intellect*,” which was devised by the president of the Organization. These topics, as well as the content proposed by the school curriculum, are worked on simultaneously, resulting in an effective learning experience.

This is how the Legion of Good Will’s educators incorporate spiritual, ethical, and ecumenical values into the school

in the relationship and learning process not only in the schools. This occurs through the promotion of the Ecumenical Citizenship, which combines cognitive and subjective knowledge, allowing us to see the student's real potential—a potential that goes beyond the measurable or educationally recognized competences.

The president of the Legion of Good Will says that we need to see the qualities of the students—which are sometimes hidden by low self-esteem or the lack of opportunities—and identify the potential within them, which goes beyond their reading ability and intellectual development. This approach values students and helps them improve their decision-making skills, to obtain qualification through scientific knowledge, to produce appropriate responses to the challenges in the world of work and in their personal lives, and to act against the statistics that haunt society.

QUANTIFYING TRANSFORMATION

Stories of how our students, alumni, their families, and the community overcame difficulties demonstrate the impact of our work. Three of these stories are recounted briefly in this section of the magazine. In each one of them we see that the motivation our students received in the Organization made them adopt a critical and determined attitude in face of the problems.

Finally, I would like to point out that the LGW considers that educating with Ecumenical Spirituality means to offer a high-quality education that takes into account the students' cognition and their feelings, in line with the schools' motto created by educator Paiva Netto: *"Here one studies. Brain and heart are formed."* His teaching line makes us believe in the prospects of expanding the academic, professional, and personal horizons of individuals from all walks of life. ■

WHO

Vinicius S. Costa, 19, a former student of the Good Will Educational Complex.

FROM WHERE

São Paulo, Brazil.

COURSE

Physical Engineering at the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP).

ACHIEVEMENTS

Also accepted to the University of São Paulo (USP). He scored 980 points on the ENEM essay in 2017.

"The LGW taught me values, such as perseverance, courage, persistence, and solidarity. The Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy helped me a lot to understand life's problems, to be a global citizen, to understand that there is a world around you and that your actions have an impact on other people's lives as well as on the environment. The Organization taught me to be selfless, to open my mind, and aim for the future. The Ecumenical Culture and the Coexistence classes also helped a lot, because they showed us that everything we were learning was not only for personal purposes, but for humanitarian ones too."



Personal archive



WHAT CAN WE DO TO REDUCE HUNGER AND POVERTY?

The **LGW** of Paraguay introduces
organic gardening in poor
communities and transforms lives

LEILA MARCO



Developing eating habits that are both healthy and sustainable is one of the goals of the *Good Will in Action* program of the Legion of Good Will of Paraguay. Through community gardens, where organic greens, fruit, and vegetables are planted, the program raises the awareness of people living at social risk about the importance of a balanced diet. The initiative also helps strengthen family ties, promotes gender equality, and generates income.

Our team of reporters visited one of the sites benefiting from the program, the Villa Angélica settlement, which is located in Lambaré, one of the poorest regions in Asuncion, the country's capital, where the Organization provides assistance to around 300 families. Our team also attended one of the biweekly meetings that take place in partnership with the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock of Paraguay. During these meetings, agricultural engineers give instructions on planting, fertilizing, and tending these gardens.

ASUNCION, PARAGUAY

LGW Fighting Against Hunger and Malnutrition

Promoting healthy and sustainable eating habits among families at social risk is one of the goals of the Organization, which encourages the creation of community vegetable gardens, producing organic greens, vegetables, and fruit.

1,343,949

services and benefits
provided by the LGW
of Paraguay in 2017

**10% OF THE POPULATION
SUFFERS FROM HUNGER**

HDI 0.693



Maria Mendes



Raquel Diaz



“Our community has gone through many changes and still does, whether due to weather or other situations, and the LGW has always been by our side carrying out different activities and bringing donations, which is very important for us. Thanks to that we can manage to lead a more decent life.”

CELSA RAQUEL MOREL COLLANTE

Community leader of the Villa Angélica settlement

→ For around eight years, the LGW has been operating a multidisciplinary service that counts on volunteer social workers, psychologists, educators, and nutritionists. **Celsa Raquel Morel Collante**, the community leader of the Villa Angélica settlement, explains that changes were occurring little by little as the residents took part in the activities of the Organization: “*The educational talks and the Strengthening Lives* program, which is comprised by a group of women, made us want to learn*

more. . . . Today we have greens and vegetables available for consumption. We eat what we have in the backyard of our own homes.”

The organic gardens ensure they have food—which often lacked in their diet—and contribute to the improvement of the quality of life of the community: “*We receive training from the LGW that helps us succeed in life, grow as human beings, share ideas, talk about problems, and come up with solutions.*”

* **Strengthening Lives** — The program was created in 2011 by the LGW of Paraguay. Over the last seven years, thousands of women were benefited through courses in handicrafts, talks on topics of interest to the population in general, and the exchange of ideas and experiences that help promote sustainable development.

Agronomist **Ángel Oviedo**, from the Department of Agricultural Education of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, also celebrates the success of the program, which helps reduce an alarming figure, because despite progress made 10 percent of the population goes hungry and faces malnutrition in Paraguay, according to information disclosed by the UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Food, **Hilal Elver**, during a visit she made to the country in November 2016.

Oviedo congratulated the initiative, which provides the residents with technical support, supplies, seedlings, and seeds, as well as the information they need to *“prepare healthy meals, using everything they produce, from greens and vegetables to fruit, all of which are free from pesticides.”*

Generating extra income for the community is also a benefit of the program since the surplus of what is planted can be sold. *“Effectively producing organic vegetables without chemicals—which cost more in the market—generates income, either by selling these products naturally or processed, or when making sweets, jams, cakes, etc.,”* said Oviedo.

MITIGATING THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The representative of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock says that the rise in temperature on the planet has made summers in Asuncion increasingly hot. That is why technical support is essential for achieving good results: *“Because of the high temperatures, we need to incorporate technologies into production, such as the use of sunblock shade cloths and an irrigation system. Otherwise, it’s going to be very difficult to have bumper harvests.”*

Moreover, the LGW’s program reinforces protective factors, because it expands the concept of home by engaging local residents in shared activities and responsibilities, thus strengthening the ties between them. *“What*



“I can only congratulate and support the LGW for the work it carries out. Our doors will always be open to this initiative. The LGW plays a key social role in the proper development of these communities.”

ÁNGEL OVIEDO
Agronomist and member of the Department of Agricultural Education of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, praising the Good Will in Action program.

Despite progress made, 10 percent of the population goes hungry and faces malnutrition in Paraguay, according to information disclosed by the UN Special Rapporteur on Right to Food, Hilal Elver, during a visit she made to the country in November 2016. She also warned that only 6 percent of the country’s arable land is available for growing food for local consumption.

we’ve learned from the LGW has helped us get along as a community family, supporting each other, sharing what we have, and overcoming our differences through dialogue and respect,” said community leader Celsa Collante.

NO MORE EXCUSES FOR NOT EATING HEALTHY

The organic vegetable garden project also achieves significant results in the Nursery School run by the Legion of Good Will of Asuncion. Kids from 2 to 5 years of age who come from poor families take the first steps in their schooling and soon learn about the importance of good nutrition and taking care of the environment; and everything happens in the most natural and fun way. Helped by the teachers, children get a hands-on experience by taking part in all stages of growing a vegetable garden, from planting to harvesting fresh produce.



Photos: Raquel Diaz

Enthusiastic about the benefits that the program has provided, teacher **Karen Paola Rojas** said: *"Children plant, wash, and prepare their food helped by me and the kitchen ladies. They're also encouraged to eat vegetables. We*

take the kids at least once a week to the garden to collect what we need for that day's lunch."

The involvement of the students and their parents and legal guardians makes all the difference. *"Many of them were not used to eating vegetables. It was a slow process, but through activities, classes, and trying new fruits and vegetables at school and at home, the children have now adopted healthy and good eating habits. And the support from the family was relevant for the good outcomes we had,"* said the teacher.

TESTIMONIAL OF TRANSFORMATION

"My son really started valuing good nutrition after he started planting vegetables in the school. When he gets home, he wants to do the same, and wherever he sees a space he asks us to sow something. He's really changed his eating habits. The education my son

receives is excellent. Thanks to the LGW, we can improve our lives and have extra resources that support our family budget." (**Ricardo Ramírez, father of Cristian Ramirez, 4, a student at the LGW's Nursery School in Paraguay.**)



THE INCREDIBLE STORY OF A BRAVE MOTHER

With the **LGW's** support Rute overcame domestic violence, and the love for her children stopped her from committing suicide

The Legion of Good Will of Brazil has centers in very poverty-stricken regions. The Organization is concerned with the resilience of those who live in these communities and therefore it helps them face up to their difficult routine. In one of the visits of the LGW's social workers to a place that is occupied irregularly in the Raiz neighborhood in Manaus, Brazil, our team got to know the life story of **Rute Tavares de Aquino**. The hardship they endure are evident already in our way there, which can be accessed only by way of a narrow and improvised alley made with wooden planks. We could see piles of garbage all around, consisting of food scraps, broken furniture, and carcasses of animals. The stilt houses built over creeks and with a fragile foundation, guarantee that the homes in this community are not invaded by the waste brought with river floods.





FREE FROM ADDICTIONS

This is the scenario of where Rute and her family live. Her two children—12-year-old **Daniel** and 7-year-old **Davi**—attend the LGW’s Social Service Center located in the Cachoeirinha neighborhood, in the capital city of Amazonas. Those who see the smile on their faces cannot imagine how tough their reality is.

They live in one of the so-called “red zones” of Manaus, which are characterized by the widespread use of drugs and the large-scale criminality. To Rute’s delight, her boys are protected from the risk of receiving such influence. They are assisted by the Organization’s social service program *Children: the Future in the Present!*

Rute and her husband are unemployed and struggle to make ends meet with informal jobs in order to generate enough income to cover their

MANAUS, BRAZIL



LGW Helps Those Who Live in Stilt Houses

The Organization provides a variety of social and educational programs for families living in regions subject to extreme weather conditions in the capital of Amazonas.

FROM 2000 TO 2017

+ 59,756

people displaced due to natural disasters in Brazil

MHDI 0.737



household expenses, but the couple was not always on good terms. *“One day we started to argue. He cursed me and swore at me. Then he grabbed a knife and came right up to me. My children reacted. I cried for help, I screamed really loud. Then he let go of the knife,”* she said.

BREAKING THE CIRCLE OF VIOLENCE

A change took place when Rute started attending family group meetings held by the Legion of Good Will. From then on, she learned how to protect herself from the violence she suffered. *“The LGW helped change the situation here at home. One day, when I was taking my children to the LGW, I saw they were paying a tribute to women, and they were talking about the Maria da Penha Law. I attended the meeting, and it was as if they had opened a new door for me. I learned everything I needed. That was the day I decided not to get hit anymore. I learned all about my rights and other things I didn’t know about,”* she recalled.

DISPLACEMENT CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE

According to a survey by the Igarapé Institute, more than 6.4 million people in Brazil were displaced between January 2000 and December 2017 due to floods, storms, landslides, and other kinds of disasters. The state of Amazonas was the most affected by extreme weather conditions in the period, with 840,252 people displaced. This number has increased in the last twenty years, and there has been a growth recently due to unprecedented flood and dry seasons. The survey also shows that Manaus is the sixth Brazilian city with the highest number of displaced residents due to natural disasters: 59,756—81 percent of these due to floods.

In addition to going through domestic violence, she carried another burden in her heart: she suffered sexual abuse in her childhood. The lack of family support and the stigma of such abuse made her resort to drugs at the age of 24. It lasted ten years. *“I’ve been through the world of drugs. It was as if I were handcuffed in a cage. When you’re addicted to those substances and you feel the need to have it, it’s as if you’re hungry. I was introduced to drugs because of bad influence. . . . When I realized, I was already an addict and took drugs while my children were sleeping.”*

BEATING SUICIDE

Deeply depressed, Rute was no longer able to think of quitting drugs but instead, voices in her head suggested ending everything in the most tragic way: suicide. *“One day I heard a voice that said ‘There’s a solution: kill yourself. That’s the only way you can put an end to all this suffering. Hang a rope from the ceiling, and that’s it. It’s fast!’ Then I stopped and another voice came: ‘No, don’t do it! What will happen to your children? If you do this, they’ll be alone.’ That’s when I decided to continue living and break free from that world for them,”* she told.

RESCUE

The Legion of Good Will has assisted her family in several ways. In addition to admitting the two boys in the *Learning and Interaction* program, the LGW’s multidisciplinary team gave Rute the support she needed. *“You know when a person wins a big prize overnight? That’s how I felt. The LGW helped me see a way out of the violence I was suffering from and gave me all the support I needed to quit drugs. My children receive education and food there . . . I have nothing to worry about. The LGW is like a mother that is always there for me. The Legion of Good Will is the most important thing for me.”* ■

(Collaboration: Érica de Oliveira and Raquel Diaz)

EDUCATING FOR LIFE

How the LGW's social and educational program *Seed of Good Will* has helped educate conscientious, solidary, and resilient citizens.



TARGET AUDIENCE

Children from the age of 5 and teenagers up to 18



OBJECTIVE

To foster child and youth leadership and educate them to be fraternal citizens committed to the sustainability of the planet.



WHEN AND WHERE

From Monday to Saturday, outside of school hours, in Lisbon (capital city of Portugal), Coimbra, and Porto.



ACTIVITIES

Music, drama, handicrafts, and *capoeira* workshops; professional training courses; talks on healthy lifestyle; psychological support; and volunteer work.



THE LGW'S TEACHING PROPOSAL

It promotes the complete education of human beings and their Eternal Spirit, combining "*brain and heart*"* in such a way that learning is not only an intellectual process, but it considers above all feelings and emotions. This raises a greater awareness among individuals of the consequences of their actions and helps them live by spiritual, ethical, and ecumenical values.



RESULTS

It has helped children and adolescents overcome common issues affecting them, like bullying, anxiety, depression, social pressures, family problems, the first job, and the difficulty of dealing with frustrations.

* "*Brain and heart*" — Read more about the subject and the educational line successfully applied in the Legion of Good Will's schools and in all its social service centers on page 22.



Divulgação

In a recent talk between representatives of the Legion of Good Will and the President of Portugal, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, he said: "*The LGW is doing a remarkable work. Congratulations!*"

"The LGW has turned me into a person with much more love in the heart. Today I'm someone who, no matter the difficulties I face and how sad I am, I manage to love myself and above all to love my fellow being as Jesus taught us. Since I came across this Organization, I've become stronger, determined, and capable of overcoming my daily challenges."

FILIPA OLIVEIRA

She is assisted by the LGW's *Seed of Good Will* program, in Porto/Portugal, at the age of 16.



Archive LGW



SAVING LIVES

The Winter Without a Cold campaign, of the **LGW** of Bolivia, helps prevent respiratory infections, death, and other health problems.

MARCOS ANTONIO FRANCHI



Leila Tonin

EL ALTO, BOLIVIA

Healthier Winters

The LGW of Bolivia makes a difference in the lives of countless people who live in a socially vulnerable situation. Winter clothes, for example, are given to the children of El Alto (where the temperature can drop to -10°C) as well as preventive actions are taken to reduce health problems common to this season.

2.3 MILLION

cases of acute
respiratory
infection

HDI 0.674

The snow-capped peak of Mount Illimani—a tourist attraction in La Paz, Bolivia—never lets us forget that cold weather is present in the daily lives of its population. The city, which is the highest capital in the world, lies at 3,700 meters above sea level. For this reason, its average annual temperature is 8°C, and in the winter (from June to August) it can drop to -5°C.

Many families living at social risk are not prepared for such low temperatures. In El Alto, district of La Paz, for example, and in the surrounding settlements, thermometers register temperatures as low as -10°C and the possibility of snow. The severe climate conditions in this region bring serious health problems and may result in crop failure, compromising the wellbeing of the population, which relies on agriculture for income and survival. Another challenge they face are the strong cold winds that cause frosts—a deposit of small white ice crystals formed on the ground or other surfaces when the temperature falls below freezing—which are very common there.

In the winter months, more people get sick. According to the Ministry of Health of Bolivia, in 2017 alone around 2.3 million cases of acute respiratory infection (ARI) were reported nationwide. Some of them, such as influenza, bronchitis, and pharyngitis, can develop into pneumonia if they are left untreated, which is the leading cause of child mortality in 0-1 year olds in the country. Most of these deaths occur at home because parents lack knowledge about the development of common cold symptoms.

SOLIDARITY IN FIGHTING HARSH WINTER

The *Winter Without a Cold* campaign of the Legion of Good Will of Bolivia aims at helping children from La Paz's rural area to prevent acute respiratory infections. In 2017, the LGW carried out this action at the Villa Imperial Educational Unit in the city of El Alto, District 7, and benefited more than 600 children aged between 1 and 12, since their immune system is more susceptible to cold and other viruses.

LGW'S ACTIONS KEEP PEOPLE WARM

In 2018, more than 600 children between 1 and 12 years old will receive from the LGW:

- a blanket
- a scarf
- a cap
- a pair of gloves
- a pair of socks



The schools will also receive winter clothes and first aid kits containing cold medicines, vitamin C, ointments, and other items.



→ The LGW works in partnership with schools in the outlying regions of the capital. First, it identifies the most socially vulnerable communities. Then a meeting is held with the principal of these schools to come up with a schedule of activities to be developed, among which are talks. The talks provide children, young people, parents, and teachers with information about the importance of a good winter diet for strengthening the body's defense mechanism.

The Organization, in partnership with health specialists, also gives parents guidance on how to care for their children when they have a cold and how to identify more serious conditions that may require referral to a doctor. In addition to the information given, it provides each child with winter clothes, while schools receive first aid kits, vitamin C, oral rehydration salts, and ointments to relieve flu symptoms.

To carry out its campaign, the Legion of Good Will of Bolivia counts on the support of volunteers, who donate their time and skills to help the community cope

Vivian R. Ferrelira



On June 9, the 2018 edition of the Laz Paz Fashion and Beauty Festival took place in the Red Room of Campo Ferial Chuquiago Marka, a convention center in the capital city of Bolivia. The money raised with the tickets was donated to the LGW's *Charity Round* program in the country. The Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mrs. Wilma Alanoca, attended the event and said to the representatives of the Organization: *"I want to congratulate you and say how grateful I am to this humane team that has been carrying out this social work in favor of our children for so many years. . . . This work has saved lives, because children need love, attention, and support in school and with nutrition. The Legion of Good Will has been successfully fulfilling this goal. . . . Congratulations and let us continue working for the present and the future of our little ones."*



Bolivian Information Agency

with this difficult situation. Dr. **Gonzalo Fernando Córdova Cuevas** points out that the LGW's support is indispensable for families to become strong and overcome such adverse weather conditions: *"At times like these, the LGW embraces the people of the community, and this makes them feel they're not alone. They know that there are people out there looking out for them."*

The 2018 edition of the *Winter Without a Cold* campaign is taking place in La Paz, in

the 24 de Junho settlement, Sectors A and B, and in the adjoining areas of Polquechaca and Pulpituni. In El Alto, those benefiting from the campaign are the Ana María Romero de Campero Educational Unit, which is located in the San Miguel neighborhood, and the Arco Iris Educational Unit, located in the Cooperativa neighborhood, both in District 7. It is estimated that the Organization will help more than 600 children in June and July.



Leila Tonin

"Jesus said: 'Love one another as I have loved you. [Only by this shall all of you be recognized as my disciples. . . . There is no greater Love than to lay down one's life for one's friends].' And I believe that the Legion of Good Will puts this law into practice in all its actions by warming everyone's hearts."*

GONZALO FERNANDO CÓRDOVA CUEVAS
Volunteer doctor at the LGW (on the left, giving a talk).

*Bible passage taken from the Gospel according to John 13:34 and 35 and 15:13.



Leila Tonin

SOCIAL RISK AND COLD WEATHER

In 2017, the Legion of Good Will of Brazil mobilized society for its traditional *Say Yes!* campaign. In its latest edition, the Organization distributed 11,000 food baskets and 15,000 blankets for those facing drought and low temperatures.

In Porto Alegre, Brazil, for example, the initiative benefited the Ilha Grande dos Marinheiros, one of the places most affected by the harsh winters in the state of Rio Grande do Sul. In this island, around three thousand families live at social risk, most of them in hovels, narrow streets with no sidewalks, and in houses supported by stilts. Fishermen, homemakers, and waste pickers find in the LGW, throughout the year, the support they need to overcome their challenges.

For **Cassia Andreia de Oliveira**, 37, who is helped by the LGW, “these blankets are important

especially to keep the kids warm. We have very young children, and our region here needs help, not just me, but all families.”



Nadiele Bortolin


ILHA DOS MARINHEIROS, PORTO ALEGRE, BRAZIL



LGW Assists Those Who Are Most in Need

Ilha Grande dos Marinheiros is located on the banks of the polluted Guaíba River, an area with the lowest Municipal Human Development Index (MHDI) in the metropolitan region of Porto Alegre. According to the *Centro de Relação Institucional Participativa (CRIP)* [Participative Institutional Relations Center] of the city, around three thousand families live on this island and they struggle with access to basic sanitation services, paved roads, and sidewalks. The income of most of the population comes from recycling.

MHDI 0.593 ○.....●



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NOW!**


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Legion of Good Will
Legião da Boa Vontade

IN DEBT WITH MOTHER NATURE

The **LGW** prepares new generations to solve
the challenges of tomorrow

WELLINGTON CARVALHO DE SOUZA



Students from the elementary school of the Good Will Educational Complex learn about the diversity of the Brazilian fauna and flora in the Botanical Garden of São Paulo.

Vivian R. Ferreira

Climateologists estimate that the future of our planet tends to be challenging. According to a recent report from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), there will be a rise in average global temperatures (1.8°C to 4°C) by 2100. As a result, we could be faced with freshwater shortages all around the world, sweeping changes in food production conditions, and increase in the number of deaths from floods, storms, heat waves, and droughts. These and other drastic changes will affect the way we live and cause most harm in the poorest countries, which are least equipped to deal with such changes.

These warnings show how extremely important and urgent it is to prepare new generations for the near future, since they are the ones who will have to deal with these situations in a more energetic and determined manner. So the sooner we talk about these issues, the better. In the Legion of Good Will, this occurs in its social service centers and its schools, starting at the nursery school level, where children are surrounded by care and inspired to exercise the Ecumenical Citizenship, which is committed to the sustainability of the planet and the well-being of its inhabitants.

Students of all age groups in the LGW's schools are encouraged to ask themselves, *"What impact do my attitudes have on the place I live and on the people around me?"* Or *"What legacy will I leave the world?"* This awareness is fostered through activities that bring them closer to Nature and instill in them respect for all forms of life.

Photos: Bettina Lopez



MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY



Sustainability of the Planet

Official data attest to the urgent need to prepare new generations for the conscientious use of natural resources and to awaken in them a more concrete sense of respect for Nature.

1 MILLION
TONS

of food is
wasted each
year in the
country.

HDI 0.795

THE CORRECT DISPOSAL OF WASTE

This can be seen in the Jesus Nursery School, which is operated by the LGW's José de Paiva Netto Educational and Cultural Institute, in Montevideo, capital city of Uruguay. Throughout the school year, students (from 2-5 years old) and their parents are encouraged to collect recyclable materials that they find on the streets. Bus tickets, cans, medicine packaging, plastic

bottles, and alkaline batteries are among the most collected items. They are stored in a deposit at the school, and when a large amount of waste has been collected, it is properly separated and sent to factories or institutions that will reuse it. Bus tickets are donated to the Cotelengo Don Orione home for the elderly, and the home gives them to the Uruguayan Public Transport Company (CUTCSA) in return for wheelchairs.



"Getting acquainted with the local reality is important. It allows the children [who attend the Jesus Nursery School and the Educational Institute (who are 6 and over)] to become aware of how their actions can impact directly or indirectly their lives. When they see that your words match your actions, they immediately ask questions, and if they understand they assimilate them and put them into practice."

ALEX FERREIRA

He is a volunteer teacher at the Jesus Nursery School, of the LGW of Uruguay.



Photos: Bettina Lopez

FOOD WASTE BECOMES ORGANIC FERTILIZER

The Jesus Nurse School also promotes another very interesting activity: composting. Since 2017, it has been using this natural biological process to transform food scraps and leftovers from the children's meals into organic fertilizer, which is then used in the school's own vegetable garden. *"Five kilos of food are composted every week. Throughout the eleven months since the beginning of the project, 220 kilos of organic waste have been recycled and approximately 70 kilos of compost have been produced,"* explains LGW's volunteer **Alex Ferreira**, a teacher who has a degree in Biology, with specialization in Ecological Forestry and Agroecology. Composting prevents the waste from being mishandled and polluting the soil, air, and water with methane gas and leachate that can contaminate groundwater. Thanks to the initiative, the school also saves money that would be used to buy industrial fertilizers.

For Alex, it is very rewarding to see the students engaging in the workshops about composting, especially because he knows the long-term benefits of this practice. *"Recycling this kind of organic waste in educational centers has great transformative potential,*

since children are more receptive and open to change and can do the same in their homes." The biologist added: *"Getting acquainted with the local reality is important. It allows the children to become aware of how their actions can impact directly or indirectly their lives. When they see that your words match your actions, they immediately ask questions, and if they understand they assimilate them and put them into practice."*

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS STILL NEEDS IMPROVEMENT



About 1,200 tons of solid waste are produced each day by households in Montevideo.



Nearly 30% of the waste produced in the Uruguayan capital can be recycled.



Uruguay wastes around one million tons of food a year. Of this total, 11% comes from households.

Source: Montevideo City Hall and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations.

Photos: Vivian R. Ferreira



LGW VALUES CONTACT WITH NATURE

Located in the largest city in Latin America, São Paulo, Brazil, the Good Will Educational Complex—comprising the Jesus Super Day Care Center and the José de Paiva Netto Educational Institute—draws attention to the exuberance of its vegetation, in stark contrast to the metropolitan area it is surrounded by.

Nearly 1,500 students go to this educational complex, which has privileged facilities, being 314 of them children between 4 months and 6 years old. Although they are very young, the students are encouraged to respect and take good care of natural resources, beginning with their regular visits to the Jesus Garden, a green area inside the school dedicated to growing flowers and fruit trees. Through this action, they get to know different plant species, among them a peach tree, a Surinam cherry tree, and an orange tree. When the students of the Jesus Super Day Care Center are in this environment, “the teachers assist them

by mediating the learning process and helping them develop aspects that are important for their complete education—based on the Pedagogy of Affection, created by educator Paiva Netto for children up to 10 years old—such as the balance of their bodies, as they walk along the garden’s paved pathway; and cognitive aspects, like teaching them the names and classification of flowers, trees, and fruit. Spirituality is also addressed from an early age through the respect and conservation of the environment. All this helps expand the vocabulary of the little ones. The pergola in the orchard, for example, is used for storytelling, as it is a very pleasant and suitable place for this activity,” says **Gisela Portilho**, the school’s assistant principal.

The little girls and boys also participate in several initiatives of the *Viver Pindorama* [Living “Pindorama”], an attitudinal project throughout the school year. It has been adopted



Photos: Vivian R. Ferreira

by the school and it teaches students how to value indigenous populations and their contributions in shaping Brazilian identity. All this is done through games, fun activities, songs, dance, storytelling, and cultural presentations. Its 2018 edition began in February and was concluded on May 12, when a lot of group exercises were arranged in different school environments and were carried out by the students with their families. The “*Oca Sensorial*” workshop, for example, delighted the babies and toddlers and allowed them to feel the texture of common elements of the forest, like the soil, different types of leaves, the bamboo stems, and clay.

On the same day, the students met **Kleykeyniho**, a Good Will friend from the Fulni-ô tribe, located in the state of Pernambuco, in northeast Brazil. Wearing a tribal headdress and body paint, the guest presented typical Indian dishes and the tools used on a daily basis in the village. He also entertained the children by dancing and chanting songs that convey the identity of his people.



MORE GREEN AREAS



There are about 650,000 trees in the city of São Paulo, Brazil, which is equivalent to one tree for every 18 inhabitants. The World Health Organization (WHO) recommends a ratio of at least one tree per person in urban areas.

The importance of conserving natural vegetation — This attitude increases soil permeability and controls the air temperature and humidity, by intercepting rainwater and reducing erosion. Through photosynthesis, it removes carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, thus helping to hinder global warming.

Some native plants—especially fruit plants and trees—provide food and shelter for birds ensuring their survival.

Source: World Health Organization and São Paulo City Department of Green Areas & the Environment.



DIVERSITY IN FOCUS

On June 4, 2018, the Legion of Good Will of the United States concluded another edition of the *Good Will Students for Peace* program, which began in September 2017, in Oliver Street School, located in Newark, state of New Jersey. This year's goal was to value the different cultures of the planet through a series of service-learning activities for 367 children between 5 and 10 years of age. One of its actions was the Journey Around the World exhibition, which took place during the week of May 21 (World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development).

Each class was made into an “embassy,” with decorations and objects related to the country being studied. The classes took turns in moving from room to room, so that everyone could get to know a little about the culture of each country, among them Argentina, Brazil, Ecuador, France, Italy, and Russia. The students shared what they had learned with each other, while the teachers acted as mediators in the process.

In the program's closing ceremony, students performed the Legionnaire song “Shout out to Peace” and received the LGW's pin not only as a reward for participating in the activities, but also symbolizing their commitment to always be a Good Will Student for Peace.

It is worth pointing out that the program is based on the LGW's unique teaching line created by educator Paiva Netto, which is comprised of the Pedagogy of Affection (for children up to 10 years old) and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy (from 11 years old onwards). The Legion of Good Will adds to the American school curriculum the indispensable spiritual, ethical, and ecumenical values that foster Global Citizenship in each student.

THE UNITED STATES

The Urgency of Pacifying Hearts

Of the 66 school shootings around the world, between 1966 and 2011, 87 percent of the shooters were victims of bullying and were motivated by a desire for revenge. Of all the shootings, 70 percent happened in the United States, where 160 thousand students miss school every day due to fear of attack or intimidation by other students.

Source: O Estado de S.Paulo newspaper.



WHY I BECAME A BIOLOGIST

From the lessons I learned as a child at the **LGW** to pursuing my career

LUANA CAROLINE BECK

Sustainability, global warming, or environmental conservation are no longer taboo subjects. On the contrary, these topics are frequently discussed by several segments of society because of their relevance and because of climate-change-triggered events in the world. But that was not always the case.

Not as many people spoke up about such issues when I was a child. That is why I know now, as a global citizen, how

important were the values my parents taught me as well as the Education with Ecumenical Spirituality I received at the Legion of Good Will, especially through the articles and talks by its President, educator **José de Paiva Netto**.

Many years ago, my attention was drawn to this quote of his: *"The destruction of Nature is the extinction of the human race."* That was when I began to think about the importance and need for us to protect



LUANA CAROLINE BECK, 27, is a graduate in Biology of the Hermínio Ometto University Center (UNIARARAS), which is maintained by the Hermínio Ometto Foundation (FHO).

animals and forests. By assimilating these ideas and engaging in the LGW's activities focused on this matter, I began to put into practice everything I had learned. There are several ways in which each of us can help conserve the environment. They may be simple, but still very effective.

As a member of the LGW's Ecumenical Youth of the Good Will of God, I could not just limit myself to talking about and admiring the lessons I had learned. So I found in reforestation the opportunity to do more and feel useful while showing my gratitude for this world and the ecosystem we live in.

My first experience in this regard was in 2013, with students from the Hermínio Ometto University Center (UNIARARAS), when we were assigned to restore the area around the Andrezinho Creek, in the city of Araras, state of São Paulo. The site had been destroyed by arson. We planted around 180 seedlings of different species, among them the aroeira, golden trumpet tree, pink trumpet tree, courbaril, and araca. Everything was carefully done in order to restore the forest and protect the small animals of the region.

The success of the initiative motivated me to bring the project to the LGW's youth in Leme, a small town in which I live in São Paulo. In 2014 we did something similar to what we had done in Araras during the

week in which the World Environment Day is celebrated (June 5). We planted many golden trumpet tree seedlings in the Mourão Municipal Park.

Because I wanted to keep learning, I took a bachelor's degree in Biology. And then I saw the dream I'd had as a child come true through my education and career.

Being a biologist in the 21st century is not easy, as there are many economic interests that end up relegating environmental issues to a secondary role. We must always defend our cause with peace, wisdom, and politeness, and warn people of the consequences of not protecting our environment. We must foster ecological awareness so we no longer see so many wildfires and so much pollution, deforestation, water shortage, and the loss of natural habitats.

Finally, I stress the need for us to act now so that there is a more promising future for new generations and to encourage the engagement and the development of a global citizen mindset since the early years of the individual's life, as the LGW has been doing very well. I take this opportunity to thank educator Paiva Netto, who taught me so much and influenced my academic choice. I especially recall some of his words in 2008 during the closing ceremony of the LGW's 33rd International Forum of the Ecumenical Youth of the Good Will of God, when he reaffirmed, as he has done for decades, the need to seek balance between environmental protection and social and economic progress. He highlighted the social and educational programs of the LGW throughout Brazil and abroad for achieving this goal, inspired by the motto "*Educate. Conserve. Survive. Humanly we are also Nature.*" At that moment I knew exactly what career I wanted to pursue, because everything is in our hands, and loving the Earth is our duty. ■



As a member of the LGW's Ecumenical Youth of the Good Will of God, I could not just limit myself to talking about and admiring the lessons I had learned. So I found in reforestation the opportunity to do more and feel useful while showing my gratitude for this world and the ecosystem we live in.

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