

In his article "Charity Sustains Human Life," Paiva Netto highlights: "Charity, as synonym of Love, constitutes a special Science and should be at the forefront of a world where human beings are treated as they deserve: in a humane and, therefore, civilized way." (Read the full article on page 4)







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 ECOSOC since 1999.



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GOOD WILL

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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.





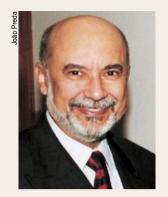




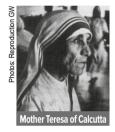
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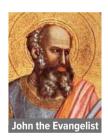






JOSÉ DE PAIVA NETTO is a Brazilian writer, journalist, radio broadcaster, composer, and poet. He is the President of the Legion of Good Will (LGW), effective member of the Brazilian Press Association (ABI) and of the Brazilian International Press Association (ABI-Inter). Affiliated to the National Federation 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, in his words, 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."





harity—understood as Universal Fraternity, therefore an instrument for the true progress of the peoples—is a topic always addressed in my articles, because I consider it to be essential for our survival. Thus, I find it appropriate to continue with my analysis of this precept, in view of the High-level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), which will be dealing with the theme, "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality," from July 16-19, 2019.

Since January 1994, the Legion of Good Will (LGW) has been taking part in these important meetings held by the UN. In its publications, the LGW presents Charity as a consistent alternative to inspire public policies that work to eliminate global ills. It is comforting to see that the United Nations has given great importance to this topic and its ramifications, which increases the hope of better times for all. In 2013, for example, this respected organization proclaimed September 5 as the International Day of Charity, in a just tribute to the anniversary of the passing away of Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997). She was an icon of protection for the poorest and most vulnerable and won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1979.

Currently, almost half of the world's population—3.4 billion people—struggles to meet their basic needs, according to a study published by the World Bank in 2018. Discussing mechanisms for inclusiveness and equality from the perspective of Ecumenical Fraternity is fundamental in these times of multiple demands.

On behalf of the LGW, I extend my cordial greetings to all international delegations, authorities, and representatives of civil society who are discussing such crucial subject in New York, the United States. My sincerest wishes for a fruitful event.

I take this opportunity to give you a preview of a small extract from O Capital de Deus [The Capital of God], a book I am very carefully preparing and in which I transcribed some of the speeches I have delivered since the 1960s:

Let us meditate on this passage from **John** the Apostle in his First Epistle 4:20: "Whoever claims to love God yet hates his brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen."

Charity, which was created by God, is the feeling that keeps human beings alive at times of agony in their existence. If you tell me you do not need Love, you are either mistaken or sick. . . In short, it is simply this: Love, synonym of Charity, is lacking in our shortsighted society clouded by an insidious

culture maintained by those who provoked all the woes that have bloodied the History of all peoples and that place us in constant danger. For how long?

Charity sustains human life. When the Brazilian journalist Francisco de Assis Periotto heard these words of mine, he added: "with bread and with decency."

CHARITY AND THE CAPITAL OF GOD

Charity, in its most profound expression, should be one of the major statutes in Politics. since it is not limited to the simple, honorable act of giving bread. That is a feeling thatwhile illuminating the Soul of the members of the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of government-will lead the people to a regime in which Solidarity is the foundation of Economy in its most widereaching sense. That requires a restructuring of Culture through Ecumenical Spirituality and the Pedagogy of Affection*, both among people and as an academic discipline. May the intellectual field, however, have none of the prejudice that, at times, reduces the perspective of great analytical thinkers because some of them succumbed to a certain ideological and scientific dogma. This is inconceivable coming from minds that are highly investigative, especially because Science is prodigious in achievements for the common good. But also in its heart and in other areas of knowledge, there were those who suffered a lot from misunderstanding due to the emasculating conventionalism of some of their peers who rushed to prejudge them.



Socrates, Bias, Baruch Spinoza, Dante Alighieri, Galileo Galilei, Semmelweis, William Harvey, Samuel Hahnemann, Maria Montessori, Luísa Mahin, Dr. Barry J. Marshall, and Dr. J. Robin Warren were their victims, as were other famous names who are universally respected.

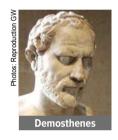
In short, Charity, as synonym of Love, constitutes a special Science and should be at the forefront of a world where human beings are treated as they deserve: in a humane and, therefore, civilized way. We would thus be building up an Empire of Good Will on this planet, which is an excellent state for the Capital of God—in other words, human beings with their Eternal Spirit or, we could say, the Eternal Spirit of human beings, which, in essence, is what we really are—who moves along every corner and can no longer accept criminal speculation about himself/herself....



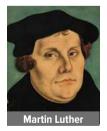
^{*} Pedagogy of Affection — In his book É Urgente Reeducar! [It Is Urgent to Re-educate!] (2010), Paiva Netto explains his pioneering teaching proposal, which presents a new learning model, based on Ecumenical Spirituality, combining heart and intellect. This educational approach has two segments: the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy. It is successfully applied in the teaching network and in the social and educational programs and services developed by the Legion of Good Will, as well as in the shelters for the elderly and in the social service centers of the Organization. "It is based on values that come from Fraternal Love, which has been brought to Earth by various luminaries, notably Jesus, the Ecumenical Christ, the Divine Educator," as highlighted by Paiva Netto. In the Pedagogy of Affection, the focus is on children up to 10 years old. It believes that the affection that is present in the good relationships among the family members can also contribute to the socialization of the children in the school environment. The president of the LGW always says, "World stability begins in the hearts of children." The next step in the teaching-learning process is the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy, aimed at teenagers, young people, and adults, encouraging them to live the Ecumenical Citizenship, based on the full exercise of Planetary Solidarity. The Pedagogies' banner is the New Commandment of Jesus: "Love one another, as I have loved you. Only by this shall all of you be recognized as my disciples, if you have the same Love for one another. There is no greater Love than to lay down one's life for one's friends" (The Gospel according to John 13:34 and 35 and 15:13).

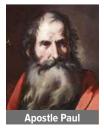












The following quote by Brazilian educator and writer Cinira Riedel de Figueiredo (1893-1987) contributes to what we discussed previously: "The improvement of everything that is born, grows, lives, and is transformed on Earth depends on every man and woman, because nothing dies in fact. There is a continuous transmutation, and we must be the guides so that this transformation turns into a constant ascension, becoming ever more beautiful and more perfect in order to better represent the life that rekindles it."

WE ARE NOT SITUATED IN THE KINGDOM OF CLOUDS

Distorted thinking about the broad meaning of Charity has produced great losses in society. Once and for all, we have to understand that, in its broadest sense, the Sublime Commandment of personal and collective survival is Charity. It extends to include all strata of spiritual and human creative action, where an invitation from the Soul awaits before manifesting itself in it.

Philipp Melanchthon (1497-1560), the respected German theologian and educator who headed up the Lutheran church after the death of Martin Luther (1483-1546), placed himself on the side of those who prefer to serve, when quoting the following aphorism: "In essentials, unity; in doubtful matters, liberty; in all things, charity."

In his First Letter to the Corinthians 13:13. the Apostle Paul taught that of the three theological virtues (Faith, Hope, and Charity), the greatest one is Charity, which, as we never tire of repeating, is synonymous with Love. You do not believe it?! Just look it up in a good dictionary.

There are also those who believe that Charity is the action of the weak, the escape for those who do not want a definitive solution to social problems. . . But the proposals they have been putting forward for so long have not solved the world's woes. Everything must begin with human beings and with their Eternal Spirit, the target of Charity, which is not the refuge for dreamers or an escapist proposal of the complacent. On the contrary, having Charity as a life decision, as an activity that promotes profound transformations in society starting with the sentiment of each individual, requires determination, character, and courage. This is what the famous orator of antiquity **Demosthenes** (384-322 B.C.) shows when he states: "You cannot have a proud and chivalrous spirit if your conduct is mean and paltry; for whatever a man's actions are, such must be his spirit."

CHARITY — DIVINE PLAN OF LIFE PRESERVATION

There will be no Solidary Society and, possibly with time, no planet as we know it, unless we understand Charity as a Divine Plan to survive human greed.

Speaking Alcott of God, Mary **Brandon**'s maxim is quite appropriate for this text: "There is a superior force directing the Universe. What we call it is secondary."

Poor are those who ignore the perfect Law of Fraternity and Justice, for they forget the Creator and His creatures. In the Book of Job 34:11 and 12, we find these words of Elihu: "God repays everyone for what they have done; He brings on them what their conduct deserves. It is unthinkable that God would do wrong, that the Almighty would pervert justice."

Through the psychography of Chico Xavier (1910-2002), the famous Spiritist medium from Uberaba (Brazil) Cornélio Pires (1884-1958), a journalist, poet, and one of the greatest promoters of Brazilian folklore, published in the book Conversa firme these evocative verses:

"Societies and groups Are destined for Goodness. God does not create any evil Or captivity for anyone."

Fraternity is the Law; Ethics, its discipline; Justice, its enforcement. No one is unhappier than those bereft of Faith and Charity. Who is truly rich? Those who love. Just like wise and fortunate are those who behave in the same way, promoting the well-being of society. This is the case of the philosopher, physician, and musicologist, the interpreter of **Bach** (1685-1750), **Albert** Schweitzer (1875-1965), who for more than 50 years cared for the sick in Lambaréné, in the former French Equatorial Africa. He said: "Example is not the main thing in influencing others. It is the only thing."

This well-known missionary, who was also the 1952 Nobel Peace Prize winner, was considered by Albert Einstein (1879-1955) to be "the greatest living man" of his time. Gandhi (1869-1948) had already been assassinated.

Because we have confidence in the ideal of Good Will, we shall persist until we turn the Economics of Spiritual and Human Solidarity into a reality, based on **Jesus**' New Commandment (The Gospel according to John 13:34 and 15:13)—"Love one another, as I have loved you. . . . There is no greater Love than to lay down one's life for one's friends"—which is an integral part of the Survival Strategy, as I published in Folha de S.Paulo in 1986.

EXALTED SOCIAL SPIRIT

Technological advances have overthrown many frontiers and made some collapse onto others, among them economic and social frontiers. Nevertheless, globalization is not going to prevent diversity. The more globalized we become, the more expressive regionalism becomes. Everybody influences everybody else in various ways. However, barriers in different parts of the world still make the distance between rich and poor grow ever bigger. This can result in profound consequences at a global scale, like the end of the Roman Empire. But this time such transformations may cause unusual consequences even in those hearts of stone that were previously against the pragmatic spirit of Charity and that will be led to think that some vital things do exist, even for such as them, like... compassion.... Charity is not the trivial sentimentalism to which some people would like to reduce it. The great Joaquim Nabuco (1849-1910), first ambassador of Brazil to the United States, was right when he wrote: "Religion opposes the struggle for life, which is the Law of Nature, with Charity, which is the struggle for the lives of others."

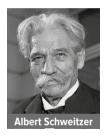
What could be more important for strengthening communities than this exalted social spirit?

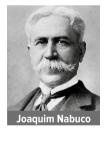
It is equally possible in our daily attitudes to hope to find the complete path of true independence of any nation in the exalted meaning of Charity.

Charity is a serious matter.

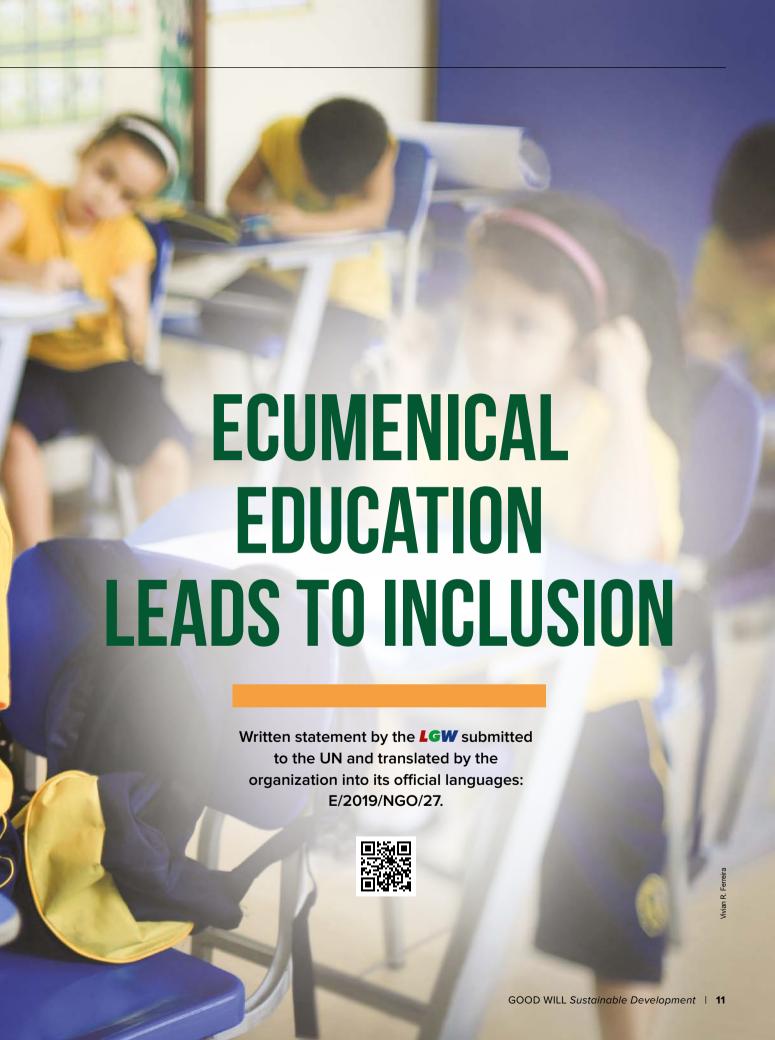












In this special issue, the GOOD WILL magazine publishes the statement submitted by the Legion of Good Will, in which the Organization shares its good practices on "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality." This is the central issue of the High-level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 2019, which will be held from July 16-19 in the UN Headquarters in New York (United States). In the text, the LGW defends Education with Ecumenical Spirituality as being a determining factor for the full exercise of global citizenship. The following document has been translated by the UN into its official languages.

n this statement, we from the Legion of Good Will (LGW)/ Legião da Boa Vontade (LBV) present our contributions for the topic "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality," which are based on the LGW's almost 70-year experience in Brazil and on the long-lasting actions of the LGW of Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay, Uruguay, Portugal, and the United States. We also submit our good practices in preparing non-academic young people or those with learning disabilities to cope with the drastic changes that have occurred in the world of work in recent decades.

In 2018, we provided 15.5 million services and benefits in the areas of education and social assistance, positively impacting 474,749 people living in situations of social vulnerability. These actions were carried out in our almost 100 units, which also offer social communication programs and services. Our extensive work is exclusively supported by donations from individuals, many of whom come from the same communities that we help.

PROMOTING EQUALITY

Poor academic performance is a very serious problem, especially now when traditional manual jobs and manufacturing jobs are disappearing. People who struggle to develop their own skills and competencies are less likely to fit and succeed within the growing sectors of the economy, such as health, education, and technology-intensive sectors. The scenario is even worse when they come from low-income families, and therefore have fewer economic resources available for overcoming the challenges they face.

Among other purposes, our work aims to help achieve several targets of the fourth Sustainable Development Goal, especially target 4.5: "By 2030, eliminate gender disparities in education and ensure equal access to all levels of education and vocational training for the vulnerable, including persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and children in vulnerable situations." We highlight in this document three practical measures we take that address this topic: a multidisciplinary





LGW'S MISSION STATEMENT

To promote Social, Solidary, 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.





IN THE FRONT LINE

The LGW acknowledges three distinguished names of the United Nations: UN Secretary-General, António Guterres (1); ECOSOC President, Inga Rhonda King (2); and Tijjani Muhammad-Bande, newly-elected President of the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly.









educational team and the LGW - Enhancing Skills and LGW -Literacy and Critical Reasoning programs.

multidisciplinary educational team changes according to the needs of each center of the Organization. It usually consists of social workers, teachers, and healthcare professionals, such as psychologists, nutritionists, and nurses. Some of these teachers specialize in special education and either work directly with the students or provide support for the classroom teachers.

Because of its experience with this issue, the Legion of Good Will was invited to present, on March 4, 2019, at the Teacher Education Centre in Cork (Ireland), its teaching practices in Primary Education. Professors and teachers, school principals, and special education teachers from that country learned about the results achieved by the Organization through the teaching method it applies in its schools in Latin America. The invitation was made by Professor Trevor O'Brien, a member of the Educational Psychology, Inclusive & Special Education Department of the Mary Immaculate College (MIC), in Limerick, after visiting the Good Will Educational Complex, in São Paulo (Brazil), on November 7, 2018.

LGW — LITERACY AND CRITICAL REASONING PROGRAM

It is aimed at children aged between 6 and 8 years oldlearning to read and write, but with serious learning difficulties. The program's goal is to develop the child's cognitive skills (reading, writing, and logical-mathematical reasoning), in addition to improving their self-esteem and building up their confidence. After all, this is a decisive period for the individual's academic life.

This work, which is carried out with the support of the families of those assisted, provides the teachers with helpful information. Based on a detailed analysis of the main teaching, psychomotor, and socialization characteristics of each child, an overall personalized development profile is written for use in directing eventual interventions, and classroom modifications that focus on that child's specific needs. The teachers then observe the students during the lessons and come up with evidence of what can be improved and strengthened. They also work on the skills they observed by way of games and technological resources that stimulate learning, improve selfesteem, and promote discussions on the importance of living and spreading good universal values.

LGW — ENHANCING SKILLS PROGRAM

Aimed at children and adolescents with diagnosis of a learning disability who need special educational modifications so they can















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."





achieve ultimate success in our inclusive setting, the program offers them individual and collective assistance. Its objective is to ensure there is respect for differences through actions that effectively contribute to the learning process of each student. It is carried out by teachers who are exclusively dedicated for each grade level-one teacher for up to 40 students-and by tutors who individually assist students who are under the spectrum of autism or suffer from cognitive disability.

In early childhood education, an early intervention project is in place for children who are not meeting the average milestone for their age group or who are in the process of receiving a diagnosis. From elementary to high school, a specialized educational support system is provided for the students and teachers implementing the necessary adjustments for working with each diagnosis.

The program also provides ongoing training and individual guidance for teachers. It offers them support in lesson planning, suggests syllabus adaptations, interacts with partner professionals who monitor the students, assesses lessons, and advises teachers on how to adopt effective strategies for serving the needs of the students.

The initiative arranges group meetings with parents and legal guardians according to each diagnosis, and offers individual assistance and training for them to help their children develop their executive functions. The Individualized Education Plan is carried out, and the school professionals screen the children, undertake assessments and case studies, offer specialized educational help during after-school hours, observe how students react to different situations within different environments, apply disciplinary interventions when necessary, and accompany them to medical appointments and to therapy.

LGW'S PEDAGOGY OF AFFECTION AND ECUMENICAL CITIZEN PEDAGOGY

We believe that schools must be a welcoming environment for everyone. The world is changing rapidly, and it is necessary that the schools meet the needs of the new generations. About this scenario, educator José de Paiva Netto, President of the Legion of Good Will, affirms: "The whole world is talking about sustainability, but based on what? In general, it is on economic thinking that survives through greed, which not only liquidates human creatures by dint of unemployment and hunger in various regions of the planet, but equally by a lack of instruction, which denies young people better perspectives. However, everywhere we look there are efforts being made by people who have decided to correct such situations that hinder the growth of











GOOD WILL HE WOR

The data account for the work of the LGW of seven countries:















services and benefits in 2018

people benefited from the work of the LGW

SERVICES AND BENEFITS PROVIDED IN BRAZIL AND ABROAD



Senior citizens



1,010,23 Young people and adults



Children and teenagers

TYPES OF WORK

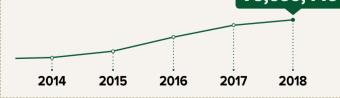


6,116,664 **Basic education**



561,277 Relief campaigns

SERVICES AND BENEFITS FROM 2014 TO 2018 73,656,445





centers in centers in six Brazil other countries

In Brazil, for more than twenty years, the Legion of Good Will has its general balance audited by Walter Heuer, 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.

many countries. And it is not enough to instruct; we need to educate and re-educate! In various places where the economy has become stronger, after a certain time, because of a lack of investment in ethical and spiritual principles, the violence that had reduced, reappears, coming so many times from arrogance against those on their borders or beyond them who have less than they do."

In search of an all-encompassing education, the Legion of Good Will—based on the teaching guidelines of the Organization's president—educates with Ecumenical Spirituality by way of its Pedagogy of Affection (for children up to 10 years old) and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy (from the age of 11 onwards). This proposal allows for intellectual instruction to be enlightened by the individual's good feelings, according to the motto created by Paiva Netto for the Organization's educational network: "Here one studies — Brain and Heart are formed."

In order for this Ecumenical Spirituality to be introduced into the syllabus, the LGW's teaching network, in conformity with the concepts of the pedagogy created by educator Paiva Netto, developed the MAPREI (Learning Method through Rational-Emotional-Intuitive Research). The aim of this method is to combine—through a holistic perspective—the school curriculum with religious, philosophical, scientific, sporting, and artistic knowledge. This approach avoids any reductionist interpretations of subjects, institutions, traditions, cultures, and areas of human knowledge.

Continuous debates on social, ethical, political, and philosophical questions are proposed in the lesson plan. The main focus of this proposal is on encouraging students to hold no prejudice whatsoever, and have a broader view on any subject, thus fostering an ecumenical attitude that aggregates different thoughts.

This is an educational practice that presents multiple opportunities for cooperation between teachers and students while encouraging the latter to develop "a view beyond the intellect." The Organization's teaching method is intended to broaden the students' understanding of the topics researched and/or discussed, and to strengthen respect for and the appreciation of the millennial knowledge of our ancestors, which is incorporated into the countless cultures of society.

In the Legion of Good Will, we believe that values of Ecumenical Spirituality along with intellectuality help raise awareness about human actions and its consequences. An example of this is when we discuss sustainability with students, when we analyze what is being built in the present and the consequences of our current behavior for the future. After all, the absence of initiatives in Goodness today may not only











SOCIAL SERVICE CENTERS











increase the responsibility of generations to come, but will also result in serious impacts on the planet and its people. Through these reflections, students are motivated to ask themselves questions such as "What are my attitudes eternalizing in others and in me within the environment where I live?" or "What marks and/or legacy will I leave in the world?"

SOLIDARY ATTITUDE

With an interdisciplinary perspective, knowledge relating to human, biological, and exact sciences is added to the life experience and background of students. This means they are encouraged to pass on to others the content they have assimilated as a way of educating citizens in their community. So it is not just a matter of working every now and then on themes such as environmental conservation, social protection, and the development of their surroundings.

When planning lessons, the intellectual, philosophical, and social aspects of the content to be addressed are also taken into account, thus strengthening the complete education of students, according to the premise that all people have value, regardless of their social or financial situation. All individuals and groups are worthy, including those who were considered, for centuries, to be incapable of learning, among them children, women, people with disabilities, foreigners, the poor, and the sick. In order to develop the human being's potential, it is necessary to understand, respect, and value the cultural background and beliefs, or lack of beliefs, of each person. Teaching according to Paiva Netto's educational view implies not only fostering critical thinking, but also stimulating a solidary attitude, so there is engagement in transformative actions for improving our planetary reality.

The positive results of the steps taken in the classroom can be seen in the career choices made by former students and in the care reproduced in their homes and/or in their community. As the proponent of this teaching proposal states, "Education, a theme always on the agenda. It is urgent that it be disseminated and looked at by all of us as a safe path that shortens the distance among social classes. Education is also an efficient antidote against violence, criminality, diseases, and everything that negates the healthy development of the people."

With this message, we greet those participating in the High-level Segment of the United Nations Economic and Social Council. We would be more than happy to share our experiences in more detail with anyone who might be interested. We hope these fruitful debates will be transformed into concrete actions on behalf of the most vulnerable populations.





SOCIAL COMMUNICATIONS













In addition to operating schools, social service centers, and shelters for the elderly, the LGW has a broad social communications network dedicated to fostering education, culture, and values of citizenship. In 2018, the daily programs of the Super Good Will Communications Network (radio, TV, websites, and publications) had the participation of 3,675 specialists from several areas of human knowledge from all across Brazil.







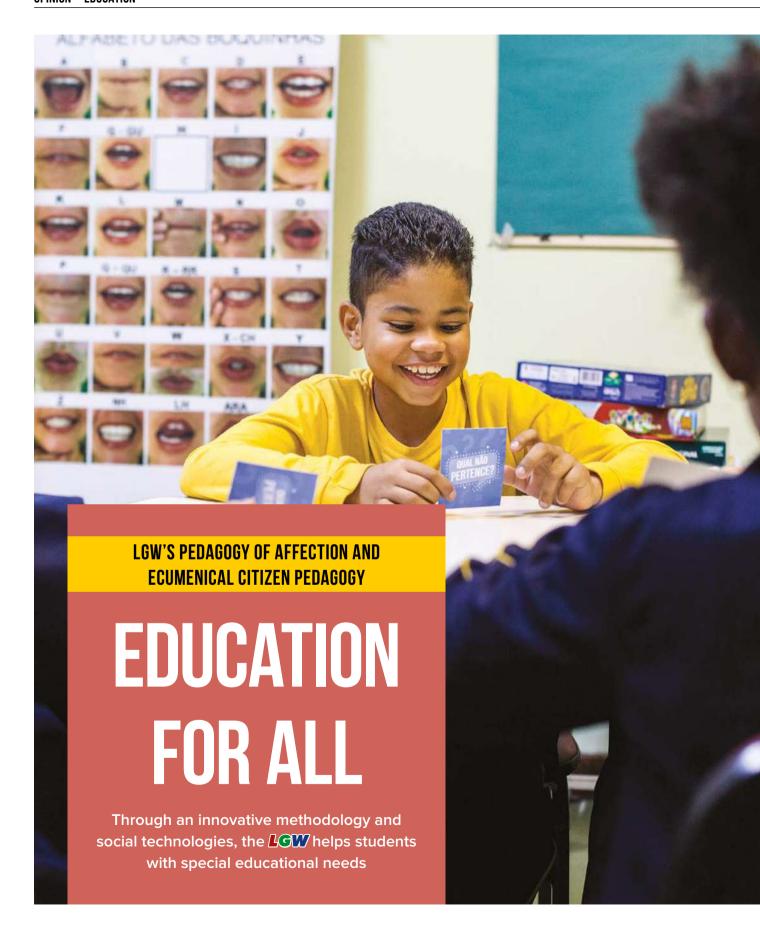


RELIEF CAMPAIGNS











he distinguishing mark of all the social and educational actions carried out by the Legion of Good Will (LGW) is based on the concepts of its Pedagogy of Affection (for children up to 10 years old) and its Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy (from the age of 11 onwards). Together they make up the educational line created by the Organization's President, José de Paiva **Netto**. These two pedagogies consider human beings in their entirety, hence, Eternal Spirits with spiritual and cultural background.

In the LGW's proposal of providing Education with Ecumenical Spirituality, the individual is motivated to realize that they are fully capable of achieving what they aim for, while always having their personal growth and the good of the community as basic principles. To this end, our educators continually encourage students to develop the unique potential they have within themselves, but which very often goes unnoticed.

the work carried out in Organization's schools and social service centers, we are faced with different and, in many cases, challenging situations when it comes to offering support to children and young people at social risk. Many of the difficulties they face go beyond social and economic issues. Therefore, we also need to provide them and their families with psychological assistance so the parents feel reassured that their children are being emotionally supported all the time.

addition In the continuous intervention of our professionals, parents are advised to refer their children to a specialist so they are properly assisted both inside and outside our facilities.

Our multidisciplinary team is always called when the teacher notices that a student is having difficulty interacting with others in the classroom or is experiencing learning difficulties, as this can have a negative impact on their school performance or with how



SUELÍ PERIOTTO is the supervisor of the Pedagogy of Affection and the Ecumenical Citizen Pedagogy and the principal of the José de Paiva Netto Educational Institute, in São Paulo (Brazil). She has a doctorate and a master's degree in Education from PUC-SP. She is also a conference speaker.



they socialize with their classmates. These professionals then provide the necessary support in order to help them face this difficult moment in their life.

As a result of this demand, the Organization introduced the LGW - Enhancing Skills (PPH) program in 2008. The purpose of this initiative is to monitor the educational, emotional, and social development of students who have special educational needs. It does so by employing strategies and making adaptations that can help these students learn the content on the syllabus (more about the program step by step on page 26).

HOW THE PPH IS APPLIED

The program's coordinator at the Legion of Good Will's Educational Center in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Andreia de Jesus, who is a specialist in Educational Neuroscience, shares the progress made by the students who attend the PPH. Such is the case of J.C.S (whose name has been omitted to preserve her identity), who is 14 years old and was diagnosed with obstructive hydrocephalus. Since she started in the program-which

encourages the collaborative help of her classmates through solidary monitoring, a process that has improved her school performance-the teenager has presented cognitive progress: "This extra support the LGW is giving me in school is what I've been needing," said the student.

The coordinator explains that the use of assistive technologies (in other words, any type of tool, material, methodology, or resource that helps stimulate the child's autonomy) reinforces the students' development at all stages during their time in school: "We use resources that are easily accessible. For example, in a classroom for 3-year-old children, a student with Down Syndrome is in the process of potty-training and needs greater sensory stimuli, in this case a visual one, because he learns a lot by using visual models. So we put up a board in the class bathroom containing specific images to encourage him. He's getting on very well with this strategy, and we believe he'll be able to finish the school year being easily potty-trained."

Over these 11 years of the PPH program,

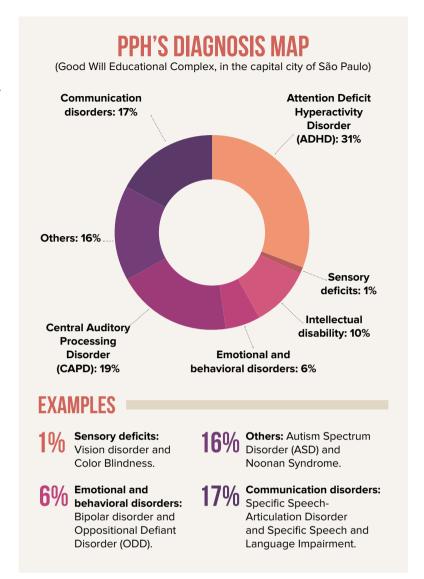
barriers have been overcome by students and their families: many have managed to complete their basic education; some have celebrated receiving their first report card with above-average grades. L.M., 17, a student of the Good Will Educational Complex (the José de Paiva Netto Educational Institute and the Jesus Super Day Care Center), in São Paulo (Brazil), is one of them.

Recently, after having obtained some good results in the LGW's Institute, she expressed her gratitude by hugging each one of those who saw potential in her over all these years she has been studying in the Organization and winning her daily battles. She says she is very happy and moved, because today she can organize herself to finish her school assignments on time. The strategy she adopted is writing down in chronological order in her notebook the homework deadlines and the days on which she needs to study for the tests. This results in her becoming more independent and allows her to visualize what she needs to do.

GOOD PRACTICES IN IRELAND AND IN AN INNOVATION FESTIVAL IN BRAZIL

The work done by the LGW has been highlighted by several segments, including some companies, such as those participating in the Whow! Innovation Festival, an initiative of the Padrão Group, who visited the Organization's school as they were interested in learning about the recreational activities and games that have been adapted for students with special educational needs. During one of the workshops of the event, the Creative Visit, the participants attended a presentation by Leilany Rocha, who has a master's degree and is pursuing a doctorate in Developmental Disorders, on the stages of the *LGW* – *Enhancing Skills* program.

Visitors were able to personally try these games that help stimulate students' executive functions. "In those functions that involve the prefrontal cortex, we have mainly the executive function abilities, which are responsible, among other things, for carrying



out tasks and regulating our emotions. So this area of the brain is stimulated a lot when the participants are playing the games, doing activities that require these particular skills. . . . Mediation is fundamental, because it helps with the knowledge-building process," said educational psychologist Ms. Rocha.

The LGW's PPH program also attracted the attention of the Irish professor **Trevor** O'Brien, a member of the Educational Psychology, Inclusive & Special Education Department of the Mary Immaculate College in Ireland, who trains special education teachers in his country. During his visit to Brazil, he got to know the Good Will Educational Complex

on the recommendation of the Pontifical Catholic University of São Paulo (PUC-SP).

He was amazed at the work being done by the LGW in its schools and invited the Organization to present its good practices in basic education at the Teacher Education Centre in Cork (Ireland). Professors and teachers, school principals, and special education teachers from that country who attended the LGW's workshop were enthusiastic about applying what they learned during the event in their schools in Cork and Limerick.

The presence of the Legion of Good Will in Ireland was a topic discussed on the program One Fact, Two Views, on PUC TV, presented by Professors Neide de Aquino Noffs, vicedirector of PUC's Faculty of Education and coordinator of the Psychopedagogy course, and Márcia Batista, who is the dean of PUC-SP's Faculty of Human Sciences and Health. I represented the LGW on that occasion and was able to hear the comments they made about the Organization's initiative. "I remember from my visits to the LGW's school that you don't limit this work to the classroom. Students have a lot of activities, such as sports. . . . In a quality school, special education is not only taught in the classroom. The school has to offer various other alternatives." said Professor Noffs.

Professor Batista also commented on the structure of Brazilian schools and their human resources: "It's not just having teaching resources. Teachers also need to be educated so they understand what it is to have a deaf child [in the classroom]. I talk a little about this because, as the dean of the faculty, I sometimes notice the difficulty teachers have in accepting some of the student's limitations: 'Can you believe it? That student wants to be a psychologist?!"

We agree with Professor Batista: students can take up any profession, as long as we support and encourage them to go to whatever college they want. And provided they always have serious and properly trained professionals to guide them.

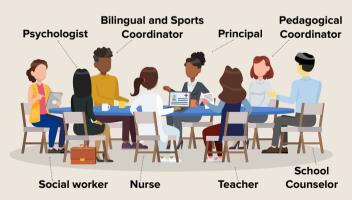
LGW'S SPECIALIZED **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE**



After identifying that a particular student may have special educational needs (due to some learning disability or behavioral disorder), the teacher has to report it to the school counselor, who will bring together the school's multidisciplinary team to further observe the situation and to monitor the student during the school lessons.



These professionals then gather all the information they have collected about the student. At a meeting, they share and discuss the difficulties they have noted and suggest their initial ideas for supporting the teachers, so the latter can help the student discover their own way of learning the lesson content. The development of the student is observed in the school routine. They do not allow him or her to be made fun of or receive any type of labeling with regard to the challenges they face, since in the LGW's schools, respect for the differences is always encouraged.





The student's parents/legal guardians are advised by the school to seek professional help (a pediatrician, psychologist, or educational psychologist) so an accurate and safe diagnosis can be made.





In this partnership between school and family, meetings are held with those responsible for these students. On these occasions, groups are formed according to the diagnosis of the child or adolescent, and each parent/legal guardian shares what they have done at home that has been positive.



All of this takes place in a very fun way! Using games, recreational activities, and new technologies, these students acquire knowledge in a casual but instructive way, never forgetting the ethical, solidary, and ecumenical values that help increase their self-esteem.





During off-school hours, the student with special educational needs can attend the PPH program, which stimulates the skills needed to compensate for any learning and/or behavioral disability. These include attention, organization, planning, reading comprehension, and logical-mathematical reasoning.



Next, an important reinforcement is given by the school's Individualized Education Plan (IEP). The educators of the PPH work together with the classroom teachers in lesson planning adaptations and assessments. For this, they also rely on the help of the school psychologists to provide emotional support for the students.





With the diagnosis, the multidisciplinary team meets again (and as many times as it is necessary) to plan joint strategies, such as adapting teaching and assessment activities so the student receives the syllabus content modified according to his/her diagnosis and the emotional support they need.

For decades this has been the motto of educator Paiva Netto regarding the Organization's teaching proposal, which is being shared more and more with professionals from public and private schools and also at events, such as the LGW's International Congress on Education (which takes place every year in Brazil and every two years in Portugal). The guidelines for the Legion of Good Will's teachers are specific: to look for the potential in each human being as someone who is coresponsible for their development. At the same time that he encourages efforts to strengthen students' cognitive aspects, the president of the LGW proposes that we also dedicate our attention to their feelings, in accordance with the pertinent words we find in his book É Urgente Reeducar! [It Is Urgent to Re-educate!]:

"Much is said about violence in schools. But if the student goes there to learn how to expand his or her own reasoning with the idea of absorbing the lessons that are necessary for their technical formation, in parallel-and without ever forgetting the spirit of discipline-the best possible care of their feelings must be taken into due consideration. Affection for children and respect for young people are similar to a working machine: in one part of the cogwheels is the mind, the logic; in another, the Soul, the feelings, something which prevents us from becoming ever more savage! The teeth of the cogwheel meet and turn the mechanism. However, if you do not lubricate the gearing mechanism with the oil of Fraternity, Solidarity, Mercy, and Compassion, then everything stalls, locks tight, become rusty, and fails!"

For the Legion of Good Will, promoting effective and inclusive educational actions is an efficient way of empowering children and young people by ensuring the development of their intellectuality and the practice of ethical, ecumenical, and solidary values, which are fundamental in human relations.



CHARITY, INCLUSION, AND **SOCIAL TRANSFORMATION**

The mother of two boys, one on the autism spectrum and the other who has ADHD, talks about how her experience as a volunteer at the **LGW** is fundamental for their upbringing

BY THE EDITORIAL STAFF

It is estimated that one in every 160 children worldwide has an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), according to the World Health Organization (WHO). This means that there are about 70 million people with autism on the planet. Considering this number, there is coherence in the message on a billboard seen by sociologist Sandra Fernandez as she was driving on the streets of New Jersey, in the United States: "In other words, it said that the day will come

when everyone will have someone on the autism spectrum in their family. A cousin, nephew, son," she savs.

Ms. Fernandez is the mother of a boy who was diagnosed with this disorder: 12-year-old Adrian. In an interview with GOOD WILL magazine, she told us how she found out that her son has autism and how she learned to deal with it, with the support of the LGW of the USA, where she is a volunteer. In the Organization's *Charity*

Round program, he and his twin brother, Bryan, who has Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), are not only welcomed, but they also help actively with the activities while developing important values, like Charity. Accompanied by adults, they both volunteer in the Organization's program, distributing food, clothing, and blankets on a weekly basis to homeless shelters and poor families in New Jersey and New York.

Given the time in which we live, with humanity still facing challenges when it comes to accepting differences, this mother's account is really inspiring.

GOOD WILL — How did you find out Adrian was on the autism spectrum?

Sandra Fernandez — During the [first] birthday party of the twins, he just cried, covered his ears, and flapped his hands. From that moment on, I started paying more attention to his behavior. If we let him play with a toy, he'd hold on to it until we took it away from him; he wouldn't move. . . . I arranged to see a pediatric neurologist. He was diagnosed at just the right time, when he was 18 months old, an age in which there are clear signs of autism. . . . Thank God we had excellent professionals, who not only attended him, but also taught everyone in the family how to deal with children with autism.

GW — What lessons have you learned?

Sandra Fernandez — Many people think that ASD is a disease. But it's not, because children with autism are healthy and very intelligent; they're skilled at doing many things. They have a different characteristic from other individuals as far as sociability is concerned. They experience strong emotions—but therapy helps them cope with their feelings. The world of someone with autism is totally made up of rules; so breaking a routine is like an act of aggression against them. . . . It was very important for me when a therapist said to me: "Look, you should let him know beforehand about the tasks: 'Mommy needs to go shopping, OK? Are you listening, Adrian? We're going to the supermarket today." Everything changed when I learned that!

GW — What other difficulties have you faced? What was it like going out with Adrian?

Sandra Fernandez — When he was younger, he used to cry a lot. [When I met up with my friends,]

This world view, which educator Paiva Netto, the LGW's President, sets forth means being charitable to oneself. . . . It's about understanding our fellow beings from the perspective of [Christ's] Love, which will make people respect each other, regardless of any differences they might have. So words like "prejudice," "violence," and "anomaly" will no longer exist, because we'll relearn [how to live in a healthy way], at every moment, through the feeling of Charity.



Adrian (L) and Bryan, volunteers in the Charity Round program carried out by the LGW of the USA, get the donations and sort out the fruit and the snacks to be distributed to the homeless.

I would get up [from the table] and say, "My son is on the autism spectrum. Please excuse him when he cries." People would start saving: "Oh, my nephew is on the spectrum too," or "My friend's son has autism." They wanted to help. So it's essential not to hide children with autism away. They have to be a part of the community; you have to go out with them. All this helped Adrian develop this very sweet personality.

GW — What about Bryan?

Sandra Fernandez — His case is different. Bryan has ADHD. He's very active and so he's quite anxious. That's why the work he does in the Charity Round is so important ... I see his little hands taking care of the details. He's very attentive when he does things. . . . There are always adults monitoring, but everything's done voluntarily by these young people who are between 12 and 17 years old. The twins get the donations, select and organize the fruit, and help prepare the meals [for the homeless].... Participating in this activity gives them the opportunity to sympathize with others, to realize that many people need help. They can see how other people live, and this is also helping them value this different coexistence. It has helped both of them grow [as human beings].

GW — Is prejudice still a great hindrance to the inclusion of people with disorders?

Sandra Fernandez — The only thing that we cannot have is prejudice, especially at home. Many parents [of children with disabilities] do not have their child diagnosed because they don't want to hear the diagnosis. And the child suffers with that, because they don't receive treatment at the right time. In fact, there's no prejudice in the LGW, especially because there's no time for it. What you find there is a lot of engagement, self-giving, and joy; things the boys feel when they're there, helping. . . . This world view, which educator Paiva Netto, the LGW's President, sets forth means being charitable to oneself. That's the important thing: understanding other people and knowing how to live with them. The basis for this is the New Commandment of **Jesus**: "Love one another, as I have loved you. Only by this shall all of you be recognized as my disciples" [The Gospel of the Divine Master according to **John** 13:34 and 35]. It's about understanding our fellow beings from the perspective of [Christ's] Love, which will make people respect each other, regardless of any differences they might have. So words like "prejudice," "violence," and "anomaly" will no longer exist, because we'll relearn [how to live in a healthy way], at every moment, through the feeling of Charity.



LGW OF THE USA

Building a Bright **Future**

The Legion of Good Will believes in Education with Ecumenical Spirituality as being a great driver of social and economic growth and global citizenship. That is why the LGW of the United States is building an Early Learning and Community Center, which will assist approximately 1,300 low-income families who live in Newark, New Jersey. Find out more about the project and help the LGW turn it into a reality by visiting www.lgw.org.











IN SEARCH **OF SOCIAL BALANCE**

With its unique approach to Full Citizenship, the **LGW** offers professional training to those it assists so they can enter the world of work, helping reduce the high rates of unemployment in developing countries

GABRIELE ELISA BARROS

he 2018 edition of the report "Stagnated Country: A Portrait of Brazilian Inequalities," published by the NGO Oxfam Brasil, reveals that the country occupies the 9th position in the global ranking of income inequality, despite being the 8th largest economy in the world. This is only one aspect of our social disparity, since it is still associated with other factors, such as poverty, the lack of access to quality education, violence, hunger, and unemployment. The latter has worried many people and is a recurrent topic in the media.

Nothing to be surprised about given that more than 13 million citizens are unemployed in the country, according to a survey carried out by the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics (IBGE) in the first quarter of 2019. Who are those most affected by this situation? Young people between the ages of 18 and 24, who account for more than four million of the total unemployed population.

Considering all the obstacles that young people have been facing in their search for financial independence, the Legion of Good Will carries out several actions,



In the LGW. Marlon not only acquired the theoretical knowledge during the Introduction to Management **Practices** course, but he was also able to strengthen ethical and fraternal values such as respect.

such as its Good Will Apprentice program, which offers professional qualification and mediation for entering the labor market to people in the 14-24 age group who are looking for their first job. While they acquire the theoretical knowledge in the Organization, they put into practice what they learn in partner companies where they are hired as apprentices, which allows them to gain experience and earn formal income followed by labor and pension rights.

The LGW also educates these citizens about their duties and rights. To increase their chances of pursuing the career they want, finishing high school is a requirement for remaining in the program. This helps prevent school dropout and encourages them to continue their education, including technical and higher education.

Licensed by the Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents of the Federal District (CDCA) and by the Ministry of Economy, the Organization offers courses in Administration, Logistics, Sales, Retail Management, and Automotive Maintenance Mechanics. Because of the LGW's unique approach, its courses also foster spiritual, ethical, and ecumenical values, encouraging these young people to live as Ecumenical Citizens.

ENHANCING TALENTS AND GIVING HOPE

In Brasília, the capital city of Brazil, the LGW started the program in the first half of 2017, and 311 apprentices have been trained up until May 2019. One of them is Marlon Gomes Barros, 18, who lives in Cidade Estrutural, a neighborhood near the former Federal District landfill site that has been taken over by waste pickers. The young man is an example of hard work and dedication. While he was taking the Introduction to Management Practices course, he worked in a partner company, attended high school at night, and had one more important responsibility: to provide for his family, consisting of his mother (unemployed at the time), his younger brother, and two nephews (the children of his older brother, who was killed in 2014). "My brother was the joy to our house; he helped out a lot. From the moment he was gone, it upset our family a lot. It also aggravated our [family] budget," Marlon says.

In the midst of so much pain and difficulties, being in the Organization's social service center, a fraternal and welcoming environment, was extremely important for him. "The LGW is a place where there's a lot of respect, education, and solidarity. We learn to love our fellow beings, to be polite, and to greet [others]. There I learned things that I'll take with me forever."

BACK ON TOP

Due to his good performance in the job, Marlon was made a full-time employee and today he is an excellent financial assistant. "Every day I go to work happy," he points out. When he remembers the past, he feels proud of the path he has built for himself: "No one believed in me. Many people discouraged me because I lived in a poor place. They used to think: 'This boy's not going to grow, he's not going to be anything in life, or he's going to get into crime or drugs.' But no [that's not what happened]."



BOOSTING PROSPERITY

n a partnership with the Argentinian Ministry of Social Development, between 2017 and 2019, the Legion of Good Will took part in the Family Assistance program, which benefited 200 families living in situations of social vulnerability. The project is part of the National Social Protection Plan and was carried out in the Juan Pablo II and La Merced districts, located in San Pedro de Jujuy, almost 1,600 kilometers from the city of Buenos Aires.

Both communities were set up as settlements that became urbanized gradually and precariously. Therefore, it is common to find in the region poor houses with restricted access to basic services, such as running water, gas, and electricity. Many inhabitants still have to deal with low levels of schooling, urban and domestic violence, drug/ alcohol addiction, drug trafficking, and povertyrelated diseases.

In order to reduce the impact of such vulnerabilities, 20 social workers hired by the LGW visited these districts over a 15-month period, providing guidance and help with regularizing social benefits and procedures



At the end of the workshops offered by the LGW of Argentina, 325 participants received their course certificates.

provided for in law, such as the National Identity Document (DNI), retirement pension, and alimony. Supported by health professionals, the social workers also updated vaccination cards, offered medical care to the population, among other healthrelated activities. With the goal of engaging communities in the cause of the common good, they also carried out community management roundtables, meetings in which families learned more about their rights and how to exercise them. The citizens then organized and committed themselves to bringing about improvements in their



Some of the social workers hired by the LGW of Argentina during an activity of the Family Assistance program, in San Pedro the Jujuy.

respective neighborhoods, by putting together cleaning and gardening task forces.

The LGW also offered 13 workshops on generating income, among which were: entrepreneurship, organic vegetable gardens, nutrition, bread-making, construction using sustainable materials, electrical courses, handicrafts, and cutting and sewing. These workshops resulted in products such as sweets, savory snacks, decorative articles, and textiles, which are sold at a fair to families and neighboring communities. The 325 participants received their course certificates and, at the end of the program in 2018, at Christmas, each family received a food basket from the Organization (four tons of food items in total were handed out).

NEW HORIZONS IN ENTREPRENEURSHIP

One of the families that benefited from the Family Assistance program was that of Roberto Carlos Almazán, 43, a resident in the Juan Pablo II district. He, his wife, María Rosa Mamani, and their daughter, Ailen Guadalupe, live in a house in which the rooms are made of canvas and tree trunks, and that has an earthen floor. Because of a physical injury, he was unable to continue working as a bricklayer. In view of this situation, his wife decided to take a bread-making course in the Legion of Good Will. With the help of their neighbors, they built a clay oven at home, bought a table and some trays, and began to sell bread rolls. After some time, they included cake-making in the business.

"With the help of the LGW, I'm thriving with the work I'm doing and feeling very grateful. I'm happy, and I have everything that I need to grow. You can do anything if you have Goodwill, if you put in the effort and will to live. I'm going to continue [persevering]," says Mr. Almazán. His family is currently making every effort to improve the structure of their house and adopting a proactive attitude, renewing hope, and establishing the goals they wish to achieve in the future.



KNOCKING DOWN BARRIERS

Person assisted: Lucrécia Irene García

Age: 47

Location: Ypané, Paraguay.

Challenges:

• A single mother with six children, some of whom are drug/alcohol addicts.

• She also has to look after her grandchildren, her mother, and her sister, who has bipolar disorder.

- Precarious living conditions in a house made of wood.
- Unable to work.

Support from the LGW: Having her youngest son and one of her grandchildren being well looked after in the Organization's Nursery and Preschool, Lucrécia found more time to do housework and to attend the educational talks and the professional training courses offered by the Legion of Good Will. This is how she learned to make cleaning products, such as detergent, bleach, and disinfectant. She sells them to provide for her family. The LGW also gives her a food basket every month.

Testimonial: "I've been through some very difficult moments. I even thought about committing suicide, but I came across the LGW, which gave me strength and helped me move forward. So I tell everyone that we can survive our battles with the help of Jesus in our lives and knowing that the LGW is present. I'm more than happy to know the Organization and to be part of it; it's a blessing in my life. To the President [of the Legion of Good Will, José de Paiva Netto], I say thank you very much for giving us this opportunity!"







SPORTS' SUPERPOWERS

LGW's program promotes inclusiveness, develops students' potential, and reveals new talents

LEILA MARCO

Belo Horizonte (Brazil)







Vitor Hugo de Souza Christo, a 13-vear-old student at the LGW's **Educational** Center, in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), diagnosed with ADHD (Attention **Deficit Hyperactivity** Disorder), has proved the importance of chess, of which he became a fan.

e have all been thrilled with superhero movie scenes in which the protagonist performs extraordinary feats, fights evil, and, in the end, wins the battle. We do not have such superhuman strength in real life, but many teachers across the globe have within them special powers that are born of the Fraternal Love they nurture for others and by which they perform true miracles in the lives of their students.

This is something that happens every day in the schools and social service centers of the Legion of Good Will of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Portugal, the United States, and Uruguay, which receive thousands of children and teenagers at social risk. In this fight between Good and all kinds of ills, the strategies used by the LGW in its units are quality Education, which is always based on values of Ecumenical Spirituality, the dedication of its teachers, and a very important ally: sports.

Such actions are carried out in the LGW's Educational Center, in Del Castilho, a district in the heart of one of the poorest

communities in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil) and that has one of the city's highest rates of violence. It was in the school that for some years now the students found in sports ways to create bonds and strengthen relationships with each other, the school staff, and with their families. The aim of the Organization is to educate global citizens, in other words, people who are concerned with social issues and fight for their goals while respecting and helping others.

The sports' coordinator of the LGW's Educational Center, Sergio Euzébio, says that in playing sports "students learn how to deal with their own limits and how to constantly overcome them. For students suffering from some kind of disorder or disability, their physical and emotional triumph over adversity is even more evident, which thus boosts their self-esteem."

Sergio and his team believe that physical activity is one of the best tools for working with emotional and social values, because through it you learn while playing. Offering an opportunity like this-which should





A JOURNEY OF SUCCESS THROUGH CHESS

The Legion of Good Will's sports program produces a lot of positive results, which can be better appreciated when we get to know some of the life stories of its participants. Such is the case of former student Gabriel Santana, 20, who finished middle school in the Organization in 2017. Today, as a member of the Fluminense Football Club, in which he plays chess, Gabriel shares how he started out in the sport. "I didn't know anything about chess. As soon as I got into the LGW's school, Mr. Alves invited me to learn how to play it during break time. I accepted his invitation because I identified myself with that sport because of the difficulty I have with mobility," he says.

Gabriel is thankful for being welcomed with open arms by the Organization and recalls

that the fact that he needs wheelchair to get around never prevented him from being one of the best chess players in the school. For his mother,

Eronice Helena da Silva.

this support was fundamental in her son's journey: "I see how Gabriel has evolved and I thank God first and then the Legion of Good Will, because after he started attending the school he improved a lot. All I have to say to the LGW is thank you."



According to an estimate by the LGW teachers. 80% of the students who practice sports show an improvement in their grades.

be a universal right for everyone—is one of the benefits the Organization provides for the girls and boys who go to its school. Otherwise, they would be unlikely to have the same chance in some other part of the community in which they live due to the lack of adequate public spaces and to a scarcity of funds, because some of the activities offered for free by the LGW are very expensive.

AN INCENTIVE THAT TRANSLATES **INTO GOOD GRADES**

These experiences help the kids stay healthy by getting them out of a sedentary lifestyle and, thus, reducing the risk of developing some diseases in adulthood (such as diabetes, high blood pressure, etc.), in addition to helping them improve their school performance. According to an



- . Physical and motor skills development;
- . High self-esteem;
- . Good posture;
- . Improved energy levels;
- . Anxiety relief;
- . Social interaction;
- . Concentration;
- . Good hygiene habits;
- . Lower risk of cardiovascular diseases;
- . Weight management;
- . Stronger immune system;
- . Increase in lean body mass;
- . Balanced cholesterol levels.

estimate by the LGW teachers, 80 percent of the students who practice sports show an improvement in their grades. This is the result of countless factors, among them an increase in concentration (focus), energy, the quality of sleep, and a decrease in levels of anxiety.

Mathematics teacher Bruno Alves, who is responsible for the Chess Workshop in the school, stresses that this board game "works with logical reasoning and concentration improves problem-solving skills. This means that people start reasoning faster and find it easier to overcome their difficulties."

Vitor Hugo de Souza Christo, a 13-year-old student who has ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder), has proved the importance of this sport and today is a fan of it. "I love playing chess; it helps me concentrate. If I weren't here in this school, I'd be nothing today. I'm learning lots of things. This school is perfect, it's very good."

His father, Alexandre Christo. confirms the positive changes that have taken place in the boy's life: "He's less anxious now. Chess has helped a lot. He's also better behaved at home."

Physical education teacher Vinícius **Azevedo** emphasizes that sports have a variety of benefits. In addition to helping develop body awareness, laterality, and motor skills, they improve the behavior of students in the classroom and help awaken in them something else. "We want to educate good citizens and we

hope that when they leave the LGW's school they will spread what we teach here, with our ecumenism and our passion," he said.

Since these children and adolescents encounter challenging situations on a daily basis that impact emotional stability their as well as situations at home



UN-HABITAT REPRESENTATIVE

"The LGW's teaching model can help every country"

"I was surprised. I wasn't expecting to come here and see 50 children [in the choir] singing just for me. It was a great experience. I really enjoyed it! The LGW's Educational Center is an outstanding benefit for the population. Here you find joy, easy communication, and information.

"I watched some classes and I could see that the students are encouraged to express their points of view. I was very impressed with the exchange of ideas among the children. They're curious, they know a lot, and they want to learn more. I'm Canadian, but to them I'm an equal. The [ecumenical] spirit of the school, the atmosphere in this

> place, it's great! There's a range of different services [being provided], which is incredibly useful for children and young people. It's a bonus for their life and future. This is a teaching model that could help every country and all societies."

ALAIN GRIMARD

International Senior Officer and Coordinator of the Brazil and Southern Cone office for the United Nations **Human Settlements Programme** (UN-Habitat), on a visit to the LGW's Educational Center in Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), on June 7, 2019.

that leave them extremely vulnerable, the Organization's teachers have to take up a new role: "We're not just teachers or technical coaches, we are those helping them out during these challenges. Sometimes we need to be a father, or a psychologist, and sometimes we play several roles at the same time."

All the efforts of the teachers and other professionals of the Educational Center in Rio de Janeiro pay off when the children show their appreciation and good results. "When they do well in their tests, they come up to us and say, 'Hey, sir, I got a good grade in Math, in Geography.' They want to show us that they're getting better," Mr. Azevedo pointed out.

Suzana Tito Monteiro, the mother of Vitor Hugo Monteiro, 14, also thinks that this approach has been successful. Her son is in the 7th grade and has attended the LGW's school since he was 18 months old. For her, doing judo reduced the young boy's restlessness and fostered good feelings in him: "Vitor started to be more focused, more disciplined, and more caring towards others. It's changed his life a lot."

HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORT

Interestingly, judo, one of the sports Brazil won a lot of its medals* in the Summer Olympics (22, of which four gold, three silver, and 15 bronze medals), is also the high performance sport in the LGW's Educational Center (see infographic on page 45) that has most revealed talents. In 2018, judokas from the Legion of Good Will achieved impressive results, such as winning seven trophies and more than one hundred medals in individual competitions, in addition to competing in more than 80 championships of the Judo Federation of the State of Rio de Janeiro (FJERJ), the Confederate Judo League (LCJ), and the Intercolegial Sesc O Globo.

INVESTING IN SPORTS LGW's program democratizes access to sports in one of the most deprived regions in Rio de Janeiro **Legion of Good** Will's Educational Center Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)

RECREATIONAL WORKSHOPS

Aimed at fully developing children and teenagers, these workshops improve their health, concentration, and discipline in addition to teaching spiritual, ethical, and ecumenical values.





Muay Thai

Dance and drama classes

Capoeira

HIGH PERFORMANCE SPORTS (NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS) Discovering new talents in Brazil



^{*}Judo, canoeing, and artistic gymnastics were the sports Brazil won most medals in the Rio 2016 Summer Olympics.

2018 SPORTS GRADUATION CEREMONY

students moved up to the next belt in judo and capoeira

students from nursery school to middle school benefited



professionals involved

FACILITIES

1 multi-sport court and 1 school yard



Dojo



Life-size chess board and recreation rooms

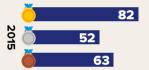
Chess Judo **Athletics** (activities aimed at ensuring cognitive, physical, and psychomotor development) In futsal (under 13)

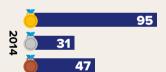
Judo Leads in the Number of Medals

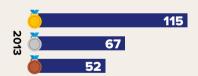


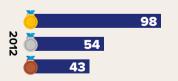












TOTAL NUMBER OF **MEDALS WON**

OTHER JUDO **FIGURES**



Brazilian reais spent on sporting equipment (kimonos and tatami mats)



kimonos



a week of high performance training, divided into categories (under 9 to under 18)

......





LGW STUDENT WINS GOLD MEDAL AT A BRAZILIAN JUDO CHAMPIONSHIP

he good performance of the LGW students in other competitions has been repeated in 2019. In April, 12-yearold athlete João Pacheco, a seventhgrader, won the gold medal in the +60kg category at the Third Brazilian Regional Championship, organized by the Brazilian Judo Confederation in Lauro de Freitas/BA. The competition is a benchmark in the sport, since it brings together the country's main athletes. Pacheco scored 3 ippons, which is when the opponent falls on their back or is held down for 20 seconds.

For the LGW's sports coordinator in Rio de Janeiro, João was already a champion at the beginning of the year. "He won this gold medal back in January when he resumed his training. He had stopped training for almost eight months because of a knee injury. We thought he wouldn't train anymore, that he'd be afraid of getting hurt again, but he's a fighter and came back. So, every training session he completed was like a gold medal that he collected," said Mr. Euzébio.

The teenager told us he owes his success to the quality of the services he was offered in



At the José de Paiva Netto **Educational** Center, located in Del Castilho, Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), girls and boys have the opportunity to learn and practice judo during out-ofschool hours. Dozens of athletes have participated in important competitions, such as the Campeonato de Abertura da Liaa Confederada de Judô – Rio de Janeiro.

the Organization: "The LGW has done many things for me; it's like my second home! Here is where I learn, where I do judo, Muay Thai, several sports. If it wasn't for the Legion of Good Will, I'd not be where I am today."

grandmother, Célia His maternal Luiza **Pacheco Guilherme**, who is raising him despite all hardships, is very proud: "He's the joy of my life; he's a part of me. João became an example of how to overcome difficulties when he fractured his tibia. He recovered from the injury and started training right away. In the first competition after his accident, he won a gold medal." Even though she faces serious health problems, Ms. Pacheco does not give in, and she speaks fondly of the help she has always received from the Organization: "The LGW pays special attention to everyone. João and his friends are supported by way of food, in their studies, in sports . . . In

everything. I'm very happy and grateful to the Organization."

In concluding the article Organization's Educational Center in Rio de Janeiro and reflecting on the life stories and transformations that occur in that place,

one can be sure that sports really do have superpowers because they enrich the lives of those who practice them. Thanks to the unique approach of the LGW, which educates with Ecumenical Spirituality, many girls and boys become champions, good doctors, artists, engineers, teachers, and whatever professional they want to

(Contribution: Danielly Arruda)

become.



came to the Legion of Good Will in 1994 when I was three. At the time, my mother, Maria Helena Alves de Carvalho, needed to work. And that is when she found the support of the LGW in Goiânia (Brazil), where my sister, Suzana Alves, and I were warmly welcomed. This was a crucial period in our lives. Every day we received all the meals and the care we needed, such as attention, affection, safety, and leisure. We also used to take part in various activities throughout the day.

I remember that I particularly enjoyed the activities with music. That is why when I was 7, I joined the Saint Francis of Assisi Ecumenical Choir, which is made up of children assisted by the Organization in Goiânia. At the age of 16, I joined the Good Will Ecumenical Choir, of which I am still a member today.

I am happy to see how committed the Organization is to engaging my community in the arts. There are plenty of examples of this. The LGW's International Music Festival is one of them. It is held annually and encourages young people to write songs with a message that fosters ideas for a more just and fraternal society and that casts a critical eye on several topics always from the viewpoint of Ecumenical Spirituality.

Another amazing opportunity is the Legionnaire Music Show, which every year brings together in Brasília, capital city of Brazil, choirs of children, young people, and adults of all ages from all over the country, during the anniversary celebrations of the Temple of Good Will (TGW), a monument founded on October 21, 1989. I have been performing in the event since its first edition in 2010.

Participating in these events is very important to me because I am able to convev fraternal messages through songs and share knowledge with singers from every region in my country. These initiatives undoubtedly strengthen the work the Organization does in the arts.



GloboNews highlights the musicality at the LGW

COMO A MÚSICA ACELERA A AUTOESTIMA NA ESCOLA E NA VIDA

On April 22, 2019, the "Culturando," a seament on the Jornal GloboNews — Edicão das 10 Horas program, showed how music is present in the daily life of children and teenagers assisted in the Legion of Good Will's units and the benefits they receive from it. During the program, journalist Bete Pacheco said: "I visited a network of schools where they incorporated the teaching of music into their syllabus even before the law obliged them to do so. This is a long-term work and encourages children to become professional musicians."

IN THE LGW

children and teenagers took part in these workshops in Brazil.

"I am very grateful for everything I have received in the Legion of Good Will, because this contact with music in my childhood made all the difference to my personal and professional development, as it continues to make a difference in the lives of so many children who are helped by the Organization."



AN INVITATION TO PROMOTE **INCLUSION**

Currently, I am a volunteer conductor of the LGW's Nair Torres Community Choir. This is a group of women whose purpose is to bring happiness through Culture and Art. Legionnaire Music, as this genre has been known for decades, is different from other genres because it produces and promotes songs that foster spiritual, ethical, and ecumenical values, among them Fraternal Love, Respect, and Solidarity. In addition

to strengthening bonds and encouraging friendship among the choir members, singing improves their self-esteem, and they feel even more valued because they are developing their musical skills and the ability to express themselves.

I never pictured myself as a conductor, but then I was given the opportunity in the Organization to become one, and I have been improving my knowledge ever since so I can always teach something new to the ladies of the LGW's Nair Torres Community Choir. I feel fulfilled and happy to be doing this work.

POSITIVE IMPACT

As a conductor, I have been able to identify those with the qualities needed to become soloists. One of them is a soprano, who after several rehearsals became very excited about singing a solo part. It was lovely to see her on stage giving a good performance, despite her nervousness and personal difficulties. It is wonderful to identify people's potential and to encourage them. In fact, I am the one who has benefited the most from this experience.

All this has presented me with a new possibility for a career, since I have a degree in Interior Design, but have been unable to see myself working in the area. Today it is clear to me that music is what I want to pursue. I am taking piano lessons at the Gustav Ritter Institute of Education in the Arts, in Goiânia, and I am constantly looking for other professional training courses to improve my skills.

I am very grateful for everything I have received in the Legion of Good Will, because this contact with music in my childhood made all the difference to my personal and professional development, as it continues to make a difference in the lives of so many children who are helped by the Organization. I am also grateful to the composer Paiva Netto, the LGW's President, for encouraging the teaching of music in the Organization's schools and social service centers in Brazil and abroad.

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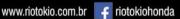




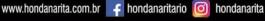
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