

# Associação Recanto São Francisco

Christmas 2010



*Dear friends of the Recanto Sao Francisco,*

*This newsletter is sent to thank you for all of your support. As Christmas is coming we try to get everything prepared to make it a special moment for the children as they can not be with their own family.*

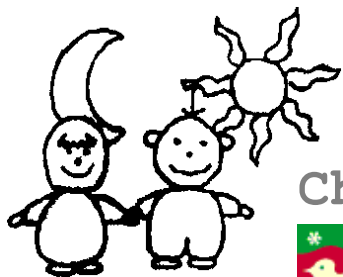
*We would like to take a moment to express our gratitude to all of our partners and supporters.*

*Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2011.*



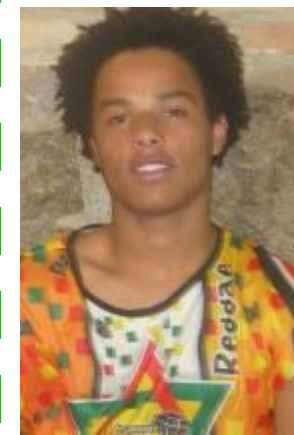
- With the generous donations received this year, we have made some exciting improvements to the Recanto Sao Francisco:
- We've taken on a teacher who is schooling children with hyperactivity, attention deficit, mental deficiencies and anti-social attitudes who cannot attend school yet. We are already seeing the first positive results!
- We have invested in our farm to get a financial return for the orphanage. 200 apple trees and 1500 olive trees have been planted. We hope to increase the plantation of olive trees in the coming years to increase our future earnings and become less dependent on foreign donations.
- We've made a new laundry, rebuilt the pantry, improved the activity room and the boys' rooms. Work has also started on the kitchen and the living room. One of the houses for our teachers has been remodelled and the volunteers have now got a residence much closer to the orphanage.
- We have upgraded some computers and improved our software. Having this equipment encourages reading, writing and is a strong tool to motivate young people to academic effort.





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## Christmas at the Recanto Sao Francisco

The children need to have the feeling that the Recanto is a nice place to be. Christmas decorations, garlands, stars and candles are made with the children.

A play with a lot of Christmas songs is being rehearsed. Cookies and a traditional "Lebkuchenhaus" will be baked, and lots of cards are made by our youngsters.

It is a joyful moment, when we are eager to share nice things with those we care about.

On the 24th Santa Claus will visit us, bringing a present for everybody and joining us for a wonderful Christmas eve.



## Airton

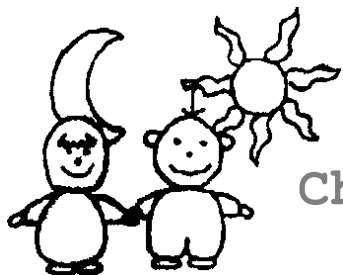
Airton was born in Brasilia de Minas, the son of a poor family and the youngest of 10 children. Airton and his nine siblings lived in a house with two rooms, but his real home was on the city streets.

He was often to be found at the bus station asking for ten cents to buy sweets, under a bridge with his brothers catching small fish to take home, or sleeping in restaurant doorways. When he arrived, Airton was a difficult boy, he did not accept rules and limits, which is to be expected for someone with Airton's past. However, through a theatre group in the town he began to participate in some fun activities: learning to ride a unicycle and walk on stilts, amongst others. And from there he started to attend school.

Airton came to the Recanto Sao Francisco along with his siblings. It was a turning point in his life; he began to accept rules and boundaries. He now participates in all of our theatre performances and in our circus shows.

Airton is attending secondary school and already we see that he's not going to have any difficulty getting a job; he has a brilliant resume, having done five professional courses from the industrial sector and other courses offered by the Recanto Sao Francisco.

Airton turned 18 today on 3rd December, and is ready to be integrated in society.



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**You can change a child's life at the Recanto São Francisco!**

Donate now.....or speak to Oscar about funding a specific project

**Name:** Armen - und Kinderkrebshilfe Brasilien (Brigitte Wegenast Stiftung)  
**Bank:** Volksbank Tübingen  
**Ref:** BLZ 641 901 10  
**Account:** 1200003

**Name:** Associação Recanto São Francisco  
**CNPJ:** 41.779.372/0001-45  
**Bank:** Banco do Brasil, nº 001  
**Branch:** nº 2051-6 / Extrema – MG  
**Account:** nº 55.252-6  
**Swift Code:** BRASBRRJBHE



If you have any suggestions or stories for the newsletter please email Stephanie McNicoll: [stephanie\\_mcnicoll@hotmail.com](mailto:stephanie_mcnicoll@hotmail.com)

## Kedney

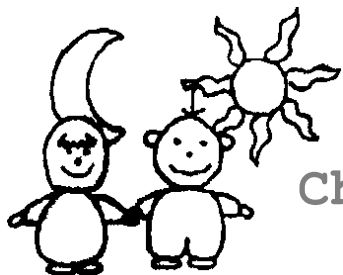


Every day Kedney woke up and hoped that his life would change. Knowing that Kedney had to hope that someone would save him for three long years, motivates us to improve.

Kedney comes from a background of violence and deprivation that we cannot begin to imagine. Now six years old, he has special needs. He also has a brain tumour, which he is undergoing treatment for. He needs psychological, psychiatric and neurological treatment and must also have an adult at his side 24 hours a day.

Even from afar, you can help make our actions more efficient and make change possible.

Kedney still bears the scars of his past, but without the Recanto Sao Francisco, he may not have made it at all.



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*A message from  
Svani & Oscar...*

At the beginning of the year our partnership with the congregation of Charles de Foucauld came to an end. The profile of the missionaries did not fit with the requirements of our institution. Since then, we have heavily invested in a training program for our own staff. We have managed to significantly improve the quality of our care and of our team. We have achieved this by demanding an enhanced level of professionalism from our technical team and teachers.

This year, our social context has changed as well. Several social improvements are being made within Brazil. Centres (CREAS) are being formed that will offer social assistance and special help for those with severe problems in all communities. If children in distress need protection outside the family, they are prepared for possible reintegration with their family. If this is not an option, they are offered the opportunity to be adopted. The creation of the national adoption register has helped to simplify the system.

Our work goes beyond merely helping our young people to rejoin society as independent individuals. We play an important role in developing self-respect and confidence in our children and we do it by proceeding one step at a time. However, we can't achieve everything on our own. We do it with a lot of support from all of you.

Thank you for standing by our side,  
Svani and Oscar

