



Rescue, rehabilitation & reintegration for street children and children at risk
and their families
www.happychild.org

Summer Newsletter 2011



Guilherme aged three at the Happy Child Recife home



Jennifer with some of the girls at our Belo Horizonte Home March 2011



Rafael aged 12 at the Happy Child home in Recife

Happy Child's Supporters visit Brazil in March 2011. Surrey Supporter Jennifer McLean has been a supporter of Happy Child since its inception in the early nineties. She said 'I wanted to see the work for myself after having heard so much about it over the last 16 years'. In March this year she joined a team of supporters who were going out to Brazil with Sarah. 'We arrived in Belo Horizonte where we had the opportunity to engage with the children and dedicated staff team there. Later we flew on to Recife. Jennifer said 'It was marvellous to meet the children and spend time with them. I was particularly struck by 12 year old Rafael's story. He used to ferry drugs in between different gangs in the area in Recife where he lived. He said that being in Happy Child had taken him out of danger and said he had literally been rescued'. Jennifer went on to say 'There was another lovely three year old who had been found in a leaking hut, abandoned by his mother. He has been rescued by Happy Child and was slowly settling into the house. There is a happy ending to his story. Soon he is going to be adopted'.



Bruno aged 12 at the Happy Child home in Recife

This is Bruno. He is 10 years old. He had been neglected by his family and had just started going to the streets. He has been in the Happy Child Recife home almost nine months now. He is making good progress.



Training work shop for Mum's at the Recife Care Home in June 2011

Training work shop at the Recife home in June on 'How to be a good Mother' Our co-ordinator Cida Rafael said 'Some of the children's Mums came along and enjoyed fellowship and fun as well as taking part in the workshop which was thought provoking and inspiring'.



UK Volunteers with Mark Pinks, UK Board Director, visiting Happy Child in Belo Horizonte.

Happy Child UK takes a team of UK Volunteers out to Brazil every year. The visit provides the opportunity to engage hands on with the children and experience Happy Child Brazil's work first hand. In early July 2011 the team flew out to Recife to visit our boys home for a week and then flew down to Belo Horizonte. Every year Happy Child's UK Board Director, Mark Pinks, accompanies the team. Mark says, 'the volunteers are having an amazing experience'.

The HANDS THAT HELP Recife Network of 26 projects was founded in 2008 by 180° Alliance, and is now managed by Happy Child. It's vision is to actively support and invest in projects working with vulnerable children in Recife's metropolitan region. It also lobbies and works closely with children's policy makers and local government. Three year funding for this Network was secured through Happy Child's partnership with 180 Alliance here in the UK. HANDS THAT HELP's participation in the national protest March on May 18th really brought the vulnerability of these children to the attention of the Brazilian public. Since 2008 HANDS THAT HELP have been capacity building and training in the area of family reintegration, street work and leadership.



Campaigning Project Leaders from the Hands that Help network in Recife May 2011



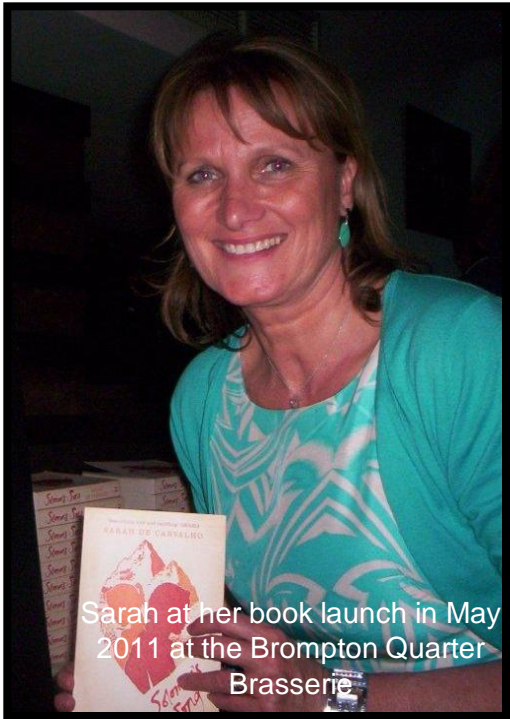
Hands that Help network campaigning in Recife in protest against the abuse of children through commercial sex trade



30 young people take part in Happy Child's Slumber Challenge in June 2011

Happy Child's SLUMber Challenge - 30 young people aged 10 to 18 took part in a 10K sponsored walk from Gomshall Station to Bentley Copse near Shere, Surrey. At the campsite the youngsters built homes out of cardboard and slept in conditions more familiar to the children Happy Child supports. Beth Townend, event coordinator, said 'The kids were in great spirits and even cooked their own Brazilian stew! They had fun participating whilst engaging with an excellent cause and raising support for Happy Child'.

SOLOMON'S SONG, Sarah de Carvalho's debut novel, a love story set in the slums of Brazil and Montana USA, was officially launched at the Brompton Quarter Brasserie in central London at the end of May. The glittering evening, with a strong Brazilian theme, saw nearly 100 people gather to celebrate. Recommended reading for Book Clubs and entered by Hodder & Stoughton into the Costa 2011 Book of the Year, First Novel category, Sarah said 'My desire in writing this book was to bring inspiration to many because as we go through life there will be times of tragedy and suffering, but there will always be hope.' The evening was sponsored by the Brompton Quarter Brasserie, Aranessa – Real Estate Investment, Tambaba – country club resort, LONDONHELP4U and Invest in Brazil. **To buy your copy online see Amazon.com, Waterstones or WH Smith.**



Sarah at her book launch in May 2011 at the Brompton Quarter Brasserie



Happy Child Fundraising evening at the Brompton Quarter Brasserie. Patron Baroness Anne Gibson and Restaurant owner Valeria Zilkha.

Special Happy Child Fundraising Evening at the Brompton Quarter Brasserie, Knightsbridge
 On May 12th a wonderful fundraising evening took place at the Brompton Quarter Brasserie, Knightsbridge, in aid of Happy Child International. It was a lively Brazilian affair with samba and traditional Capoeira dancing. Delicious food was served throughout the evening. A very successful auction and ticket sales raised £11,000 for Happy Child's work in Recife. Many thanks to our friend and supporter Valeria Zilkha.



Supporters in Lincolnshire at the Fundraising garden opening June 2011

Actress Susan George exhibits her Photographic art work at the Brompton Quarter Brasserie for the next six months. Susan met Happy Child's Founder Sarah de Carvalho and is supporting the charity with 10% of the proceeds .



Susan George and Valeria Zilkha at the Brompton Quarter Brasserie June 2011

Happy Child Contact Details

This newsletter has been circulated from the Happy Child UK office and will appear on our website

www.happychild.org

If you would like to contact us please e mail

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If you would like to make a donation to our work: see our website and press donate now button. Or send a cheque to our UK address.

Charity #: 1116809



Mike Ayres completed his Castle Sponsored Cycle ride in May 2011

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The opening of a private garden in Greatford, Lincolnshire provides loyal Happy Child Supporters with the perfect backdrop for an afternoon of fun, flowers, food and fundraising. It was a huge team effort to raise over £800 for the charity. On June 21st the sun shone, the garden looked beautiful and the public poured in to view the garden at Greatford Mill. Tables were laid out, cream teas served, plant cuttings bought and carried away. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Our thanks to Derek & Francie Lygo and their team for making the day such a success.

Happy Child supporter Mike Ayres completes a 100 miles sponsored cycle!

'Its a tough and arduous race', says Mike 'A total distance of 102.5 miles cycled over 6 hours 49 minutes and with a total uphill climb of a 1000 metres!' However Mike said it was worth all the effort. 'Happy Child is helping children as young as ten years old who have got ensnared into the commercial sex trade in the North East of Brazil. The country is second only to Thailand for the abuse of children in this way. 'As Happy Child want to open a home for some of these girls I felt compelled to do my bit. Through my sponsored cycle I feel I have been able to make a contribution to some of the world's most destroyed and vulnerable children. Thinking of them gave me the inspiration to complete the challenge'.