



Araruna, 15th of February, 2015

Dear Iron Man and friends,

Hereby we would like to express you our sincere thanks for your generous donations, which enabled us to carry out an extensive, effective campaign against adolescent drug abuse in the northeastern Brazilian municipalities Tacima and Cacimba de Dentro. In a joint effort we managed to explain harmful and negative consequences of drug consumption to almost 600 children last year (and another 400 last month alone) with first great results.

Our concept is based on the principles of the P.R.O.E.R.D. Program (Programa Educacional de Resistência as Drogas), the Brazilian version of the American D.A.R.E. Program (Drug Abuse Resistance Education). Both programs aim at preventing children and adolescents with difficult social backgrounds from ruining their lifes by the consumption of drugs and alcohol in a comprehensive approach. On account of hard living conditions, questionable social states and the lack of perspectives it is particularly young people in this part of the country that tend to be at high risk. However, due to your valuable contributions we have been achieving great progress in tackling this very issue. In the following we would like to present you our project and the obtained results in detail.





**Of course P.R.O.E.R.D. is not the only current drug prevention program in Brazil. For instance, the federal universities of the Brazilian states Ceará, Goiás and Santa Catarina have recently offered various anti-drug courses in their facilities. On the other hand, the website Pais Conectados (<http://www.paisconectados.org/>) provides a lot of information about drugs in general, typical reactions and effective countermeasures. Optionally, even an online course is available.**

**Yet P.R.O.E.R.D. copes best with the conditions in the local environment, although it is still in its infancy. So far, the first phase of our project has been completed successfully. This section consisted mainly of preparatory meetings, the actual prevention course and two festive graduation ceremonies. It was supported by numerous actors from different sectors such as mayors, pastors, teachers, social clubs, the local Department of Education, the military police of Paraíba state, SEBRAE (Brazilian company for small enterprises) and volunteers, among others.**





**The preparatory meetings were organized by the participating actors themselves and took place last year. For the beginning, the focus of the project was aligned to the closer surroundings in order to ensure a better control and overall view. Therefore, the communities Tacima and Cacimba de Dentro were selected. The first drug prevention courses were hold from October to December 2014 by military policemen (see upper photos) who were temporarily detached from their command Center for this purpose. One course session complied with one meeting a week that took 45 minutes. Several course sessions were always hold on Monday and Tuesday and ran parallely in adjacent classrooms. One course was generally supervised by two policemen. A total of ten sessions was required to complete the entire course.**

**Each meeting started with a warm welcome by the officers who treated the participants very friendly and considerately. The contents of the subsequent lectures were mainly about drugs such as cigarettes, marijuana and alcohol. Ways of resisting, discussions and the avoiding of gangs are other exemplary parts that played a major role. Once in a while the meetings took place outside as well. In this way the participants were encouraged to apply their acquired knowledge, e.g. by discussing with the local population about the importance of prevention. SEBRAE and our association AFINK supported this formation by providing books, printed t-shirts and caps (see also upper left photo on the last page).**

**In the end there were 225 graduates in Tacima and another 325 in Cacimba de Dentro. All of them received a certificate in their respective City Hall which confirms a successful participation in the P.R.O.E.R.D. program. The following photos show representative excerpts from those great events.**



**And all this is supposed to be just the beginning. We are already planning to extend our anti-drug campaign on the Internet in order to reach and inform the public additionally online. Further we are debating with AMECC (Associação Menores com Cristo) about an enhanced future cooperation. AMECC is a big renowned NGO in Guarabira that takes care of street children and has a lot of experience in this field. Even the Education Department in Araruna wants to increase its support for our project in 2015.**

**One of the most important key figures within our local team is José Ailton (see upper photos). He is a member of the local council in Araruna and jointly responsible for the great progress in our project. His social commitment to our cause is just unprecedented. Ailton proposed to promote the training of at least three volunteers to become anti-drug coaches and would gladly make himself available for this gratuitous service. Thus, more people could be educated.**



**We are highly motivated to continue our efforts and to broaden our target groups. And we are definitely very proud of the harmonious cooperation with and among our partners. This has shown what can be achieved when all pull in the same direction. Due to your generous donations we are able to continue the pursuit of our common goal. For that we would like to thank you once more. Of course this counts as well on behalf of all beneficiaries.**

**For further inquiries I am always available and at your service.**

**Yours truly**

**Mario Held (voluntary employee)**