

University of Life Gymnasium & Community Life Center

Mission

1. To build a multi-purpose structure that will provide storage and classroom space and serve as a safe, dry, shaded place for physical activity, sports and play, both for the community and for University of Life students
2. To utilize the structure as a meeting facility, performance venue, radio station and training center that will be an asset and source of pride for the community

Background

University of Life is on a 3.5-acre plot located in the favela (Brazilian slum) of Aqua Fria, a densely populated, poverty stricken settlement approximately 6 miles from the city center of Fortaleza in northeastern Brazil. Basic utilities are inadequate and at best, malfunctioning. 80% of sewage is untreated and more than 65% of garbage is deposited in open spaces or thrown in waterways. Children run barefooted around broken glass, trash and feces to play soccer in the streets. The high prevalence of gang violence, drug and alcohol abuse, and physical and sexual abuse make favelas fundamentally unsafe. Additionally, the roads in the favelas are often unpaved, which means that during the lengthy rainy season, roadways become lakes and physical activity becomes nearly impossible.

The Community Life Center

We determined that it was essential to preserve the children's ability to play and decided to build a gymnasium to serve as a center for physical education at the school. As plans evolved, it became clear that the structure needed to be much more than a gymnasium. It would also be:



- A safe, dry, shaded place for children to play on a daily basis
- A center for team sports
- A space for growth and education of physically needy children
- A space for music education and instrument storage
- An area to facilitate student led activities and provide much needed storage
- A stage to promote the tremendous skills of our students, both in sports and the performing arts
- A facility to host weekly events, meetings and fun days
- A venue to bring local, national and international talent in arts and music
- An asset to a community with no access to public services
- A cause for community pride and dignity
- A base for a community radio station for teaching and health education
- A sanctuary for worship

To learn more about program activities, please contact:

The Channel, Inc

501(c)(3)

PO Box 804

Newport News, VA
23607

Phone: (757) 244-6852

Email: cbc@thechannel.org

www.thechannel.org

The Channel is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization established in 1995. We are a Christian developmental organization with over 25 years of experience working with impoverished children and communities in Brazil.

Our vision is to train and equip the future leaders of Brazil by creating a pathway out of poverty for children through quality education and training. Our project in Fortaleza is CBC (Channel to Brazil for Christ) University of Life and is a non-sectarian institution open to children of any color, race or religion.

The Channel is funded by contributions from individuals and groups who passionately believe that by working together we can improve the lives of children living in poverty, one child at a time.



Building the Center

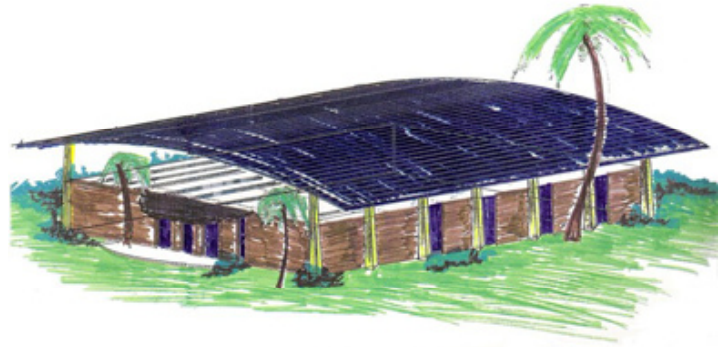
Building began in December 2005 with the foundation work, framing and aluminum roofing. In 2007, construction culminated in the final concreting of the stage, classrooms, bleachers and main arena. The current facility includes:

- 13,395 square feet
- 3 new classrooms
- A large, raised stage complete with setup for lighting and sound
- A room for a future radio station
- Space for bathroom facilities
- Bleachers for seating
- A completed roof covering
- Storage facilities

Future Goals and Estimated Financial Needs

There are still several projects yet to be finished before the Community Life Center can become a fully functioning facility. These include:

- Plumbing and bathroom facilities -- \$30,000
- Decorations and furnishings -- \$22,000
- Electric wiring and lighting -- \$50,000
- Sound system purchase and installation -- \$40,000
- Enclose the space with walls, doors and windows -- \$35,000
- Security system
- Sports equipment -- \$25,000
- Court for basketball, soccer, etc. -- \$20,000
- Hardware and broadcast materials for radio station



Vision for the completed center

How can I help?

This is how your assistance would benefit the Community Life Center:

- Donate funds to aid the completion of the project
- Travel to Brazil to help with building, plumbing, wiring or decorating
- Provide funds to support basic operating costs for current programs
- Travel to Brazil to hold a sports workshop, bring a sports team down to play in a tournament at the University of Life, offer teaching in music, theater or dance, or share any other skills



Seating for crowds and court for playing sports



Stage for performances