

University of Life Information Technology Program

Mission

To offer students a fully integrated information technology (IT) program that supports general classroom work, challenges and develops logic and problem solving capabilities and enhances overall competency and knowledge of basic computing skills and software

Background

Brazil has Latin America's largest IT market and a large number of computer-related jobs. Despite this potential, access to both computers and the Internet remain inadequate, particularly among favela (Brazilian slum) residents. Consequently, the poor have limited computer skills—a necessity in the increasingly virtual economy. Unfortunately, the under-funded public school system, which is only able to offer 4 hours of education daily, is ill-equipped to provide this necessary education. The small percentage of children who do graduate from public high school will leave with little-to-no IT exposure. Without the ability to create an résumé, maintain an e-mail address, or apply for jobs online, residents are unable to compete in the job market and remain trapped in their current economic state.

Our Response

To fill this gap, we have developed a fully integrated IT program as part of our required educational program. Along with basic word processing software and online research tools, students utilize software developed for Brazilian educational networks, many of which are used in elite private schools. The IT program also...



- Supports general classroom work
- Challenges and develops logic and problem-solving
- Increases knowledge of basic computing skills and software
- Teaches students to use the Internet as a tool for everyday life
- Prepares students to pursue higher education or obtain a quality job

The ultimate goal of the IT program is to provide our students with a comprehensive IT education and adequate access to computers and the Internet, which will allow them to leave school with an appropriate level of computer literacy to secure places in higher education programs and successfully compete in the job market.

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.



Our Dilemma

There are currently only 8 computers available for 370 elementary, high school and college students. Time on the computer is limited and students often have to share with one or two classmates. While our students still get more time on computers than most of their peers, it is still an inadequate amount of time to allow them to develop the necessary skills. Our older students are currently sharing space with the younger ones and desperately need their own computer room and study space to prepare for their more difficult classes and exams.



Dirt collecting in our cables

Additionally, the classroom space is inappropriate for computers. It is hot and humid and a visible layer of dust and pollen collects daily, making our students uncomfortable and reducing the life of our computers.

Future Goals

Our plans are to renovate our existing space and expand into a second IT classroom/study lounge for older students. We want to create a bigger, cleaner and more comfortable learning environment. We would like to have room for 30 computers, which would allow sufficient time for each student to learn and grow. To do this we need to do the following:

- Raise and seal the ceiling to keep dust, pollen and heat out
- Add walls to create another classroom space
- Purchase and install 22 new computers
- Purchase and install air conditioning units
- Install cables and networking for Internet and printing access
- Purchase classroom supplies, such as chairs, tables, paper, and print cartridges



How can I help?

Here are some concrete ways that the IT program would benefit from your assistance:

- Donate funds to purchase a computer (\$550 each) and software
- Donate funds to help us complete renovation
- Hold a fundraising event to help us complete our IT program renovation goals--it will cost us approximately \$31,000 to complete
- Travel to Brazil to help build, install cables and wiring and decorate the classroom
- Travel to Brazil to give a seminar on IT programs
- Help support our IT teacher--it costs \$900 per month to employ a full-time teacher