

How does one small non-profit make a difference in working for a more equal and just world at a time of economic challenge?

It stays true to its core values of local leadership, strength in local and global community, compassion, and collective action in building programmes that make a deep impact with a broad reach.

2009 Annual Report



In 2009, the Bahia Street Centre enrolled sixty girls, providing high quality instruction in all basic subjects, including maths, science, history, Portuguese, and English. It maintained additional outreach to high school and university graduates of the programme, as well as with caregivers, community members, public school teachers, and community activists. Students received two meals a day at the Centre, health services, and opportunities to engage with the community beyond the Centre. The combined effect was a programme that educated, inspired, and engaged young people in an effort towards equality and opportunity.

Bahia Street breaks cycles of poverty and violence through quality educational programmes for impoverished girls and young women living in the shantytowns of Salvador, Brazil. Beyond Brazil, Bahia Street promotes greater understanding about poverty, race, and gender and ways to provide non-intrusive programme support to projects in the developing world.

In Brazil

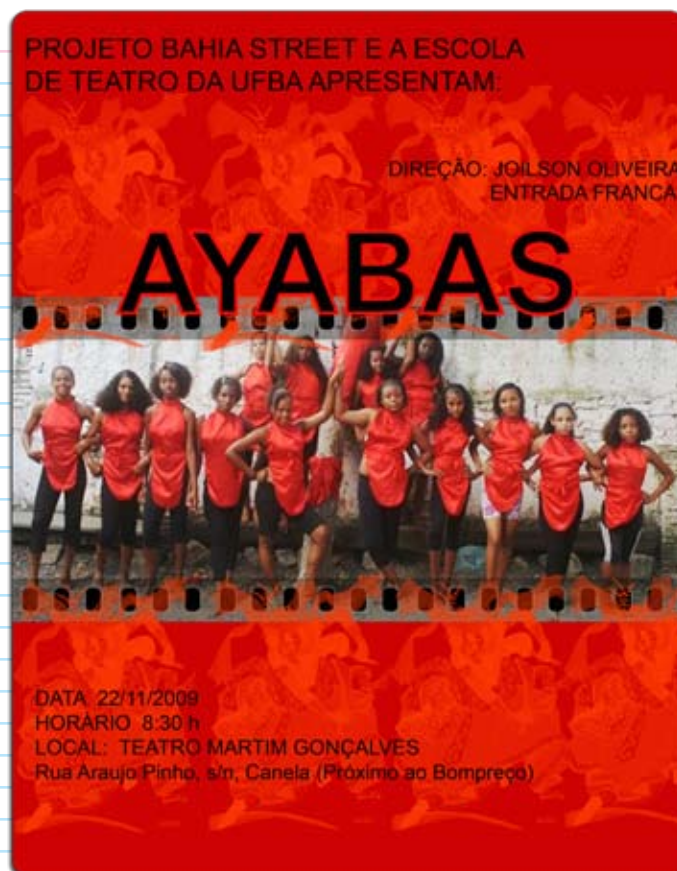
2009 was a year of growth and transition at the Bahia Street Centre. The project turned a corner from a small grassroots organization to one of the leading education and social change organizations in the city of Salvador. Leaders and staff focused on capacity-building and programme evaluation while providing day-to-day services to the Bahia Street community. The Centre is expanding its reach by impacting the opportunities and resources of those people in the lives of the girls it is already serving: teachers, parents, siblings, community members, and other children.

HIGHLIGHTS

- ★ Twelve girls have now entered university, and one has graduated with a degree in nutrition and health. Their subjects range from nursing to architecture, and they continue to return to the Centre for support and mentoring.
- ★ Besides its 60 students, the Centre is providing food to three families without other access to nutrition and is sharing manioc flour, corn meal, and other foods with two local projects in Bahia Street's neighbourhood. Rita buys exclusively from local vendors, receiving discounts on fresh fruit and meat and giving them a regular income.
- ★ The Centre strengthened partnerships with local non-profit and arts organizations. A major theatre, for example – the Teatro Vila Velha – invited Bahia Street students to participate in a theatrical workshop and performance, a highlight of the year for many students. They also joined maths and poetry competitions, bringing them in close collaboration with other students.
- ★ A major focus of the Bahia Street programme is on leadership, and students demonstrated increased critical reasoning skills geared toward political action and leadership in the state-funded schools they attend. (Students attend state school in the morning and Bahia Street in the afternoon.) Many of the girls' state school teachers attend the Centre's community celebrations and use Bahia Street as a model in their own professional development.
- ★ Students are demonstrating increased determination and perseverance. Quite a few girls attend Bahia Street against their parents' wishes, with some parents preferring their daughters go to work instead of to school. The girls continue to come, nevertheless, motivated by older students and each other.
- ★ The Bahia Street Centre invites caregivers to the Centre each month to connect them with the work of the Centre, each other,



The staff of the Bahia Street Centre



Poster for the Teatro Vila Velha performance

- and resources beyond the Centre that might improve their lives. Half or more of the parents come each month, and those who do not come are asked to meet with Centre leadership at another time. Topics include food and nutrition, domestic violence, sexuality, children's rights, race, and Bolsa Familia, a government programme aimed at helping Brazil's poorest families.
- ★ In December 2009, Rita Conceição, the Director of the Bahia Street Centre, received the Ivy Inter-American Prize presented by the Permanent Representative of Brazil to the Organization of American States, Ambassador Ruy Casaes, on behalf of the Ivy Inter-American Foundation.



Rita's award was presented by Anabella Jordan (centre) and Permanent Representative of Brazil to the OAS, Ambassador Ruy Casaes (right)

Beyond Brazil

Bahia Street promotes greater understanding about race, class, poverty, gender, and collaborative social change through a variety of initiatives. Its education and volunteer programmes are designed to give participants the opportunity to learn, gain cross-cultural and inter-disciplinary skills, and engage in actions that lead to social change.

STUDY TRIPS

★ Bahia Street hosted Chatham University (Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, US) and its "Society, Nature, and Culture" field seminar. Creative writing graduate students spent two weeks exploring Bahian society and its diverse environments and expressed their insights through various forms of writing.

★ Nine participants (including Bahia Street Trust Director, Susie De Paolis, and UK board member, Nadine Grieve) spent ten days in Bahia hosted by Bahia Street as part of its 6th annual Society, Equality and Change Study Trip. Led by Board Member Melanie Wyffels and Centre Director Rita Conceição, participants explored Cachoeira, hiked to a waterfall in Ituberá, and visited the Bahia Street Centre to see the project in action.



Study trip participants in Salvador

"It was a very educational and culturally rich programme that took me out of my comfort zone in a way that helped me begin to understand Brazilian culture, which is more complex and layered than I could have ever imagined" -Cassie Gorton



Snapshots from the students in the study abroad programme.

★ Bahia Street (U.S.) partnered with the University of Washington's Office of Minority Affairs and Diversity on a study abroad programme in Brazil during Fall Quarter 2009. In a course entitled "Powerful Narratives: Exploring Gender, Race, and 'Development'," Bahia Street International Director Margaret Willson led 15 students in an exploration of race, identity, and power.

"I left for Brasil hoping to have an eye opening, genuine experience, and that is what I had." -University Student

VOLUNTEER PROGRAMMES

January Work Party: Amber Chaves, Amina Jalloh, Barbara Leedy, Danielle Brown, Morgan LaManna, Michael Ecker, Shaun McMillan

Work party participants spend two weeks at the Centre while it is closed. Volunteers paint, clean, and do basic construction.

Bahia Street Centre Volunteers: Ashley Atkins, Cait Crosse, Laura Packer, Paula Mans

Bahia Street engages up to two volunteers each quarter to teach English at the Centre and provide general administrative support.

"It wasn't until Bahia Street that I learned the true meaning of love. Not necessarily in things or even in people, but in the simple happiness and joys of life. That centre is bursting with love! A love of being alive despite whatever life throws our way. A love for learning, and a true sisterly love. I am proud to have been a part of that essence; I am proud to have been shaped by it." -Ashley Atkins

Financials & Governance

Bahia Street is a registered non-profit in Brazil, the US, and the UK, each with a separate board of directors.

	Notes	Brazil	US	UK
Jan 09 Opening Balance		R\$ 142,332	\$119,223	£34,023
Programme Services Expense	1	R\$ 266,742	\$186,720	£18,000
Management and Fundraising			\$ 32,950	£ 4,745
Income	2	R\$ 387,024	\$234,692	£48,984
Dec 09 Closing Balance	3	R\$ 262,614	\$134,245	£60,262

- (Brazil) Includes R\$213,000 for operations of the Bahia Street Centre and R\$53,742 for local operation of study programmes. (US) Includes funds sent to Brazil for Bahia Street Centre operations (\$143,000) and funds expended on study and volunteer programmes. (UK) Funds to Brazil for Centre operations.
- Bahia Street Centre income includes funds from the US and UK (for Centre operations), proceeds from study trips and Rio bank account interest.
- Reserve to fund 2010 operations.

Complete details of 2009 accounts are available for Bahia Street (US) through Guidestar (www.guidestar.org), and for the Bahia Street Trust (UK) at the Charities Commission (www.charity-commission.gov.uk).

UK DIRECTOR

Susie De Paolis

UK BOARD MEMBERS

Alex, Earl of Uxbridge

Susie De Paolis

Nick Emley

Nadine Grieve

INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

Barbara Ballas, Australia

Robert Barclay, Brazil

Robert Bonzejar-Flears, The Netherlands

Peter Gow, Scotland

Don Kulick, United States

Maaikje Verrips, The Netherlands

Connie Wong, United States

CO-FOUNDERS

Rita Conceição, Bahia Street Centre Director

Margaret Willson, International Director



Design by volunteer Margaret "Meps"
Schulte, The Idea Distillery

**THE BAHIA
STREET
TRUST**

From Illiteracy to Equality
in Brazil and Beyond

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