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Your Honor Judge Guacy Sibille

Dear Judge Guacy, et. al:

Not often in our lifetime do we, as individuals, have the opportunity to actually see the legacy that we leave to future generations through our hard work and accomplishments. However, on this occasion of the dedication of the Jovens Contra O Crime/Jovens Construindo a Cidadania do Brasil (JCC) NGO and new home, we see the result of dedicated efforts by many. As a youth-led crime prevention/leadership program, it is our considered opinion that this accomplishment, the development of JCC, will do more to positively alter the lives of the youth of Brazil than those programs that merely call themselves youth based, by providing the resources for them to actively change their overall quality of life.

JCC had its official beginning on February 24, 1999 in the city of Bauru. Since then, the program has grown throughout the entire country of Brazil. It goes without saying that a youth-led crime prevention/leadership program of this magnitude takes the hard work and dedicated efforts of many people. Although started by a few, success is determined by a team approach from the youth served by the program to the highest levels of both the private corporate sector and public government agencies. It is for this reason, we wish to congratulate all those who have been and will be directly involved in this effort rather than attempt to name specific individuals and risk not recognizing the valuable contributions that all have made. Always keep in mind that JCC and our partnership has been based on one of inclusion versus exclusion. We, therefore, wish to include everyone in the wonderful accomplishments being celebrated here today and to remember that in years to come, the lives of hundreds of thousands of youth will be made better because of JCC.

Some of the most recent developments of JCC, just to name a few, are as follows:

- The development of the JCC Web Site that is linked directly to YCWA.
- The participation of 3,000 students in 150 schools of 12 municipalities of the Southwestern Border Brazil/Uruguay under the leadership of Col. Claudio.
- Many visits by JCC students to the Military Police Headquarters
- The students of the schools involved in the JCC program prepared a theatre play to promote a positive environment free of drugs, crime and violence.
- The first JCC Conference took place in May 2002 in Ribeirão Preto City and hosted students from the entire State of Sao Paulo and surrounding areas.
- YCWA trainers were brought to Brazil and presented a youth-led crime prevention/leadership training course in 2002.
- The translation and adaptation of the YCWA Handbook into Portuguese specifically for JCC.

As anthropologist Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of committed individuals can change the world: indeed it's the only thing that ever does."

To the JCC Advisory Board and all the members of the YCWA/JCC family, we wish you continued success in your development and pledge our continued cooperation in all related matters. If we may be of further assistance regarding this and/or any other matters of mutual concern, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Gerald A. Rudoff,  
Chairman of the Board

Anne Helliwell,  
President

Huberth Neiva  
Special Advisor

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