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Issue 34: Nov/ Dec 2015

## VOLUNTEERS ARE PAID IN SIX FIGURES S.M.I.L.E.S

(Gala LeMaire)



By Ruth Marques

Oh, how I dread the first day at The University of Life when a visiting team has just gone home! It's the one day that the children look so disappointed to see me! (just me!)

*"Oh teacher, where are they? They were so fun! Make a way to bring them back again, pleeeeeease!!!!!"*

Life goes on, and these resilient children from the slums soon bounce back to normal, but not without some fantastic memories of the times they have shared with UNiViDA volunteers from England.

As staff at the University of Life, we cannot say a big enough thank you to the two teams who have made such a tremendous impact over the last two months. Teams bring, not just physical change and improvements to the grounds and classrooms of the project but most importantly, lasting change and growth in the lives of the students. Here are some of the things we've been up to.

UNiViDA is a Registered Charity No. 1136743

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- A tie dye project enabling each student to design their own t-shirt which will now be used as our PE Kit.
- A brand new media classroom, already in use for educational films, drama lessons and as a temporary dance studio.
- 70 colourful and comfy cushions for the media classroom.
- Painting the bridge, corridors and patio area
- Excellent teaching about facing the storms in our lives with faith and determination.
- Teacher training on classroom management
- Two Super Saturday Events - one with a mini Olympic games and the other with bouncy castles!
- Model boat making and races in the swimming pool.
- Great assemblies about building self-esteem, being unique and developing our gifts and talents.
- Bicycle Maintenance workshops
- Lots of singing and dancing

As these teams return to the UK, we hope that they will share their experience at The University of Life, spreading the word to others about the work of UNiViDA.

Meanwhile, here is a promise from one of our students here in Brazil. "

***"Teacher, we'll remember them  
for the rest of our lives"***



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*On the way, just another  
£3,000 to go.*



Here's another picture of our gym in use on children's day at the end of October 2015.

**WE ARE IN DESPERATE NEED OF COMPLETING THE BATHROOMS!** Can you help?

Thank you to everyone who has responded so far.  
We've raised £2,000 since our last newsletter.

Please consider making a special donation to help get this project wrapped up and our community facility complete. The money will be used to buy sinks, toilets, cubicle doors, etc... All of the plumbing, electrics etc.. are already complete., we are nearly there!

Please visit  
[www.univida.org](http://www.univida.org) to find out more and make a donation.



**THANK YOU**



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## My Storms

Children recently shared some of the storms they are going through in their lives. Here are some of the situations they described.

"My mum and dad are always fighting"

"My dad drinks and gets angry"

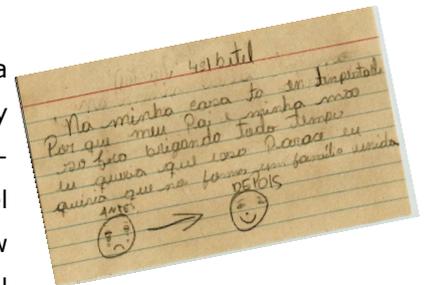
"My grandma doesn't have any money to buy our food."

"My uncle is in prison"

"My brother is dead and so is my cousin"

"I want to know who my dad is"

This drawing shows a sad face and a happy face as the child explains how they feel at present and how they'd like to feel when the storm in their life is over.



## Become A Monthly Giver

There is nothing more rewarding that supporting the growth and development of a child in need. Perhaps you can make an early New Year's Resolution to support a child through UNiViDA in 2016?

If so, please get in touch and we'll be happy to help you set up a standing order.

