




# UNiViDA

Bringing life, hope & opportunity  
to children in Brazil

UNiViDA is a Registered Charity No. 1136743  
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@lifehopeandopportunity 

## Results&Relationship

Nov / Dec 2020 Newsletter Issue 68 Page 1/3

## A Sobering Year In Fortaleza

Even before the pandemic, 2020 did not start well in Fortaleza. During a 13 day strike by Military Police in February, murder rates hit a staggering average of 26 per day. Since then, recorded homicides have [doubled from this time last](#) year. In 2020, Fortaleza has registered some of the highest levels of inflation in the country. Between January and September, food prices have climbed by [over 9%](#). With an already weakened economy the state of Ceara has recorded [increases in extreme poverty](#) for the last three consecutive years.

The COVID-19 pandemic hit the slums of Brazil very hard, spreading rapidly through densely populated neighbourhoods. People were confused and desperate as they were told not to go to work. Along with the virus, fear, hunger and anger spread through the streets. People were frightened to go to the hospital if they were sick and they didn't know how to get access to basic foods and medicines.

Eventually some government support was offered but people had to queue for hours at banks to receive a small welfare payment. One of the saddest consequences for UNiViDA has been the loss of focus on education. During these desperate times, children have been tasked with cooking, cleaning, looking after siblings and informal work, to make ends meet. Sadly criminal activities have continued during the pandemic and organized factions have continued to terrorize the community. At home, children have been even more exposed to gang activities, and at risk of abuse. Some of our students who were initially keeping in touch with us online, are now communicating less. Keeping up our daily messages of encouragement to children and parents will remain a top priority for UNiViDA.

Since it is now unlikely that public schools will be allowed to open before the end of the year, children will have to wait until February 2021 at the earliest, before they can be back in a school environment. The University of Life still does not have permission from the local authorities to re-start normal activities. When we do gradually begin classes in person, children will need a lot of extra support.

Read on to see what we have been able to do over the last few weeks and how we plan to help our families celebrate Christmas.

## Remember João?

February 2020 must seem like a distant memory to João, that's when he started at The University of Life. Even then it took us a few weeks before we saw his eyes light up and a smile spread across his face. João was abandoned by his parents and is being raised by Edilson who has adopted him. When they received a food parcel from UNiViDA, they had been without food for two weeks.

Thanks to your support Joao has now also received a learning pack with activities to keep him busy at home.

**Thanks for making a difference.**



# Laughter is the best medicine

There were no words to describe the mixture of emotions felt by both staff and teachers as we welcomed 10 students into the University of Life for a special arts project in October.

Anxiety quickly turned into laughter as we sat students down, spaced well apart and talked about how strange it felt to be back together.

*"When we realized that we all felt the same there was so much relief. We all felt privileged and so happy to be there that we just kept giggling! It was a special moment."* (Ana-Clara, year 8).

The special class was a one off occurrence and students will complete the art assignment at home. We look forward to sharing their work on our Facebook Page.



"Even in a pandemic you thought of me."



"This makes me feel so special."

"Thank you for thinking of my children."



"Thank you for your dedication. God bless you." (Look at my forehead!)



# UNiViDA Christmas Food Parcels

Children and their families in the slums face a bleak Christmas. Living in overcrowded housing means that disease spreads quickly. There are shortages of clean water and each day food becomes more expensive.

**UNiViDA has a unique opportunity to bring Christmas cheer to families who are marginalized by poverty, gang violence and fear.**

We're doing all we can to prepare Christmas parcels of food for 260 families.

**BUT WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Together we can make a very special difference for children with no toys and little food this Christmas.

**PLEASE SUPPORT OUR SPECIAL CHRISTMAS COLLECTION**

[virginmoneygiving.com/fund/unividafoodparcels](http://virginmoneygiving.com/fund/unividafoodparcels)



## Christmas Past & Present

December is usually our busiest time of year in Brazil, with school exams, Christmas rehearsals and graduations all crammed into the same season.

These pictures remind us what Christmas should look like at The University of Life! Like you, we hope and pray that we will all find ways to celebrate Christmas this year, valuing those we love and looking forward to new opportunities in 2021. **HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**



Christmas Musical - Parents and Students, 2019



Christmas Staff Fun with Brazilian Olaf, 2019



Year 9, 2019



Year 3, 2017



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## Standing Order Mandate

### Send This Section To Your Bank

To: Manager of \_\_\_\_\_ (name of your bank)

Address of your Bank \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay: UNiViDA, HSBC Bank, 31 Carolgate, Retford, Notts  
DN22 6DA Sort Code 40-38-11 Account No. 41435434 the  
sum of £ \_\_\_\_\_ commencing on: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
and continuing monthly until further notice.

Name (on account to be debited): \_\_\_\_\_

Account No.: \_\_\_\_\_ Sort Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Send This Section To Your Bank



Registered Charity in England and Wales No. 1136743  
UNiViDA Office 55 High Street, Staple Hill, Bristol BS 16 5HD

Email: [office@univida.org](mailto:office@univida.org)

## Send To UNiViDA

Reg. Charity in England  
and Wales No. 1136743

Title \_\_\_\_\_ Name \_\_\_\_\_

Full Address \_\_\_\_\_

Tel/Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

I will set up a monthly standing order for £ \_\_\_\_\_  
to support a child at The University of Life in Fortaleza.

I enclose a cheque/cash payable to UNiViDA for £ \_\_\_\_\_  
YOU CAN ALSO GIVE ONLINE - Virgin Money Giving

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every  
£1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by the charity  
from the tax you pay for the current tax year. **Your  
address is needed to identify you as a current UK  
taxpayer.** In order to Gift Aid your donation you must tick the  
box below, fill in the date & give your full name & address



Date: \_\_\_\_\_

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_ and any dona-  
tions I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years to  
UNiViDA. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less  
Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift  
Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year it is my re-  
sponsibility to pay any difference.

Please notify UNiViDA if you: want to cancel this declaration, change  
your name or home address or no longer pay sufficient tax on your  
income and/or capital gains. If you pay Income Tax at the higher or  
additional rate and want to receive the additional tax relief due to  
you, you must include all your Gift Aid donations on your Self-  
Assessment tax return or ask HM Revenue and Customs to adjust your  
tax code.

Return to:

UNiViDA Office 55 High St, Staple Hill, Bristol BS16 5HD

Email: [office@univida.org](mailto:office@univida.org)

## Ways To Give

We invite you to help us transform the lives of more  
children in the favelas by becoming a Dreambuilder.

The best way to give is to set up a **Standing Order** with  
your bank. You can also give **online through**  
**Virgin Money Giving** or by cash or cheque (payable to  
UNiViDA). You may also make donations through your  
Stewardship account or using CAF vouchers.

## We Provide...

Services to 260 children, 5 days a week

- Hot food & clean water
- Homework Assistance
- 4 hours extra hours of education per day (to compliment 4 hours of state schooling)
- Music, dance, drama, PE, art and IT
- Projects and special events
- Christian education
- Family counselling



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