



UNiViDA

Bringing life, hope & opportunity
to children in Brazil

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[@lifehopeandopportunity](#) 

 **June / July 2023** Newsletter Issue 84

Results & Relationship

Welcome to our Summer Newsletter. It might not feel like summer quite yet, but in Fortaleza, the rainy season is finally coming to an end and we are finishing the first semester (January to June). Our children will be on holiday for July, however we are excited that for the first time we will be providing a holiday club.

Don't forget to look at our [You Tube Channel](#) for our latest videos, and follow us on [Facebook](#) for real time updates about our activities, especially over the summer. Thanks for reading on!

Stephen

"My name is Stephen, I'm 25 and I've been married to Aurilene for 5 years. I play the guitar, flute, drums, bass and a little keyboard. Oh, and I sing as well!

I learnt all of these instruments as a teenager in my church and I was invited to play the flute in our community orchestra sponsored by a national supermarket. (You could call it the community Tesco's Orchestra!)

I was grateful for the opportunity to teach music to children in my small church and I was coached to become a better teacher. At the age of 20 I was in charge of all the music in my church.

I remember the first time I went to The University of Life. A friend of mine invited me to the Christmas concert and I was enchanted by the whole thing. I specifically remember the sensation of so much open space in the middle of the favela. I had seen the children going in and out of the project in their green t-shirts and always thought that it was a very bright colour. They always seemed happy walking through the alleyways to school despite the heat and smell.



Stephen walking home through the favela

The night of the Christmas concert, I realized that the colour of the uniform matched the enthusiasm, joy and life in that place.

Two months ago I was invited to the project again after hearing that they were looking for a new music teacher. There were two things that really struck me as I spent a week getting to know the staff and students. The first was the unity of the staff team and the second was the sense of peace that I felt. I was delighted to be invited to join The University of Life as the music teacher.

My desire is to motivate the children, even the youngest ones to study music. I also want to be a role model who shows them Christian principles.

Thank you for your support which gives me this opportunity. I hope that I will be able to meet you one day as we continue to help these children together."

Watch Stephen teaching guitar at The University of Life.

[www.youtube.com/
unividacharity](http://www.youtube.com/unividacharity)



The last team of volunteers that Marc and Ruth hosted in Fortaleza was back at the end of 2019. It's been a long time since we have enjoyed the company of visitors at The University of Life.

Mission teams are important to us because they help us share our vision and encourage our staff and students. We also have many practical projects which mission teams can help with.

If you would like to bring a team to Fortaleza in 2024, please email ruth.marques@univida.org

Sofia

Sofia is a unique student at The University of Life. She is the only student who spends 24 hours a day at school because she is our caretaker's daughter. Her house is just a few steps from the playground and at 5pm the whole place becomes her back garden!



Sofia waited patiently for 6 years to become a student with us, and she is now living her dream! What stands out about Sofia is her humility and contentment with life. She doesn't boast about the fact that she lives on-site, even though she realizes she has a very privileged situation compared with other students.

Sofia's dream is to become a veterinarian. In addition to looking after the project's night-time guard dogs, Sofia's family have two dogs in their home one which she affectionately named Scooby Doo. Sophia's superpower is smiling. She says that the world needs joy.

If you ever come and meet Sofia, you will most likely see her helping her father in the evenings or quietly watching as she observes all the comings and goings at the project.



Rather than a direct child sponsorship which increases administration costs significantly, UNiViDA invites you to donate £40/month, which is the cost of supporting one child at The University of Life.

See page 3 or visit www.univida.org to become a Dreambuilder today.

In Numbers

What UNiViDA will offer Sofia in the next 6 months?

With your partnership as a Dreambuilder, we can plan ahead to make sure that Sofia will receive the support she needs to succeed with her education over the next 6 months.

Instead of the danger of the slums, UNiViDA is providing a place of safety for 260 children everyday.

From now until Christmas, Sofia will receive...

440 hours
of
education

110 hot
meals

66 hours of
safe play



UNiViDA

Update Your Gift Aid Declaration

Please update your details and gift aid status / or use this form to make a new pledge to support a child by becoming a Dreambuilder. We will keep your details in accordance with our privacy policy. You can also fill out a gift a declaration at www.univida.org/giftaid

I will give £ _____ per month / one time gift (please circle)

Date* _____ Title & Full Name* _____

Email* _____

Address* _____ Postcode* _____

UNiViDA Donations

CAF Bank

Sort code: 40-52-40

Account No: 00035001

Boost your donation by 25p of Gift Aid for every £1 you donate. Gift Aid is reclaimed by UNiViDA from the tax you pay for the current tax year. Your **address*** is needed to identify you as a current UK taxpayer and you **must tick** the box below.

giftaid it

I want to Gift Aid my donation of £ _____ and any donations 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 responsibility 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 7 High St, Staple Hill, Bristol BS16 5HA**
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