

ANNUAL REPORT

2014 - 2015



Brazilian Association for Culture and Education (ABRACE)
McLean High School
1633 Davidson Rd, McLean, VA 22101

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Board of Directors	p. 2
Educational Programs	p. 4
Cultural Activities	p. 5
Financial Results	p. 6
Our Vision for the Future	p. 8

LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ABRACE was established in 2009 as a nonprofit organization with the mission to preserve and promote Brazilian education, and cultural and social integration among the Brazilian community and friends of Brazil who live in the Washington DC metro area. ABRACE aims to be recognized as an organization that, through participation and involvement of parents, teachers, and children, inspires the community to embrace its Brazilian identity and provides a cultural immersion opportunity for those interested in learning Portuguese.

Fiscal year 2014-2015 was both rewarding and challenging for ABRACE. During this period, ABRACE consolidated the gains made in previous years, and strengthened its management structure to increase quality and respond to the demands of the community. We are extremely proud of the children who embrace their heritage language and are grateful to the individuals and families that have supported us by enrolling in our educational programs, participating in our cultural activities, volunteering, and helping to build and strengthen this community.

FY 14-15 was also challenging for ABRACE as this was a transitional period marked by the departure of our former Education Director, and the hiring of a new one, Ana Claudia Kornellius. This was an opportunity to review our organizational structure, systematize our decision-making processes and flows, implement new financial processes and controls, and search for more sustainable sources of funding. Furthermore, due to construction at Langley High School, our curricular activities were relocated to McLean High School, our new home.

This is ABRACE's second published annual report and constitutes another step toward more transparency and accountability. The report shows our accomplishments in three major areas: educational programs, cultural activities, and financial results.

ABRACE's work would not be possible without the help of our teachers, parents, and numerous volunteers. To maintain the quality of our work and sustain the dream to "create a home away from home", we need your continuous help. No contribution is too small. There is a lot to be done but the friendships developed and the sense of accomplishment seeing Brazil grow in our American-Brazilian children's hearts makes it all worth it.

As we look forward to the coming years, we invite you to join us in our mission to promote and preserve the cultural, educational, and social integration of our American-Brazilian community.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Brazilian Heritage Language Program for Children

ABRACE offers yearly two semesters of instruction to children ages 2 to 17 in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. In FY 14-15, 223 children participated in our programs (121 in the Fall of 2014 and 102 in the Spring of 2015). This represents a slight decrease (14%) from the prior fiscal year, when ABRACE served 260 students. Due to the reduced number of students, and to maintain strong academic standards, we decided to only offer one class for each age group, down from two in some age groups in previous years.

In FY14-15, ABRACE made great advances in pedagogical planning, ensuring alignment of its educational program with the practice of Portuguese as a heritage language. We built a strong and committed team of teachers who attended monthly pedagogical discussions. On our constant search for pedagogical improvement, a new tool was developed to document each student's social and linguistic background in Portuguese: the Initial Evaluation Form. It also serves as a guide to the teachers to track students' performance progress and to direct efforts to help each and all of them.

Furthermore, we reorganized and restarted the activities of ABRACE's library, which became a very cherished and popular activity among students and parents.

For FY 15-16, we hope to maintain our quality educational offers and make strong strides towards financial sustainability.

Brazilian Portuguese Program for Adults and Lecture Program for Families

In FY 14-15, ABRACE continued to offer Brazilian Portuguese language classes for non-Portuguese speakers along with various workshops, and lectures for families. We offered introductory and intermediate Portuguese classes to a total of almost 30 students in the two semesters. In addition, ABRACE organized two important lectures for American-Brazilian families:

Assistance to Children with Special Learning Needs

This lecture was held in the fall of 2014 with the Brazilian psychologist Renata Cerqueira. Dr. Cerqueira, who works with children in the Arlington Public School system, walked participants through the American education system and how it responds to special education needs. She answered questions and shared resources that are available to the community.

Taxes in Brazil vs. USA

This lecture was held in the spring of 2015 with Monique Menezes and Marcio Pavlov. Mrs. Menezes is a Certified Public Accountant and owns a tax preparation business in Burke, VA. Mr. Pavlov is an economist who heads his own financial planning firm based in Arlington, VA.

The speakers talked about new regulations in the field and their impact for Brazilians living abroad, compared the tax systems of the two countries, and answered questions.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

During FY 14-15, ABRACE continued to promote and disseminate Brazilian culture in its various aspects, including performing arts, music, and literature. Below are some of the events carried out in the period:

Literature in the classroom – Literature plays an important role in learning. ABRACE has been incorporating literature in storytelling and reading activities in its classes to offer opportunities for students to explore and share works of Brazilian authors.

Storytelling with Teens – ABRACE encourages older students to engage with younger ones by creating opportunities for storytelling. This helps to create a sense of community and responsibility in our teenagers.

Soccer with DC United – We organized a community building event where children had the opportunity to meet DC United players and share their love of soccer.

Carnival – One of the largest cultural manifestations in Brazil, Carnival is an important celebration of diversity and community engagement. ABRACE students participated in a parade where they showcased their costumes and danced to the sound of samba.

Cultural and Book Fair – ABRACE held its traditional book and cultural fair that counted with over 250 participants.

Music Workshop with EMCANTAR – EMCANTAR is an artistic and musical group from the State of Minas Gerais in Brazil. In partnership with ABRACE, they offered a 3-day workshop for teachers and parents. They also presented the children's play "Saltimbancos" to an audience of more than 50 families.

Little Ones Group – ABRACE started a group coordinated by moms of 0-3 children that aims to expose little ones to Brazilian music, literature, and culture. These events are free, open to the community, and are a great opportunity to start exposing children to ABRACE early on.

Children's Day Picnic – Another community engagement event where children and parents gathered to play typical Brazilian childhood games to mark Children's Day as celebrated in Brazil. Approximately 60 children participated.

Folklore Day – ABRACE organized a community picnic at a park to celebrate the Brazilian national day of Folklore, August 22. This was another free event attended by 23 families who enjoyed a puppet show, storytelling, and some typically Brazilian snacks.

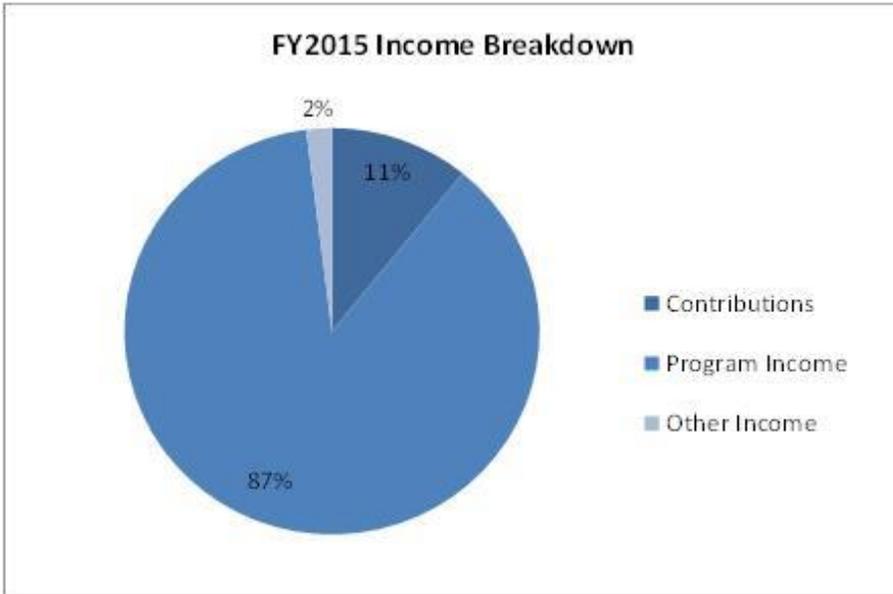
FINANCIAL RESULTS

Below is ABRACE's financial statements for FY14-15

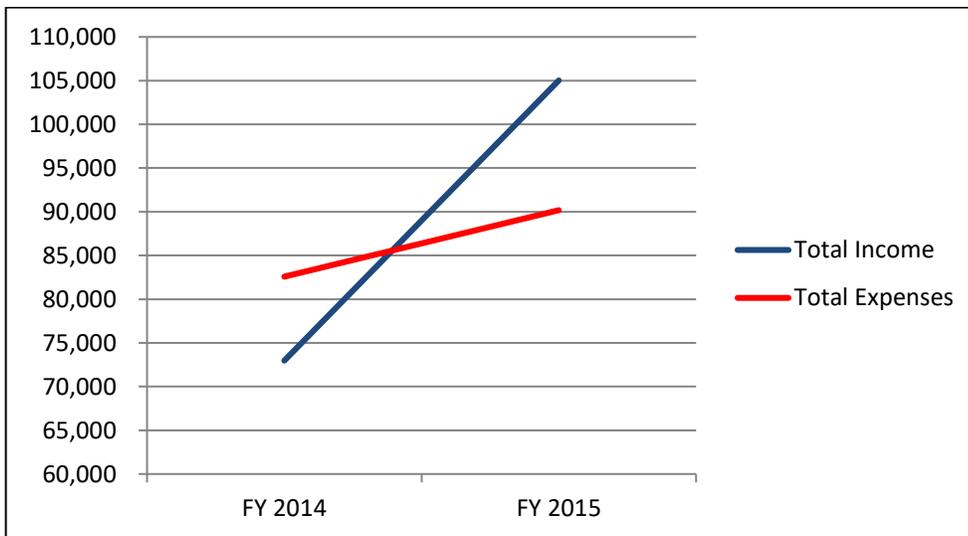
Financial Statements		
Accrual Basis		
Statement of Financial Position		
	as of	
	Aug 31 2015	Aug 31 2014
Assets		
Checking/Savings	86,386	76,700
Accounts Receivable	4,345	6,660
Other Current Assets	2,761	3,737
Total Assets	93,492	87,097
Liabilities & Equity		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	1,738	3,797
Unearned Revenues	32,649	38,692
Total Liabilities	34,387	42,489
Equity		
Temp. Retriected Net Assets	2,310	2,310
Unrestricted Net Assets	41,947	51,903
Net Income	14,848	(9,605)
Total Equity	59,105	44,608
Total Liabilities & Equity	93,492	87,097
Statement of Financial Income and Expenses		
	FY2015	FY2014
Income		
Contributions	11,401	16,159
Program Income	91,534	56,090
Other Income	2,090	722
Total Income	105,025	72,971
Expenses		
Business Expense	3,583	2,625
Contract Services	61,502	59,864
Facilities and Equipment	16,459	14,317
Operations	5,866	3,743
Insurance & Other Expenses	2,766	2,027
Total Expenses	90,177	82,576
Net Income (Loss)	14,848	(9,605)

Notes to Financial Statements

- 1) Unearned Revenues represents a prepayment for service ABRACE is expected to provide in future periods. This means ABRACE has a liability equal to the prepaid amount until delivery of the service. The prepayment represents tuition and related fees for classes expected to be delivered in the subsequent fall semester.
- 2) No CPA has given any assurance on these reports



Financial Income and Expenses comparison



Fundraising Accomplishments

In FY14-15, ABRACE maintained the fundraising level of previous fiscal years, receiving approximately \$5,000 (including in-kind donations) from four different sources: corporate (52 percent), individuals (21 percent), Brazilian government (17 percent), and foundations (10 percent). Among our corporate donors, *Banco do Brasil* Money Transfer was the greatest contributor.

The goal for the next fiscal year is to increase the level of contribution by 50 percent, by consolidating and expanding our relationship with corporate donors and the Brazilian government, while implementing strategic initiatives to diversify donation sources and to reach out to a broader scope of sponsors, partners, clients, and donors.

OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

During FY15-16, ABRACE hopes to continue reinforcing the values of cultural diversity, and community participation and engagement. It has three main goals for the next fiscal year, which are described below:

Goal 1: To continue to offer academic and cultural programs that inspire the Brazilian community to embrace its identity

The strategies to achieve this goal are:

- Increase student enrollment level.
- Stimulate greater parental involvement and community engagement in ABRACE.
- Continue to strengthen its financial and pedagogical processes.
- Develop and disseminate effective community engagement tools and expand the volunteer base.

Goal 2: To effectively communicate ABRACE's mission and work and ensure that it is seen as a key resource for the Brazilian community in the Washington, DC area

The strategies to achieve this goal are:

- Continue to host events that promote and celebrate Brazilian culture in the Washington, DC area.
- Raise awareness about the practice of Portuguese as heritage language.
- Improve awareness of the organization and its work.

Goal 3: To be an accountable and transparent organization that is viewed as a good investment by potential funders

The strategies to achieve this goal are:

- Strengthen partnerships with the community and attract investment from other organizations with similar goals.
- Continue to improve accountability and transparency.
- Attract and keep the best teachers.
- Maximize use of limited resources.

THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF ABRACE!

Natalia Speer — President of the Board of Directors

Natalia was born in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In 2001, Natalia moved from Brazil to Kansas City, to start her PhD in Economics at the University of Missouri – Kansas City. In 2007, she became a resident of the Washington, DC metropolitan area. Natalia is happily married and a mother of a wonderful boy who joined ABRACE in 2012. Learning about different cultures and their peculiarities has always been one of her passions, which she would like her son to share. Natalia has been informally contributing to ABRACE's mission since 2013. In January 2014, she officially became a member of its Board of Directors.

Daniela Silva—Educational Program Director

Daniela Silva graduated with a degree in psychology from the University of Brasilia and moved to the United States, where she earned her master's degree in educational psychology from Eastern Illinois University. She then returned to Brazil, where she worked in the American School of Brasilia as an educational psychologist, and again moved to the United States, this time to the Washington, DC region where she eventually became part of ABRACE's council in January of 2013. Daniela is married with three children, the eldest of which has participated in Portuguese classes since he was three years old.

Renata Johnson – Secretary of the Board

A native of Rio de Janeiro, Renata moved to the United States in 1997. She has two children who attend ABRACE and love Brazil. She is the editor of the International Journalists' Network in Portuguese, a website published by the International Center for Journalists. Her previous stints include the Wilson Center's Brazil Institute and the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at the University of Illinois. She was a producer for the radio program Global Journalist at the NPR-member station in Columbia, Missouri, where she received her M.A. in journalism/international development and a B.J. in print journalism. Her main interests are qualitative research and oral history, immigration and transnationalism, music and public radio. If she had free time, she would be singing and playing her guitar, sipping coconut water on the side.

Ana Lucia Lico – Fundraising Director, and Executive Director

In over 20 years of career, Ana Lucia has developed programs of Corporate Communications and social responsibility projects for several Brazilian companies, and has worked with Development and Customer Relations as a consultant for a couple of years for the Brazil Information Center (BIC). U.S. resident since 2003, Ana Lucia is married, has 2 children, and co-founded the group Mães Brasileiras da Virginia (MBV) in August 2004, motivated by the desire that her children one day will feel the same pride in their cultural background as she does. Joined the board of education and culture projects of MBV, initiatives that were the seed for the formal birth of ABRACE in 2009. Ana Lucia is co-founder of ABRACE, held the position of Executive Director until October 2012, joined the board of directors of ABRACE, and since 2015 is again the association's Executive Director.