

Annual Report **ABRACE**

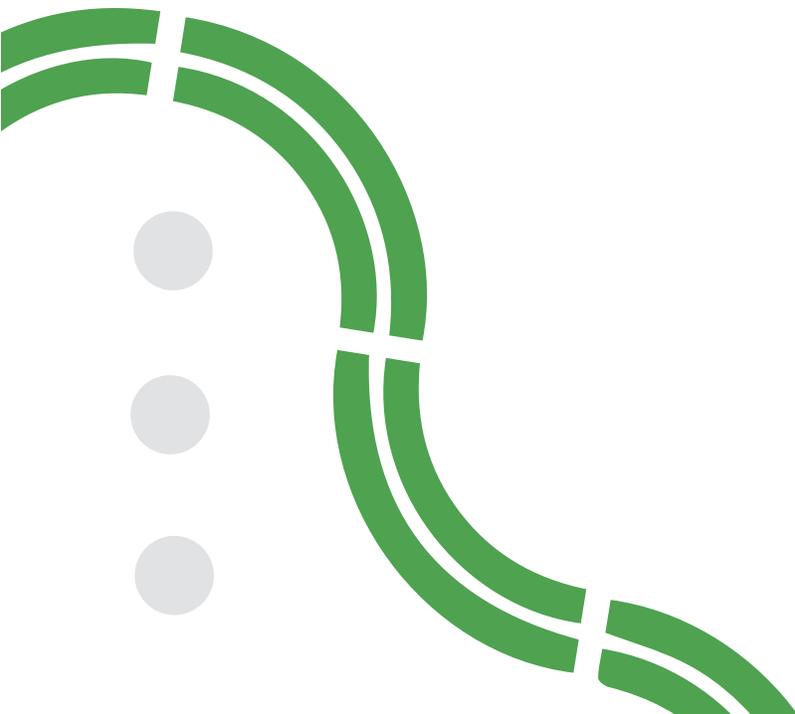
2015-2016





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LETTER FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ABRACE was established in 2009 as a nonprofit organization with the mission to preserve and promote Brazilian culture and education as well as social integration between the Brazilian and American communities in the Washington, DC metro area. ABRACE aims to be recognized as an organization that inspires the Brazilian community to embrace its identity and provides a cultural immersion opportunity for those interested in learning Portuguese. We do that by engaging our community of teachers, parents and everyone who play a role in helping a child to learn a language and connect with its cultural heritage.

Fiscal year 2015-2016 (FY 15-16) was very rewarding. ABRACE consolidated the gains made in previous years and strengthened its management structure to increase quality and respond to the demands of the community. The newly appointed School Director, Ana Claudia Kornellius, brought a new set of skills and expertise that supported ABRACE and the Executive Director, Ana Lúcia Lico, in continuously improving administrative processes, expanding fundraising efforts, and engaging the community.

As part of continued efforts to professionalize ABRACE's staff, the Board decided to make the Executive Director a paid position, and to create a paid Administrative Assistant position, both as independent contractors. These changes allowed the School Director to focus solely on educational aspects, and not on administrative tasks as well.

These decisions caused a positive shift in workload and responsibilities, but also had a significant impact on the budget. This required a plan was for significant increase in fundraising.

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

ABRACE's work would not be possible without the help of our donors, teachers, parents, and numerous volunteers and partners. 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 Brazilian-American 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 preserve Brazil's culture and education, and strengthen the Brazilian-American community.



EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Brazilian Heritage Language Program for Children

Every year, ABRACE offers two semesters of instruction to children ages 2 to 17 in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. Classes take place on Saturday mornings at McLean High School. In FY 15-16, there were 198 enrollments in our programs (95 in the fall of 2015 and 103 in the spring of 2016). This represents a slight decrease from the prior fiscal year, when ABRACE served 223 students. Similarly to FY 14-15, ABRACE offered one class for each age group for children 3-10 years old.

In FY15-16, ABRACE established a pedagogical committee that worked on reviewing and implementing new processes regarding lesson planning and teaching per age group. This committee also worked on strengthening our curriculum and practice to reflect the complex intertwining of learning and experiencing culture, language and social aspects of a multicultural upbringing. The mobile library, with more than 1,000 books, had its inventory reviewed and the borrowing system modernized to work on a bar code system. We launched a calendar of open library dates, increasing opportunities for reading and learning in Portuguese outside of the classrooms.

Brazilian Portuguese Program for Adults and Lecture Program for Families

In FY 15-16, ABRACE continued to offer Brazilian Portuguese language classes for non-Portuguese speakers along with various workshops and lectures for families who live in a multicultural environment. ABRACE offered an introductory Portuguese class for adults and two professional development opportunities for parents and teachers on culturally-responsive teaching, one of them ministered by the award-winning and best-selling children's novelist and poet Pedro Bandeira, who came to the United States thanks to a special partnership with ABRACE.



CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

During FY 15-16, ABRACE continued to offer special literature- and literacy-developing activities for children and youth with the objective of strengthening their language and knowledge in the arts. Below are some of the events carried out in the period:

Cultural and Book Fair

ABRACE offered a very special edition of its traditional Book Fair with the presence of Pedro Bandeira who brought several of his more than 50 books published only in Brazil. The event had more than 450 attendees.

Little Ones Group

This special initiative for parents of children aged 0 to 3, which started in the previous year, continued to meet once a month for music, storytelling, and play time providing an enriching experience of learning to play in Portuguese.

Youth Literature Project

ABRACE created several opportunities to engage teenagers. Teenage students were encouraged to volunteer in classrooms, provide support to the school director on different areas, and take ownership and responsibility over the library. The following activities took place as part of the program:





Poetry Soiree with Teens

One of the teenage classes planned an event where they selected Portuguese poems and performed them to the other students and the community.

Story Telling Station

Teenage students read tales to children in celebration of the Day of Saci, one of the best-known characters in Brazilian folklore. Students took turns telling stories, while showing images to the younger students, among other resources to foster the interest of children in the stories.

Theater

Presentation of the play 'A Mentira Cabeluda' ("A Hairy Lie"), from the adapted script of the homonymous book by Pedro Bandeira. Teenage students enacted the play in two occasions to different audiences of younger students.

Presentation on Immigrants in Brazil

One of the teenage classes made two presentations on immigrants in Brazil and their contribution to Brazilian culture with the participation of adult students and the visitor Lilian Terumi.

ABRACE established a partnership with a Brazilian cultural and educational group, Emcantar, which has organized hundreds of workshops and music and theatre shows throughout Brazil. As a result of that, there are plans to bring several Brazilian artists to the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area for a series of workshops for children and adults on music, dance, and family storytelling.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

On April 9th, 2016, ABRACE organized and hosted an important event for the Brazilian community in the region. **The Council of Citizens (Conselho de Cidadãos)** held a meeting at McLean High School with the purpose of connecting the consulate with the Brazilian community and allowing for an exchange of ideas around its needs, problems and interests. The meeting was followed by a welcome message by the Consul General, Mr. Antonino Mena Gonçalves, and a **presentation on income tax declaration rules for expats** by Mr. Sandro de Vargas Serpa, Tax and Customs Attaché in the Brazilian Embassy in Washington, DC. The presentation gathered around 40 people who asked questions in a lively and enlightening conversation. We would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Antonino and Mr. Sandro for their time.

FINANCIAL RESULTS

Below is ABRACE's financial statements for FY15-16

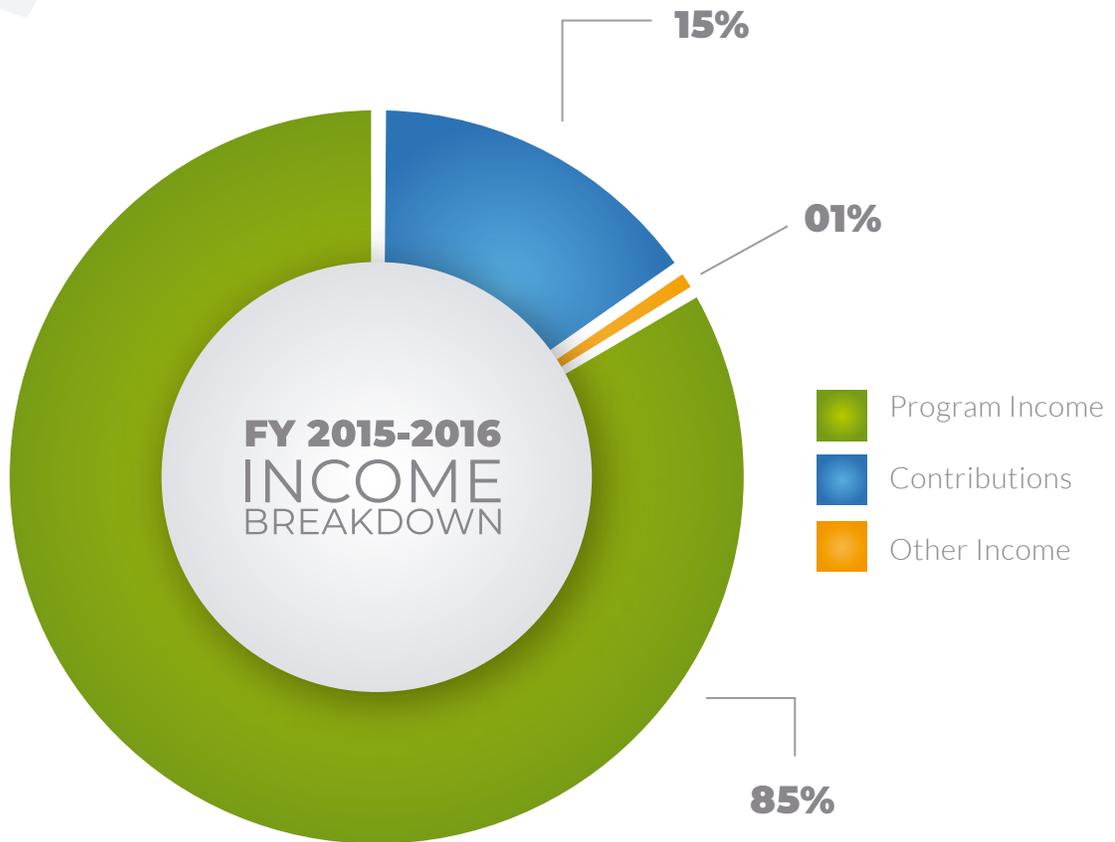
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS Accrual Basis

Statement Of Financial Position		
	as of	
	Aug 31 2016	Aug 31 2015
Assets		
Checking / Savings	79,611	86,386
Accounts Receivable	4,051	4,345
Other Current Assets	3,810	2,761
Total Assets	87,472	93,492
Liabilities & Equity		
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	17,538	1,738
Unearned Revenues	28,202	32,649
Total Liabilities	45,740	34,387
Equity		
Temp. Restricted Net Asset	2,310	2,310
Unrestricted Net Asset	56,794	41,947
Net Income	(17,372)	14,848
Total Equity	41,732	59,105
Total Liabilities & Equity	87,472	93,492
Statement of Financial Income and Expenses		
	FY2016	FY2015
Income		
Contributions	14,882	11,401
Program Income	80,284	91,534
Other Income	972	2,090
Total Income	96,138	105,025
Expenses		
Business Expense	2,770	3,583
Contract Services	86,932	61,502
Facilities and Equipment	15,074	16,459
Operations	6,754	5,866
Insurance & Other Expenses	1,980	2,766
Total Expenses	113,510	90,177
Net Income (Loss)	(17,372)	14,848

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 FY 15-16, ABRACE established a formal fundraising committee, which helped to expand opportunities for raising financial resources. It started in October 2015, with the volunteer contribution of two students' mothers, Patricia Malentaqui and Cristiane Zampieri, who brought together extensive experience in communications and grant writing. This committee also represented an important step in ABRACE's efforts to manage projects and initiatives through volunteer committees.

To help guide ABRACE on fundraising planning to deal with the financial challenges presented, ABRACE hired a fundraising specialist, Karen Price, who teamed with the fundraising committee, and under the Executive Director leadership, guided ABRACE towards analyzing possibilities and helping plan for sustainability and fundraising strategies.

As in previous years, ABRACE did an end-of-year appeal campaign. With the help and dedication of the fundraising committee, ABRACE increased the amount of money raised by 30 percent, receiving approximately \$15,000. Of that total, businesses and foundations represented 20 percent; individuals, 68 percent, and; in-kind donations, 12 percent.

The goal for the next fiscal year is to increase contributions by 50 percent over FY 15-16, 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 FY16-17, 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:

- Attract and keep the best teachers.
- Stimulate greater parental involvement and community engagement in ABRACE.
- Continue to strengthen its financial and pedagogical processes.
- Increase community engagement 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, D.C. area

The strategies to achieve this goal are:

- Continue to host events that promote Brazilian culture in the Washington, D.C. area.
- Raise awareness about the practice of Portuguese as a heritage language.
- Improve awareness of the organization and its work.
- Increase community engagement and expand the volunteer base.

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.
- 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 for her PhD in Economics at the University of Missouri – Kansas City. In 2007, she became a resident of the Washington, D.C. 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, D.C. region where she eventually became part of ABRACE’s Board of Directors 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 Lúcia Lico

Fundraising Director, and Executive Director

In over 20 years of career, Ana Lucia has developed corporate communications and social responsibility projects for several Brazilian companies and has worked as a development and customer relations consultant for a couple of years for the Brazil Information Center (BIC). A U.S. resident since 2003, Ana Lucia is married, has 2 children, and co-founded the group Brazilian Mothers of Virginia (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. She 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 a 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.





Brazilian
Association
for Culture
and Education
ABRACE

McLean High School 1633 Davidson Rd, McLean, VA 22101