

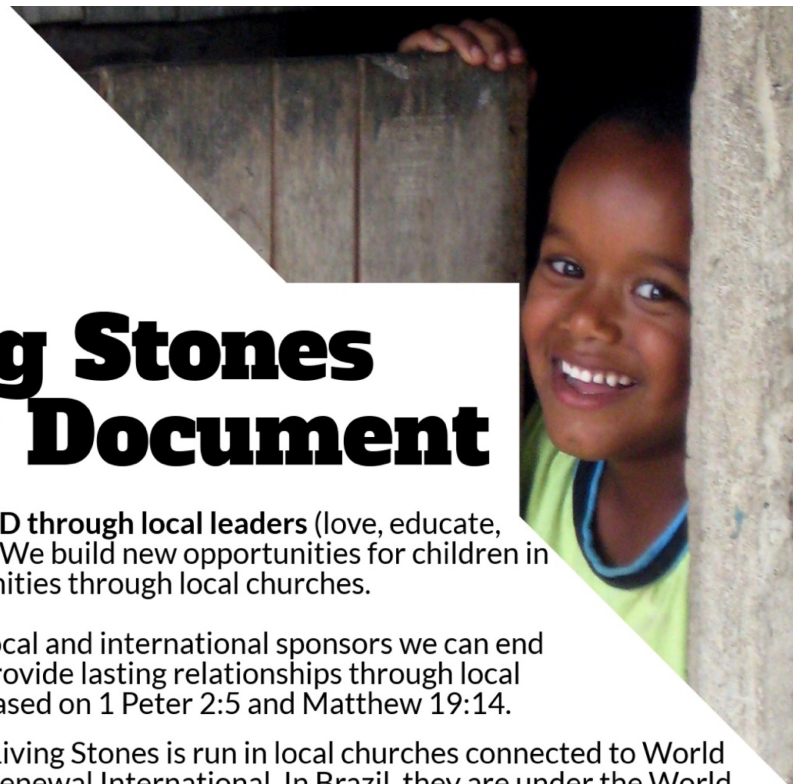


Living Stones
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Living Stones Guiding Document

Missions Statement: **LEND** through local leaders (love, educate, nourish, and direct to Jesus). We build new opportunities for children in needy communities through local churches.

Our Vision is that through local and international sponsors we can end the cycle of poverty and provide lasting relationships through local churches. This calling is based on 1 Peter 2:5 and Matthew 19:14.



Living Stones is run in local churches connected to World Renewal International. In Brazil, they are under the World Renewal Brazil board. Each community with a Living Stones program is given flexibility in how they can best serve their community, but they all have core aspects in common: tutoring four times a week, trained in character and life skills, and connected to the local church and leaders.




Living Stones
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Sponsored children receive tutoring four times a week




Living Stones
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Sponsored children are connected to the local church and leaders




Living Stones
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They are trained in character and life skills





Leadership and Organization

The **Director** of Living Stones is Tele Moraes, as well as the president of World Renewal Brazil, and vice-president of World Renewal International. He is in charge of financial and large decisions for Living Stones.

The **Coordinators** for Living Stones are Caid and Rachel Ferguson, who train/assist the local leadership, produce resources to grow the program, and connect information to the representatives and donors.

The World Renewal Brazil board is also the **Living Stones board**, and is made up of leaders from the ministry in Brazil. The board gives general direction to Living Stones policy and growth in Brazil. We go by their bylaws and rules already put in place.

The **Representatives** share information about Living Stones to their church/ministry and keep up with what is happening in Brazil.

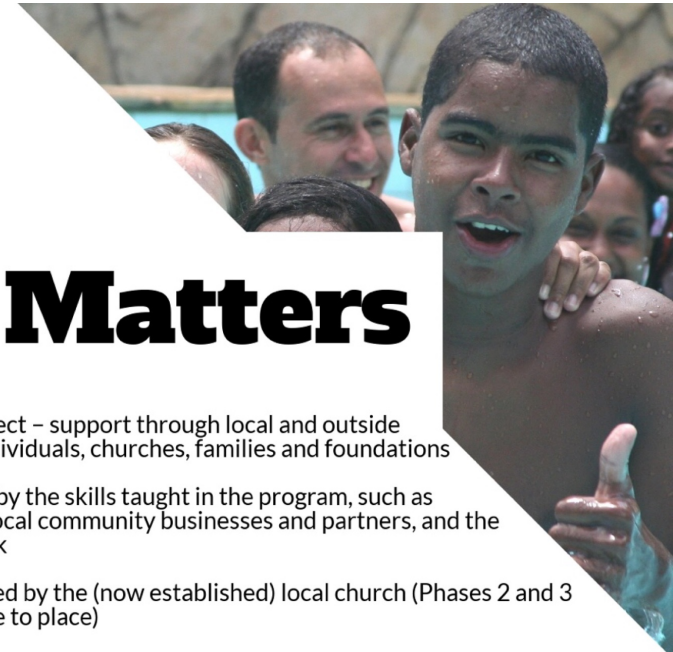
The **Local Leaders** are church leadership, workers, and volunteers. Depending on the community, these are the different roles they fill:

- Church planters (2-3): teachers/workers/individuals to run the program as a whole (can cover other functions when needed)
- Cook/cleaner (depending on the nutritional needs of the community)
- Portuguese/Math teacher/school connector: in charge of a reading program and reinforcement/apprenticeship for the older children, keeping track of grades, levels of the children, and paperwork
- Character/Bible teacher: introduces a character quality every week, Bible verses, activities, overall in charge of the spiritual life of the participants (this person is also in charge of decorating the facility and representing the values and goals of the program)
- Family connector: to visit, develop trust, and communication with the families, as well as to be well informed about what immediate needs they may have (food, medical, etc.)
- Church connector: gets the church involved with the program, gives announcements, and works with the family connector to have church programs for the families of participants. This should be the pastor or one of the church leaders.
- Outside connector to WRI: responsible for internet updates, financial support, pictures, stories, special projects (this is often the coordinators).
- Record keeper: responsible to return receipts for all money received from WRI to Ricardo Silva. Responsible for a yearly picture and report of each child, including parental permission for the child to participate and have pictures/video taken of them

Quick History of Living Stones

Founded in 1998 by Pastor Assuerio Naque

After seeing the great needs of his community (41% of rural Northeast Brazil is in deep poverty- IFAD, Rural Poverty Portal, Brazil Statistics, 2009), his basic idea was to open the church during the week to the poorest children of the community, feeding and educating them as needed. This could be done as an outreach of an existing church, or as a way to plant a new church.



Money Matters

Living Stones Phases:

- Phase 1 - Beginning and establishing the project – support through local and outside sponsorship (Foundation Builders), through individuals, churches, families and foundations
- Phase 2 – Support through funding provided by the skills taught in the program, such as carpentry, cooking and handicrafts; as well as local community businesses and partners, and the children who have grown up and are giving back
- Phase 3 – Support through assistance provided by the (now established) local church (Phases 2 and 3 might occur at the same time or vary from place to place)

We work with children to end the cycle of poverty through the idea of child sponsorships. The difference is we work with local believers through local churches: planting and changing communities. While we do have individual (and group) sponsors, they sponsor a church program: not an individual child. We encourage them to come and visit the church program they sponsor through one of our many short term mission trips (wribrazil@gmail.com for more information). If they are interested in writing an individual child within the church program, we will make that happen.

Our goal is to have a sister church in the USA for every church that has a Living Stones program. This long-term reciprocal relationship will change and challenge both of the churches involved. **Living Stones runs off of the generosity of the faithful individuals and churches who sponsor a program on a monthly basis.** We call them our Foundation Builders. We are also grateful for the special event givers, who allow us to provide celebrations (birthdays, camp/trips, holidays) throughout the year.

Expenses and Donations

The board, director, coordinators, and representatives receive no financial assistance from Living Stones. These are voluntary positions, or receive their own funding. Donations go directly to the individual Living Stones programs, except for administration costs (10%), and yearly promotional expenses (varies each year). Program costs include workers payment, food and facility costs, program supplies, and transportation expenses. **Expenses are different at each location**, depending on the nutritional and educational needs the community has. Each program has specific budgetary needs that must be met before a new project can start. As the United States dollar rises or falls in the world market, the projected costs for the program change as well.

Donations for Living Stones are received through World Renewal International. WRI is a 501(c)3 organization, and all donations are tax-deductible to the extent permitted by law. Each month, the budgeted amount is removed from the Living Stones account for each location and given to the local leaders. The leaders are required to return receipts to World Renewal Brazil of how the money was spent. The director, local leaders, board, and coordinators get together to set the yearly budget. The coordinators keep track of incoming/outgoing funds to ensure accountability.

Living Stones has one large annual fundraiser, the Trek for Transportation. Fundraising is also done online through our website (buildinglivingstones.org), monthly e-newsletters, meetings, and speaking engagements. Each year, financial reports are made and provided to donors, representatives, and people interested.



Evaluation

True evaluation of relationships and their lasting impact on people, as well as a definition of "success" in ministry is impossible, as well out of our control and responsibility. But for project accountability, evaluation and consideration comes through the following questions:

- How many children are attending Living Stones?
- How many people are attending church because of the Living Stones program?
- How many of these children would not receive these services otherwise?
- Are the children receiving all the nutritional health and educational assistance necessary? In what ways were those services provided?
- Are the children receiving life skills training to become more equipped for their future? In what ways were those services provided?
- How is the social and general health of the community being improved and invested in?
- How are healthy, reciprocal, international relationships being built?



Objectives

For Living Stones

LOVE through a growing church plant or outreach, EDUCATE spiritually, mentally, and physically in a safe space, NUTRITIONAL health and hygiene provided, DIRECT to Jesus (discipleship) and training to become leaders, and reciprocal relationships with sponsors/churches.

Our Partnership Plan:

- You sponsor a child
- Enable local leaders to reach out
- Build relationships and churches
- Transform communities
- Create a better future



Achievements

	2015	2016	2017
Donations	\$24,640	\$34,000	\$43,134
Costs	\$24,149	\$33,730	\$38,287
Children in full program	60	150	170
Children reached	300	300	300
Meals served	3,500	3,500	3,500

Principles

Our Statement of Faith is on World Renewal's website.

1. Every person/child is valuable because they are made by God, and true life is found in Jesus (Mt. 19:14, 1 Pt.2:5)
2. Basic physical needs (food, shelter) must be met before/while sharing about Jesus (Ja. 2:14-17, 1 Jn. 3:17)
3. God has chosen to work through the local church and discipleship to change the world (Mt. 16:18, 28:19)
4. Every child should be given the opportunity to read God's word for themselves (2 Tim. 3:16-17, Ro. 15:4, Ps. 119:18)
5. Lasting ministry is through local community (Ro. 10:15, At. 1:8)



We've found it costs between \$500-\$900 a month to provide a program for 30 children

Since 2011, we've served over 3,000 full meals and around 15,000 snack meals per year

Children in our program are doing better in school, participating more in their local church, and are receiving opportunities they never had before.

Statistics

Giving has increased from \$12,000 in 2011 to \$43,000 in 2017: Thank you!

We have 175 children from three communities in our full time program, and we do outreaches to over 300 children in five communities

* Depending on the needs of the community

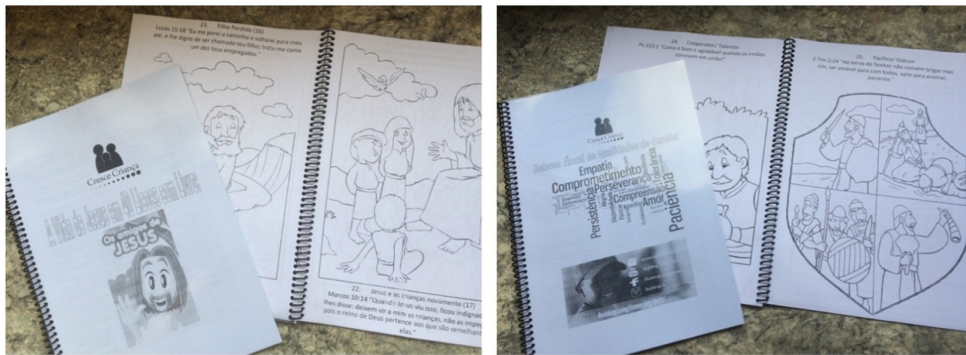




Reproducibility

Starting a New Location:

1. Leadership from a local church/church plant decides they want to reach out to the poorest children in their community
2. They actively begin meeting and having outreaches with those children
3. They know the community well enough to assess specific ways to meet the needs there: and it includes a strong tutoring program, life and character skills, and connection with the church/leadership
4. They meet with the Living Stones Director to put together basic guidelines and financial and action plans and with the Living Stones coordinators to translate/prepare presentations in English
5. They begin what they can with local sponsorship (or contingency plan) until international sponsorship is available
6. Hopefully they are funded within the first year, and within a couple years, move on to phase 2 and 3 (see Money Matters page)

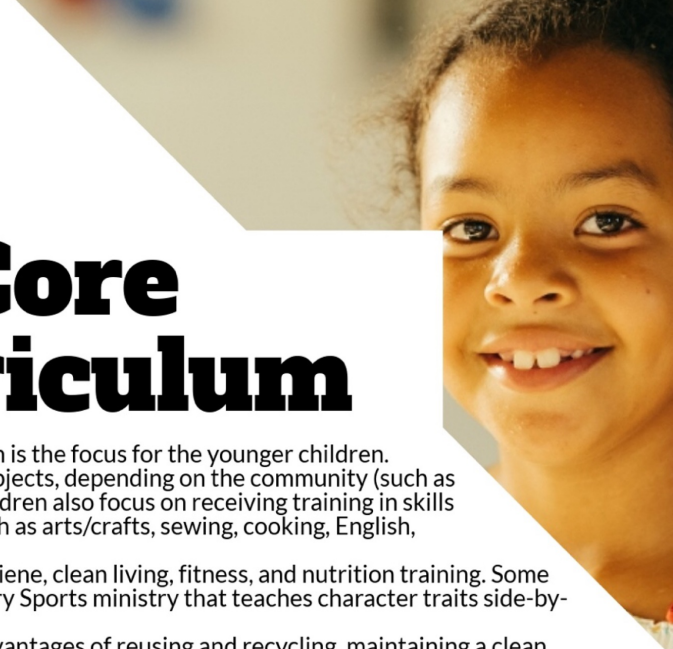


We have found that a complete Living Stones program (complete tutoring program, all nutritional needs, and 4+times a week) is complex and takes a couple of years to become fully established. In the meantime, Living Stones works with and supports outreaches, which can be as simple as a children's program during church, a special event for children, or a weekly Bible club style ministry. Living Stones has created three reproducible character/Bible curriculum series in Portuguese to help these outreaches grow. The Coordinators are also there to help train and assist local leaders wanting to know how to serve their communities better, even if it doesn't become an official Living Stones program.



Core Curriculum

- **Mentally:** Teaching reading, writing, and math is the focus for the younger children. Middle aged children are often taught more subjects, depending on the community (such as art, literature, history, sports, music). Older children also focus on receiving training in skills useful in life, depending on the community (such as arts/crafts, sewing, cooking, English, technology, first aid, and money skills).
- **Physically:** There are medical check-ups, hygiene, clean living, fitness, and nutrition training. Some Living Stones programs are connected to a Glory Sports ministry that teaches character traits side-by-side with the sports ministry.
- **Environmentally:** Children are taught the advantages of reusing and recycling, maintaining a clean community, and gardening (depending on the community).
- **Socially:** Living Stones is involved within the community and culture, mostly through music and sports. Cultural celebrations, manners, communication skills, and active citizenship are an important part of the program. Resilience in difficult situations is reinforced through problem solving, communication, and seeking Christ as the true Solution.
- **Spiritually/Emotionally:** Each week there are Bible stories, lessons, and character qualities. The students are given practical ways and activities to live out what they have learned. *The objective is for each child to know and have a personal relationship with Jesus as their Savior and Lord, to become His disciple, and to go and make disciples.*



Our Partnerships





Living Stones
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Media Relations Policy

In this technological age, Living Stones has found it important to address how we present the children we serve through written and spoken stories, pictures, and video. This includes all internet and print communications to and from the Living Stones children and those involved with them, whether in the country or an international connection. **Our desire in all things is to bring glory to God through respectful, truthful, above reproach policies and procedures.**

Before any picture, written/spoken word, or video is published about Living Stones programs, children, or workers involved, take some time to make sure you are representing Living Stones respectfully, truthfully, and in love.

Since we work with minors, every year we get signed permission from the parents to take and use pictures/video of their children. Living Stones (or those affiliated) will not use these resources for personal gain: any finances received through the use of these resources will be used directly for things connected to the Living Stones program. If at any time a parent, child, or worker connected with Living Stones does not feel comfortable with a picture/video being used, Living Stones (or those affiliated) will remove it.

Workers with Living Stones, or even Living Stones children often post on Facebook, Instagram, or YouTube pictures/videos of events that are going on. This is done with care and concern for all of those involved, and will be asked to stop/correct it if someone complains. Leaders in Living Stones often make presentations about Living Stones, and share stories through e-newsletters, websites, or other publications. Whenever a story is shared, only the first name of the child is used, or the name is changed. Stories shared respect the dignity of the people involved. If personal/sensitive information is shared, the child and parent are contacted and have given permission.

Outside contact with Living Stones children: World Help sponsors are only allowed to contact children through World Help. International sponsors directly through Living Stones are to go through the coordinators and/or director of Living Stones before making contact (personally or through social networks). Local volunteers and people interested in assisting/communicating with Living Stones children will go through the leadership of their community program.




amobrasil99@hotmail.com


Building Living Stones


/BuildingLivingStones


BuildingLS

BuildingLivingStones.org



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Child Protection Policy

It is the goal of Living Stones to provide a safe environment for the physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being of the children we serve. We know that being a child makes them vulnerable to abuse by adults. The purpose of this policy is to make sure that the actions of any adult in the context of the work carried out by Living Stones are transparent and promote the welfare of all involved.

If any parent or young person/child has any concerns about the conduct of any member of the organization, this should be raised in the **first instance** with the pastor of the church that Living Stones is serving with. If any member of the organization becomes aware that a child is being abused by another member, parent, or child, then they are to go directly to the pastor of the church that Living Stones is serving with. If the pastor is unavailable, then the concerns are to go the coordinators or director of Living Stones.

We are very aware and cautious about how we present the children in Living Stones to sponsors through media and personal contact (see our media relations policy). World Help sponsors are only allowed to contact children through World Help. Sponsors directly through Living Stones are asked to go through the coordinators and/or director of Living Stones before making contact (personally or through social networks). Local volunteers and people interested in assisting/communicating with Living Stones children will go through the leadership of their community program.

1. Immediate Action to Ensure Safety

- If emergency medical attention is required, the leader at the location at that time will be in charge of taking the child to the hospital or administering emergency care.
- If a child is in immediate danger, the leader at the location at that time will be in charge of getting the child to a safe place and contacting the police if necessary.

2. Recognition (and definition) of Abuse or Neglect

- Physical abuse may involve hitting, shaking, throwing, poisoning, burning or scalding, drowning, suffocating, or otherwise causing physical harm to a child.
- Emotional abuse is repeatedly rejecting children, humiliating them, or denying their worth and rights as human beings. It is causing children frequently to feel frightened or in danger, or the exploitation or corruption of children.
- Sexual abuse involves forcing or enticing a child or young person to take part in sexual activities, whether or not the child is aware of what is happening. This can involve physical contact or not, such as having to watch sexually inappropriate behavior.
- Neglect is the persistent failure to meet a child's basic physical and/or psychological needs, likely to result in the serious impairment of the child's health or development. A persistent lack of love, stimulation, safety, nourishment, and medical attention.

3. What to do if Children Talk to you About Abuse or Neglect

- Listen carefully to the child. DO NOT directly question the child.
- Give the child time and attention.
- Allow the child to give a spontaneous account; do not stop a child who is freely recalling significant events.
- Make an accurate record of the information you have been given taking care to record the timing, setting and people present, the child's presentation as well as what was said. Do not throw this away as it may later be needed as evidence.
- Use the child's own words where possible.
- Explain that you cannot promise not to speak to others about the information they have shared.
- Reassure the child that: you are glad they have told you; they have not done anything wrong; what you are going to do next.
- Explain that you will need to get help to keep the child safe.
- Do NOT ask the child to repeat his or her account of events to anyone.

4. Consulting leadership about your concern

A worker, volunteer, leader, parent, or child needs to discuss concerns they have about abuse/neglect with the proper leadership. They should go directly to the pastor at the church, or the coordinators/director of Living Stones to decide what action is necessary.

It is good practice to ask a child why they are upset or how a cut or bruise was caused, or respond to a child wanting to talk to you. This practice can help clarify vague concerns and result in appropriate action. If you are concerned about a child you must share your concerns.

Together with leadership, create an action plan. All cases of suspected child abuse should be reported to law enforcement as per local laws. Cases of child abuse should be written down and filed with the coordinators of Living Stones including the following:

- Name of the person who has the concern, position of leadership/relationship to the child
- Full name and birthday of the child and siblings and those living with the child
- The nature of the concern and foundation for it
- Opinion on the action that should be taken
- What are the needs of the child and their family—short and long term

5. Confidentiality

The only people who will have access to the concerns and reports of the child will be their parent/guardian, appropriate government officials, and qualified leadership of the church and Living Stones program. All records will be kept in a secure place. Gossip about such issues will not be tolerated.