

**"When you have a job that needs to be done, whatever is needed will come in time. The important thing is that you accept this work with love and try to do it. This is the most important thing: perseverance." Ute Craemer**

Waldorf schools, which have in their institutional mission the commitment to children and youth in socioeconomic vulnerability, a social impulse brought by Rudolf Steiner in the creation of the first Waldorf school, play a fundamental role for the Brazilian education and for the national Waldorf movement, contributing effectively to the reduction of social inequalities in our country. These institutions compose the NETWORK OF SOCIAL ORGANIZATIONS IN WALDORF EDUCATION<sup>1</sup>. Today, the NETWORK comprehends 35 institutions, spread over 11 Brazilian states, including contracted community schools, public, free associative, and free private schools, all committed to providing free quality education for Kindergarten, Elementary and High School, besides offering after-school programs such as the CCJs and the CAs<sup>2</sup>.

The NETWORK was created in August 2020, an initiative motivated by Ute Craemer in partnership with a group of teachers formed by Silvia Reichmann, Telma Benedicto, Talita Melone, Vanda Elisa de Farias, and Mirtes Guaruba, and with the support of Cristina Velasquez, Melanie Guerra and Alcir Rodrigues, from FEWB. At the time, there were 17 institutions. Since its creation, virtual meetings were held, where 5 basic common axis were defined:

1. Relationship with Official Authorities;
2. School/Family Integration;
3. Pedagogical Autonomy;
4. Training for Teachers;
5. Financial Sustainability and Fundraising.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.fewb.org.br/pw\\_sociais.html](http://www.fewb.org.br/pw_sociais.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.fewb.org.br/escolas\\_sociais/Organizacoes\\_Sociais\\_na\\_Pedagogia\\_Waldorf.pdf](http://www.fewb.org.br/escolas_sociais/Organizacoes_Sociais_na_Pedagogia_Waldorf.pdf)

After the definition the five work fronts, specific Gts with school representatives were formed. We also worked on the network's identity with the support of Roberto Dertoni, facilitator, and its current name was then defined.

The Gts developed thematic action plans, for example: for the Fundraising axis, the Brazilian anthroposophical circle was contacted. As an institutional policy, FEWB started to include scholarships and discounts for teachers from Social Organizations associated to the NETWORK, for all the educational courses. Moreover, the Paripassu<sup>3</sup> Institute, in partnership with FEWB, supported the first methodological course for the Social Organizations teachers, which started in August 2022 and will be completed in July 2023. The *Methodological Course for Social Organizations in Waldorf Education: Understanding Elementary School* has so far benefited 70 NETWORK institutions' teachers all over the country ([www.fewb.org.br](http://www.fewb.org.br)).

In December 2022, the first collective visit to the Monte Azul Community Association took place as one of the NETWORK actions to spread and strengthen these institutions' work. The following guest institutions attended the event: EMEF<sup>4</sup> Vladimir Herzog, Instituto Flecha, Esquiluz, Associação Travessia, Colégio Micael de São Paulo, Piracaia em Movimento, Jardim dos Passarinhos, Associação Comunitária Estrela Nova (REDE), Centro de Conversas e Educação Restaurativa, Associação São Joaquim, Associação Comunitária Cecília Meirelles (REDE), NGO Grupo Gaia and a post-graduate student from Rudolf Steiner College, who also works at the NGO Todos pela Educação, as well as financial supporters and future partners.

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<sup>3</sup> <http://paripassu.org.br/>

<sup>4</sup> Municipal Elementary School



*Photo: Mário Zurik*

The Associação Comunitária Monte Azul is a non-governmental organization located in the outskirts of the southern region of the city of São Paulo, a region of economic and social vulnerability, and works with the whole human being development, based on Anthroposophy. Its actions include Waldorf Education, Anthroposophical Medicine and Social Education. The project began in 1979 with Monte Azul Nucleus, which expanded its services to the Peinha Nucleus and Horizonte Azul Nucleus in 1983. The programs gather the collaboration of approximately 250 people, and around 70 volunteers, of Brazilian and foreign nationalities. The education, culture, and health services have directly benefited an average of 4,000 people. The Family Health Strategy, the fourth center, was born in 2001, with the collaboration of 1,500 people, and is responsible for 13 Basic Health Units (BHU). The Associação Comunitária Monte Azul is a model of performance multiplier and disseminator of social actions, reaching a far beyond communities range, operating on a daily basis. This has motivated the choice for hosting the first collective visit to one of the NETWORK organizations.

The visit took place on December 14, 2022, organized by the coordinators of CEI<sup>5</sup> Flamboyant and Jardim de Infância Waldorf Sonho de Luz, Esdras de Faria and Telma Benedicto, and the local team. It was possible to see the work extent by the Association in Education through well-structured

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<sup>5</sup> Children Education Center in agreement with the Municipal Department of Education.

classrooms, as well as a diverse green space, bringing the living principles of Waldorf Education. The CEI and the Kindergarten receive children full time, while the Resilience School, the first Waldorf Public School in the state of São Paulo with local teachers from the outskirts, serves children in situations of domestic violence and socioeconomic vulnerability from the 1st to the 6th grades of elementary school. Both Early Childhood Education and Elementary School comply with the national legislation of the BNCC <sup>6</sup>.

"The Resilience School started between 2009 and 2010 with one Kindergarten room and one 1st grade room. They started with financial donations from friends. The educators themselves cooked and took care of the maintenance. Today, the school runs full time, from 7 am to 3 pm. There are two teachers per class and, eventually, a third support teacher, in case of a disabled child or a child with ASD (Autistic Spectrum Disorder). The turning point brought by Waldorf Education is the possibility for the same teacher stay with the class for 7 years, establishing a deeper bond. Currently the Resilience School has, for the first time, a 6th grade class."

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<sup>6</sup> <http://basenacionalcomum.mec.gov.br/>



Young people (up to 14 years of age) are served by the CCA<sup>7</sup> Nossa Ciranda, in the after-school hours, working with the principles of Waldorf Education, and also at CEDESP<sup>8</sup>, where vocational courses are

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<sup>7</sup> The Centers for Children and Adolescents of the City of São Paulo (CCAs) develop activities with children and adolescents between the ages of 6 and 14 years and 11 months, with the objective of creating living spaces based on the interests, demands and potentialities of the respective age groups. The interventions are based on play, cultural and sports experiences as forms of expression, interaction, learning, sociability, and social protection. It must attend children and teenagers with disabilities, removed from child labor and/or subjected to other violations of their rights, with activities that contribute to re-signifying isolation experiences, as well as providing work sociability experiences and prevent social risk situations. Source: [https://www.prefeitura.sp.gov.br/cidade/secretarias/assistencia\\_social/protecao\\_social\\_basica/](https://www.prefeitura.sp.gov.br/cidade/secretarias/assistencia_social/protecao_social_basica/)

<sup>8</sup> The Center for Social and Productive Development of the São Paulo City Hall (CEDESP) develops activities with adolescents, young people and adults from 15 years of age on, for the purpose of professional training, ensuring knowledge about the work environment and training, with the perspective of expanding the cultural repertoire and participation in public life, preparing them to conquer and ensure autonomy and employability.

offered to young people and adults between 14 and 59 years of age. The courses offered are: Computer Science, Administration, Logistics, Fashion Design, Computer Practices and Carpentry. The project also combines social work and the strengthening of the assisted people's self-esteem, since most of them come from nearby peripheral communities, such as Nova Canaã, Promised Land, and Palestina.

The Associação Comunitária Monte Azul also works promoting Biodynamic Agriculture, which supplies the kitchens of the day care centers and schools of the Association, as well as the entire local community of Monte Azul, and other Waldorf schools and communities in the city of São Paulo. The space works in partnership with the Basic Health Units (BHU) of the region and with the project *Comunidade que Sustenta Agricultura (CSA)*, performing educational activities related to agriculture and environmental sustainability, and the sharing of local knowledge about medicinal plants, organic and biodynamic food.



In the health area, the Association provides the community anthroposophic medicine through Casa Ângela, the ESF<sup>9</sup> Nucleus, and the Medical Therapeutic Clinic, which has been providing anthroposophic medical care for 44 years. Casa Ângela is a Humanized Childbirth Center that offers humanized assistance to natural childbirth. Being a reference as a pioneer in Brazilian Childbirth

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<sup>9</sup> <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/composicao/saps/estrategia-saude-de-familia>

Centers, it provides care for SUS<sup>10</sup> users and follows the recommendations from the World Health Organization and the Ministry of Health. The Medical Therapeutic Outpatient Clinic provides anthroposophical medical-therapeutic care to the low-income population. With a unique model of anthroposophical multidisciplinary team in the world, it has around 30 professionals - half of them volunteers - who, in 2019, provided more than 10,000 medical, therapeutic and nursing services, 64% free of charge<sup>11</sup>.



In the Monte Azul Community Association, the Relationship with the Official Authorities, one of the working axis of the NET, has happened through projects such as the Pedagogical Journey, which strives for the recognition of the essential aspects importance of Waldorf Education such as food, rhythm and natural materials, which has become a reference for the Campo Limpo DRE<sup>12</sup>. In the axis Training for Teachers, the Association is the only Network organization that offers a Waldorf Education covering not just the employees of the Association, but also professionals of the public school system, since teachers under public contract do not have a Waldorf Education background. The Mainumby Project, coordinated by Telma Benedicto with educators of the kindergarten, is an institutionalized

<sup>10</sup> <https://www.gov.br/saude/pt-br/assuntos/saude-de-a-a-z/s/sus>

<sup>11</sup> <https://monteazul.org/pt-br/portfolio/ambulatorio>

<sup>12</sup> <http://portal.sme.prefeitura.sp.gov.br/Main/Page/PortalSMESP/Diretorias-Regionais-de-Educacao>

internal policy of continued education for teachers, and happens monthly in the Horizonte Azul group, and, as a course, in partnership with the Rudolf Steiner College, in the Monte Azul group.

<https://monteazul.org/pt-br/portfolio/formacao-de-educadores/>

The visit allowed everyone to get to know and recognize the more than 30 years of experience of the Monte Azul Community Association. Actions like this visit have the purpose of bringing together organizations working in the same field, to strengthen them, so they can expand their social action areas. In the second half of 2023, REDE will pay a collective visit to the organization Movimento Comunitário Estrela Nova, also located in the city of São Paulo. Representatives of all Social Organizations and partner organizations are invited. More details will follow soon. Stay tuned!

We take the opportunity to announce that on July 17, 2023, we will have a NETWORK institutions meeting in Juiz de Fora - MG, in the VI Congress of Waldorf Education, with the special guest Constanza Kaliks.

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#### NETWORK MEETING PROGRAM

<p>8:30 – Arrival and coffee at Horizonte Azul nursery school 9:00 – visiting the Nurseries área, outside áreas, biodinamic production área, comunitary Garden, streets of the neighborhood, 1<sup>st</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade Resiliência Horizonte Azul school and teenager area project's. 11:30 – sharing experiences from the visit 12:30 – lunch time 13:30 – Monte Azul community association: knowing the favela Monte Azul, the anthroposophical medical area, vocational courses for young people (fashion, baking, carpentry, others) 14:30 – At the Cultural Center of the Association, a presentation of the work of the Network of Social Organizations in Waldorf Pedagogy (the 5 axes) will be held and then we will take a walk through the community. 16h Encerramento</p>
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