

THE CHANNEL (**Channel to Brazil for Christ**)
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We provide quality education and training for children living in poverty in the slums of Brazil.

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www.THECHANNEL.org

Our vision is to form the next generation of Christian leaders, ready to transform their communities and nation. We are an organization with 30 years of experience and success helping children and families at risk.



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Channel To Brazil For Christ



Olympic Inspiration (and a little bit of encouragement!)

August and September were inspiring months for the nation of Brazil. The Olympics have given Brazilians something good to talk about for the first time in many months.

If you watched any of the Olympics or Paralympics, you'll know that Brazilians are very passionate about winning. However, one of the things we continually notice with the children at CBC, is that they lack self-esteem and are fearful about trying new things because of the fear that they might fail. It seems that you are either the very best or no-one at all. Concepts like *'the taking part that counts'* and *'having a go'* are very difficult for the children here to get behind. The great canyon that exists between rich and poor in Brazil leaves children in the slums feeling that it's not even worth the effort of trying.

Everyday we hear the words "Teacher, I can't do it, I can't do it", and everyday we reply with all the positive phrases we can think of. "Yes you can", "give it a go", "you are intelligent", "you can do it if you try". Well this month, we've got a story that we hope will encourage you as much as did us!

Tamara's Story

Here's a story about how a few words of encouragement everyday can finally make all the difference!

About 3 years ago, Tamara (name changed), faced the horrific scene of her father's murder in an alleyway. In the following months at the project, the devastated 8 year old locked herself up with grief, losing her direction, joy and just existed through the motions of daily life.

We'd often find her crying in the bathroom at playtime and gradually tried to build time and space where she would allow little bits of sunlight to shine back into her life.



Life continues to be challenging for Tamara who lives with her mother on less than US\$100 per month. However, Tamara has recently shown an interest in Athletics.

She had the opportunity to run in a competition which happened on the last Sunday of the Olympic Games, however, Tamara was unsure about competing because she had no shoes. The teachers at the University of Life encouraged her to look for some shoes to borrow and even tried to get hold of some themselves but unfortunately it didn't work out in time for the race.

The next day Tamara arrived at the project with a big smile and a silver medal around her neck. With the encouragement that she had received Tamara



Tamara with her mother and brother at last year's family lunch.

had gone ahead and run bare feet around the track in the hot sun and managed second place in her race.

Tamara has showed her determination and demonstrated her talent. Her victory has been a tremendous boost to her self-esteem and is helping her set goals for her future.

Yet again here at CBC, we see the results of daily dedication, offering hope to children who have none. Of course we'll see what we can do about getting Tamara some shoes as well!

Without the constant support of dedicated staff, Tamara would simply not have confidence, motivation of even knowledge of her ability to succeed. Thanks to CBC Tamara has a means to identify and follow her dreams.

This month, please help us bless families like Tamara's as we host our 4th Annual Family Lunch which is coming up on November 15th. We can't do it without you!



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