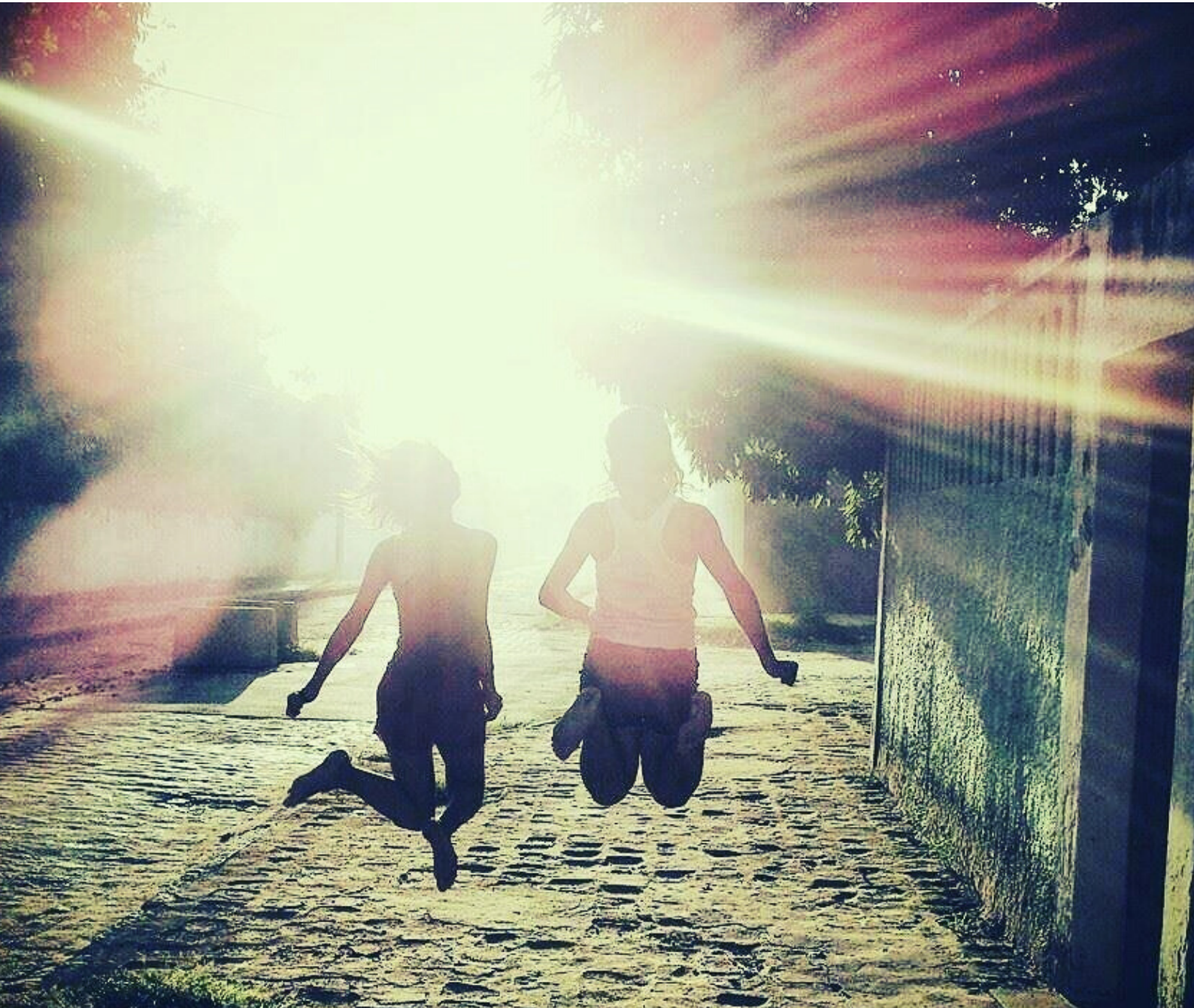


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# REVIVE

RESTORING LIVES, RENEWING HOPE



## FOSTER CARE SERVICE PROPOSAL

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*"There is currently  
no foster care  
service in Olinda"*

## FOREWORD

In the beautiful city of Olinda, in North-Eastern Brazil, which is famous for its colonial architecture and extravagant carnival celebrations, vulnerable children are facing a hidden crisis.

There are only 64 spaces for children in the care system. In the UK city of Croydon,<sup>1,2</sup> which has a similar population (almost 400 thousand), there are 785 children in the care system,<sup>3</sup> over 12 times the capacity of Olinda. There are so many children in Olinda in unsafe families who are desperately waiting for help.

ReVive has already gained the respect of the local social services and judiciary by providing an excellent service for up to 24 vulnerable children in our two care homes. Although currently these are necessary, we can see that institutional care has intrinsic limitations which hamper a child's development.

As an organisation founded on the Christian faith we seek to fulfil the words of Psalm 68 in which God promises to "set the lonely in families"<sup>4</sup> and not in institutions. However, there is currently no foster care service in Olinda.



*"ReVive is now working again to start something new, a foster care service for the vulnerable children in their city of Olinda."*



ReVive, having pioneered the first all-girls home in Olinda in 2014, is now working again to start something new. Our vision is to bring hope to many children in Olinda by providing a quality foster care service and to work in partnership with the local authority, with the aim of fostering being the primary method of care by 2030. The monthly cost of running this service for 15 children will be just £363 per child.

ReVive is a Christian charity based in Olinda, that started in 2012 because there was nowhere for neglected, abused and exploited girls to go for the care and protection that they needed.<sup>5</sup>

ReVive has been running children's homes for eight years now, welcoming approximately 80 children who have been sexually abused, exploited or neglected and supporting them until they could either reintegrate into their biological family or are adopted.

The ReVive leadership team has over 70 years combined experience working in five different Brazilian children's homes. We are also actively involved in the Brazilian movement towards fulfilling the child's right to family and community.<sup>6</sup>

To read more about ReVive visit [www.revive-international.org/our-story/](http://www.revive-international.org/our-story/)

## WHY

Every day, across the world, families are disrupted due to migration, armed conflict, epidemics, urbanization and famine. Add poverty, abuse, neglect, and parental death or incapacity due to HIV/AIDS and other conditions, substance abuse and mental health problems, and the result is that millions of children are without parental care.

By one estimate, there are 140 million orphans<sup>7</sup>-children under 18 years of age, who have lost one or both parents to any cause of death<sup>8</sup> around the world.

Because of the vast inequality in Brazil, millions of children live close to, or under, the poverty line, making them more vulnerable to physical abuse or sexual exploitation, even at the hands of their own families.

These children either escape to live on the streets or stay imprisoned in their abusive families waiting and hoping for the day that they are discovered and rescued.

# 140M

there are 140 million orphans, children under 18 years of age, who have lost one or both parents to any cause of death, around the world.



# THE STATISTICS

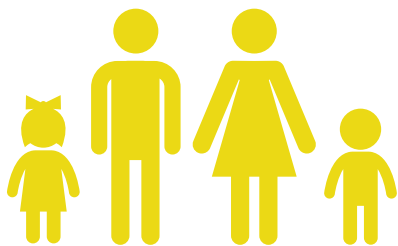
Between 2011 and 2018, 192,000 cases of sexual violence against children were reported through the Brazilian Human rights hotline and a further 141,000 cases were reported by health care professionals.

During this period cases have risen by 70%,<sup>9</sup> but it is estimated only 1 in 13 cases are reported.<sup>10</sup>

In 2018 close to 70% of Brazil's rape victims were children<sup>11</sup> and 80% of abuse happens to children under the age of 14.<sup>12</sup>

Most cases of child sexual abuse happen within the home, where a child should feel most secure. In fact, almost 70% of sexual abuse against 13 year olds is committed by their closest family.<sup>13</sup>

**70% of Brazil's  
rape victims  
were children**



**70% of sexual  
abuse against  
13 year olds  
is committed by  
their closest family**

UNICEF estimates that there are around half a million children involved in the sex industry in Brazil.

In some cases, the child's own family has 'touted' the child for sex. The problem is particularly bad in the north east of Brazil which is quickly becoming the new 'Sex Capital' of the world.

A Brazilian government study amongst some of the girls forced into prostitution found that the average age of their first sexual encounter was just ten years old.<sup>14</sup>

All these statistics show the abusive situation that the vulnerable children of Olinda find themselves in, which has only worsened during the recent pandemic, as children have been quarantined in these abusive homes.<sup>15</sup>

**500,000**  
Children involved in the  
sex industry in Brazil



When a home is found to be abusive the child must be removed and placed into a safe environment,<sup>16</sup> but where?

In most of Brazil, including Olinda, the 47 thousand children who have been removed from such unsuitable and dangerous circumstances have no chance of living with a foster family. 95% of the children in the Brazilian care system live in institutions, often for the majority of their childhood.<sup>17</sup>

The absence of quality family based care has bleak long-term physical, psychological, and social implications.<sup>18</sup>

Children separated from their families and communities are unable to develop kinship and other networks critical to their well-being and success later in life.

These children abandoned by their family, the State and society, are simply deposited in the institution and then forgotten by everyone.<sup>19</sup>

ReVive will not forget these children.

A quality fostering service will provide the opportunities that these children deserve to reach their God given potential.

*"The absence of quality family based care has bleak long-term physical, psychological, and social implications."*





# HOW

*"Our primary strategy is to engage with local community groups, churches and institutions to recruit foster families"*



A child's perspective on some of the ReVive staff

ReVive is starting a fostering program for children in Olinda, working closely with local authorities to ensure the best possible care for children in the system. It will start with a pilot project for five children under six years of age in early 2022 and then grow to have the capacity for 15 children by the end of 2023.

A team consisting of a psychologist, a social worker and a service coordinator will need to be hired and trained, and suitable foster families will have to be recruited, trained and supported.

Each family will also receive a monthly grant to support the child in their care in accordance with Brazilian federal fostering legislation.

The team will be based in the ReVive offices in Olinda where they will work alongside the already successful team of professionals running the children's homes.

As fostering is in its infancy in Brazil, it does not have a high profile: this presents one of our greatest challenges. The vast majority of families have never heard of fostering and when presented with the idea they are often fearful and reluctant to care for other people's "difficult" children.

There is also concern about foster parents forming close relationships with their foster child, then having difficulty when that child is either reintegrated into their family of origin or adopted. A great deal of work will have to be put in to raising the profile of foster care in order to recruit, train and support suitable families.

Our primary strategy is to engage with local community groups, churches and institutions to raise awareness, and an understanding of societies role in the lives of these children.

ReVive is currently involved in recording podcasts, producing and sharing social media content, speaking in churches and organising conferences to raise awareness about fostering and position themselves to recruit potential foster families.



# PLEASE HELP

*"ReVive will not forget these children"*

In order to run this foster care service, transforming the future of children in Olinda's care system, ReVive will need to spend £5443 per month.

Please join us on this journey to restore the lives and renew the hope of some of the most vulnerable children in Brazil.

If you would like to financially support or pray for this project it would be great to hear from you.

Expense (per month)	Cost 2022	Cost 2023	Cost 2024 onwards
Family grant	£760	£1,722	£2756
Staff	£1,967	£2,065	£2,168
Operational costs	£472	£495	£519
<b>Total</b>	<b>£3,199</b>	<b>£4,282</b>	<b>£5,443</b>

A projection of monthly costs for the initial 3 years



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