AUTUNM 2025

UK

Newsletter

The opening of the Beleza Escondida Entrepreneurial Space

Beleza Escondida (BE), part of the ECD Group, is dedicated exclusively to protecting women and strengthening their autonomy. Since 2021, the initiative has opened doors, restored dignity, and created new possibilities for the future.

With the launch of the Rompendo o Casulo Project, women in situations of violence began receiving job placements and training to rebuild their independence. A movement that brings hope — and shows that a new beginning is possible.

The success of this project reveals something essential: entrepreneurship can also be a powerful pathway to overcoming violence, providing financial independence and new opportunities. With this insight, BE begins shaping a new dream.

UK

Newsletter

Culinarte: building autonomy through culinary skills (2024)

- February 2024 – Launch of Culinarte, a pilot program that uses culinary skills as a source of income and independence for women who have experienced violence.
- March 2024 – BE begins a fundraising campaign to structure a dedicated beauty training space.
- April 2024 – Hairdressing courses begin, expanding access to professional training.
- March 2025 – Launch of a new fundraising campaign and the Culinarte Recipe Book, supporting the development of the future culinary space.

The power of entrepreneurship

Second half of 2025 – BE establishes new partnerships with companies, begins construction of the entrepreneurship space, and resumes courses in the beauty sector.

On December 4th, 2025, we celebrated the inauguration of the BE Entrepreneur Space — a dedicated environment designed to support women in situations of violence as they build financial independence.
A milestone. A collective dream made real.

Newsletter

Visit to the stadium

The football team Coritiba gave our children an incredible gift!
They enjoyed a guided tour of the Couto Pereira stadium — including the press room, dressing room, museum, a burger at the snack bar and...
What about this? PERSONALISED OFFICIAL SHIRTS FOR EACH ONE OF THEM! It was beautiful to see the excitement in the eyes of the little ones who dream of one day being on that pitch — representing the team.
There's no doubt this day will stay in their memories forever, and you can believe they are already wearing their shirts with so much pride!

Children's Day

We celebrated Children's Day with lots of fun - exciting games, amazing inflatables, and even ice cream to cool off on the sunny day!
The children also had unforgettable experiences, like visiting Charlotte's Bread Factory, where they saw how bread is made from start to finish.
And we received wonderful gifts - delicious chocolates and toys that brought joy to the children from our CCC and Protective Mother and Child Shelters.
Moments like these truly make a difference - they strengthen bonds, awaken dreams, and remind our children that they are visible, loved, and deserve to enjoy life.

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FICE International

Patrick Reason attended the FICE International General Assembly & Federal Council 2025, held in Vienna from 15 to 17 September.

Re-elected as Secretary General of FICE International (until 2028), Patrick took an active part in the discussions on the Quality in Care Declaration, which was approved and published internationally.

The gathering brought together experts, managers and researchers from 20 countries, Quality in Care Statement strengthening their global young people in alternative care.

FICE International has been working for over 70 years to connect professionals and institutions worldwide, fostering the exchange of experiences, research and good practices to ensure that children and young people in care receive quality support and have their rights upheld.

For ECD, being part of this international network is essential: it broadens horizons, strengthens dialogue with experiences from different contexts, and reaffirms our commitment to continually improving the care provided to children and adolescents in Brazil.

Newsletter

SPA Day

We had a Spa Day dedicated to the girls at the Cajuru Community Centre.
More than just a day of skincare, hair care and relaxation, this initiative was an important reminder: caring for the body is also caring for the mind.
For girls and teenagers, who go through so many transformations, self-care strengthens self-esteem, confidence, and the awareness that they are worthy of attention, kindness and respect.
Mental health begins with small gestures When we create safe spaces like this, we show them they are not alone, and that they deserve moments of lightness and care.

National RENAS Gathering

The Encontro com Deus took part in the 16th National RENAS Gathering, a space of fellowship, learning, and mobilisation of the Brazilian church for justice and social transformation. During the event, ECD actively participated in several workshops, including the one led by Patrick Reason, who brought inspiring reflections on leadership and community engagement, and the workshop delivered by Alessandra Vidmontas, which addressed effective management practices and institutional strengthening.
It is highly significant, as it broadens the understanding of the role of the church and Christian organisations in local development and in promoting a more just society.

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NECA Seminar

ECD took part in the 9th National NECA Seminar in São Paulo, one of the most important events in Brazil focused on the care and protection of children and adolescents.

Representing ECD were: Patrick Reason, Alessandra Vidmontas, Amanda Biriba, Elisa Llanos, and Angela de Souza.

During the event, Patrick Reason participated in the panel “Alternative Care and Protection”, presenting ECD’s Joint Mother and Child Care model — a national and international reference — and highlighting his work within FICE International, including the new global declaration “Promoting Appropriate and High-Quality Options in Alternative Care for Children and Adolescents.”

It was a truly transformative experience for our team.

This participation took place shortly after we welcomed Portuguese researcher Laura Santos, PhD in Forensic Psychology from the University of Coimbra, who was invited by ECD and whose presence was also coordinated for her to speak at the NECA Seminar.

During her visit to our organisation, Laura led a workshop for educators and a lecture for technical staff on compassion in care and emotional regulation within care settings.

Newsletter

St Peter’s Church Woolton

We had a very special moment at St Peter's Church Woolton, one of our key partners in the UK, who have faithfully supported our mission for more than a decade.

Our founder, Patrick Reason, shared about the actions of ECD throughout 2025 and also spoke about his moving experience in Ukraine.

Members of St Peter’s Church participated in two groups' mission trips that visited ECD in Brazil in 2017 and 2019, that set up lasting friendships between our communities. We are grateful to God for partnerships that together cross borders and bring hope, transformation, and unity.

Black Awareness Day

On the morning of 21 November, ECD held a special gathering in celebration of Black Awareness Day, bringing together staff members, children, teenagers, and families in care. It was a moment of listening, learning, recognition, and valuing the history and Black and Afro-Brazilian culture — essential pillars for building a fairer and more humane society.

The morning concluded with a large lunch at the CCC, prepared to bring everyone even closer together and strengthen our sense of community.

It was a day filled with affection, memory, joy, and identity — a living reminder that awareness is something we build every single day.

Newsletter

Workshops on newborn care

Our Casa Jardim carers have been doing an extraordinary job in preparing our pregnant teenagers for motherhood.

They recently led a series of practical workshops on newborn care, first aid, hygiene, and breastfeeding — all designed to make this moment calmer and to equip each girl for the arrival of her little one.

Because motherhood begins long before holding a baby in your arms.

During pregnancy, doubts, fears, and expectations walk alongside these girls — just as they do for any woman. And the challenge becomes even greater when they need to juggle school, life planning, and the experience of being in care.

That's why we deeply value the dedication of our team of carers. They make this season lighter, more educational, and more accessible, offering care, safety, and hope to every girl who is about to begin this new journey.

Together, we continue building pathways of love, preparation, and a brighter future.

Newsletter

New van

With great joy, we share some wonderful news! Our institution has just received a new van, generously donated by The Central de Dízimos Pró-Vida.

We were selected to receive this amazing gift, which will be essential to ensure safe and comfortable transport for our children and families. This week we picked it up and surprised our team with the exciting news!

Donations like this are vital for us to keep carrying out our mission with excellence, expanding the reach of our work and improving the quality of care we provide to the tamilies we support.

Every act of generosity strengthens our purpose and helps us go even further.

Annual General Meeting

We had our Annual General Meeting (AGM) with the ECD UK team in Liverpool.

It was a time to share updates and present the annual report from ECD Brazil, celebrating everything God has been doing so far.

We also reflected on the challenges and opportunities for 2025, renewing our commitment to bring transformation to children, women and families.

Together, Brazil and the UK remain united to impact lives and communities with hope!

Support us

For over two decades, we have been dedicated to providing safety, support, and hope to those who need it most.
To continue this vital work, **your donation is essential**. Every contribution helps us protect more lives and create a future where every woman and child can thrive.

You can donate through our website:
www.encontrocomdeus.org
or via the link below:
https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/8000#!/DonationDetails

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR ECD

- **Team and families:** For grace, unity, renewed strength, physical and emocional health for the team and their families.
- **New Projects for 2026: :** For guidance, resources, and the right connections—especially for the Women Foster Care Project.
- **Resources:** financial, material, and human provision for the growth of projects.
- **Children and Families:** hope, opportunities, and dignity in every life reached, especially during this Christmas season.
- **ECD Building:** For provision and direction in the new construction stage: accessibility, more office space for the employment agency supporting women facing violence.
- **God's Love:** that the love of God May dwell in every heart touched by ECD's mission.

Visit us in our Instagram. You can see all our news in our **instagram/facebook:**

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Join us in this mission!
Donate today and be part of this incredible journey.