

# Partners of the Americas

Indiana, USA - Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

## Feijoada Special Edition

1st Quarter, 2010

### In This Issue

Connecting: Dasan Robinson and Youth Sports Development

Connecting: Visit from RS President

Serving: Viva Vila Project

Serving: Partners Strategic Plan

Changing Lives: RS Student Nurses

Cultural Corner

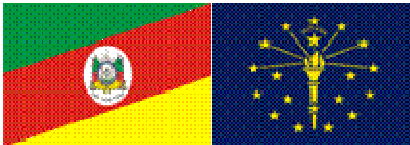
### Quick Links

[Indiana Partners](#)

[Rio Grade do Sul Partners](#)

[Int'l Partners of Americas](#)

[About Brazil](#)



### Mark Your Calendar!

**Wednesday, Mar 17**

**Assad Brothers**

Indiana History Center, Indianapolis, IN

**August 20-29**

**Indiana Fringe Theater Festival**

TBA

**September**

**IMA Latino Film Festival**

TBA

**September**

**Farroupilha Day Soccer Duel and Family Celebration**

TBA

**November 18-21**

**International Festival of Indiana**

TBA

### Connect>>Serve>>Change Lives

How is that for Partners new motto? A short version of our mission, unveiled at the Partners International Conference in November to great enthusiasm and approval that it indeed reflects Partners' method of success since beginning in 1964!



How fortunate we are that Indiana Partners starts each year with the clearest crystallization of our mission, **Changing Lives through our Youth Ambassadors Program** for teens 15-18 years old from Rio Grande do Sul - opening young minds to new experiences, to a more realistic vision of their culture, our culture, and their global community. They come for 8 weeks and see first-hand the wonderful and sometimes frustrating differences and our binding human similarities.

Our intrepid Youth Ambassadors arrived from Rio Grande do Sul along with the biggest snows in Indiana in many years. And, they quickly began the assimilation process with each special host family. See their blogs for a refreshing, genuine view of American high schools, (large and small) taking Chicago by storm (and by 3D fireworks), and pitching in with Kiwanis and Key Club leaders in an American-style community service project day.

### 2010 Youth Ambassador's Blog Spots:

<http://indilife2010.blogspot.com> - Túlio

<http://rafaemindiana2010.blogspot.com> - Rafael

<http://mslaner.blogspot.com> - Mariana

<http://gbondarindiana.blogspot.com> - Gabriel

<http://maite-ya.blogspot.com> - Maite

For an irresistible dose of **Gaúcho** enthusiasm and charm, come see all the Youth Ambassadors at the Annual Indiana Partners' **Feijoada** and hear their impressions first-hand.

## Connecting: Dansan Robinson of the Chicago Fire Links Pro Soccer to Youth Development and Giving Back Through Partners



Pro Soccer Player, Dansan Robinson, wanted to do more than just take a vacation during his break from pro competition in January. So, he contacted Partners Sport for Development co-chair, Marc Maxey, and together they worked out a program for Dansan. He is to play a lead role in furthering development of IN Partners' program for youth by combining pro soccer training with Porto Alegre *Futebol* with community service in Rio Grande do Sul. This will make an impact that lays the groundwork for a follow up youth soccer trip Marc Maxey scheduled to lead this summer for Partners International. They also made ongoing linkages for RS and the Chicago Fire pro team connections. See [Dansan's blog](#) for more insight.

## Connecting: Leaders and Collaborators - A Visit from the RS President

Rio Grande do Sul Partners President Ana Isabel Krzimirski came to Indiana for a two-week President's Planning Visit on October 25, 2009, and we will never be the same - in a GOOD way! She brought her infectious enthusiasm for Partners, her drive to make our programs stronger, more meaningful, and her warm and caring love for so many friends and 'family' members in Indiana. Some highlights of Ana Isabel's whirlwind activities included:

- Greetings from Indiana Governor Mitch Daniels and meeting with Lt. Governor Becky Skillman
- A State of Indiana Women's Leadership Luncheon with Girls Scouts, arranged by Laquita Maxey and handing out awards for high school soccer excellence.
- Meetings and briefings on:
  - the Youth Ag Exchange with FFA and Purdue
  - Viva Vila Project and social programs with Tippecanoe County Extension Office Homemakers (Norma Singley) and Ball State University Women's Studies
  - Our Living Language Program (Luciana de Oliveira)
  - Economic Development with Indianapolis officials
  - Nursing Exchanges with IndianaStateUniversity in Anderson
  - IndianaUniversity business students traveling to Porto Alegre
  - City officials of Noblesville-Nova Prata, Rio Grande do Sul, Sister Cities.
- Representing RS Partners at the Partners International Conference in Washington, D.C.

[Partners International Convention, 12-13 NOV, 2010](#)

Last, but not least at all - Ana Isabel was the *Maid of Honor* in the wedding of her American 'sister', Laura Linhart!

## Serving: A New Day for the Viva Vila Project for Teen Girls



One of the most exciting outcomes of the RS President's visit came in the meeting with Tippecanoe County Extension Office Homemakers, organized by Norma Singley - the faithful, longtime torchbearer for the *Viva Vila Project* for poor, at-risk teen girls in Alegrete, RS. Extension club leaders surprised both IN and RS Presidents by proposing a multi-year collaboration to build on Norma's work and expand the *Viva Vila Project* with a major fundraising campaign by them in 2011 and, potentially in 2012, too.

Cristina Zariff Severo and Helena Freitas returned to Indiana this month to follow up and create a working partnership with Extension Office Homemakers of Tippecanoe County, Indiana.

### Serving: New IN Partners Board Members Tackle Strategic Plan

Nine new IN Partners Board members were elected at the 20 November, 2009, Partners Annual Meeting. Building on the 2009 Board accomplishments in improving governance and connecting and promoting programs better, new board members began their work 23 January, 2010 on remaining goals identified in the 2009 Strategic Planning update: Strengthening, engaging and recruiting new Members; Upgrading financial management and budgeting to support new programs; Developing public relations and resource development plans. See IN Partners Strategic Plan on our website:

### [Partners of the Americas - Indiana Chapter](#)

### Changing Lives: RS Student Nurses November 2009 Visit



Eleven RS student nurses and their teacher arrived - finally, dramatically, at the Partners Annual Meeting on 20 November, 2009 at the International Festival of Indiana (at the State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis) where we had a booth and Brazilian cultural programs. The RS nurses' November visit to the US was the return visit to the spring 2009 visit to RS by Indiana nursing students at Anderson University.

Highlights of their visit:

- demonstrations at the 1st-in-the-nation simulation lab at new IU Fairbanks Medical training center
- patient care at the US federal prison in Terre Haute
- experiencing Indiana nursing student life with overnights in Anderson University dorms
- Thanksgiving dinner with the extended family of IN Partners nursing program leader, **Shelly Cary** - all 11 of the RS student nurses!

### Cultural Corner

## Carnaval - 2010!

While we at IN Partners had our own special Carnaval celebration, Carnaval was celebrated in RS and around Brazil in its usual festive and flamboyant fashion. Record high temperatures, record high crowds, and several celebrity appearances made this year's Carnaval a memorable one. For more about how Brazilians celebrated this traditionally wild holiday this year, read the [Huffington Post's recap](#). Or, check out [www.Boston.com feature in pictures](#).



Don't Miss All the New [Cultural Events](#) IN Partners is Planning!