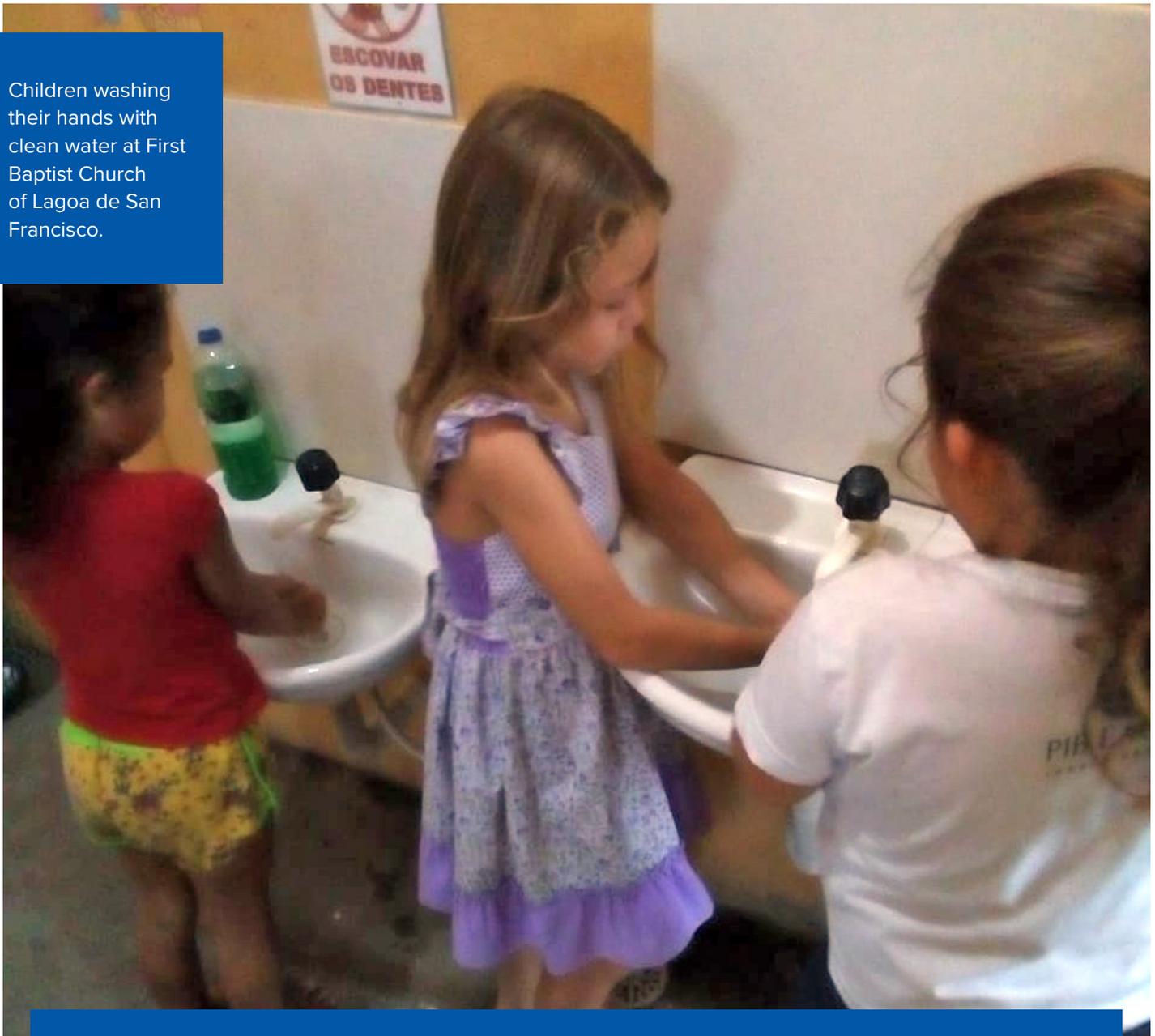


Children washing their hands with clean water at First Baptist Church of Lagoa de San Francisco.



## A Final Update on Your Gift to Provide Clean Water to a Community in Brazil

Spring 2020 Update



# Clean Water Changes Lives

## Purpose of Project

Grace Community Church, before you stepped forward to help, the city of Lagoa had no reliable running water and a limited supply of clean drinking water. Children suffered from preventable diseases that inhibited their ability to attend program activities and be present with their families. Thanks to your generosity, this is no longer a reality.

In May 2019, First Baptist Church of Lagoa de San Francisco began planning to build a well that would provide 200 children with clean drinking water. The church serves 200 children through its Compassion-assisted child development center, called No Caminho. In June 2019, construction began. Community members from across the city came to see the drilling of the well, which inspired hope in hundreds of individuals. A community was able to witness the tangible care and provision of the Lord through the construction of the well.

## Community Served

The city of Lagoa de San Francisco has a population of 6,422 and is located in northeastern Brazil, a region that is currently in the midst of a drought.

## Intervention Status

- Launched in May 2019, this intervention was completed in June 2019.
- A total of 200 children and their families participated in a health and hygiene workshop at the church. Additionally, because of access to clean water, the church planted a vegetable garden.

## Key Accomplishments of This Project



The church reported a reduction in waterborne illnesses



All beneficiaries & their families have access to clean water



Children are practicing healthy hygiene habits



Staff trained children and their families in proper sanitation practices



Construction workers drill a hole in the ground for the well.



# Your Impact in the City of Lagoa

## Results

A construction crew successfully dug a well which provides safe water to 200 children and their families in the city of Lagoa. The well is 187-feet deep. After drilling was completed, construction workers installed water pumps with pipes running directly into the church.

The lack of clean water was a serious problem in Lagoa and many children suffered from waterborne illnesses. Access to clean water has reduced the number of illnesses among children, and increased their participation in program activities. Additionally, the well is providing enough clean water for the church congregation and community members.

In order to strategically utilize the new well for the health and wellbeing of children, the church raised local funds to plant a vegetable garden outside of the center. As a part of programming at the center, children work to take care of the garden and enjoy eating vegetables during meal time. They learn about team work, responsibility and the importance of being a good steward of the environment.

Elaine, education coordinator at the center, says, “The entire process taught us to trust the Lord. Despite not having the resources for a well, we lifted up our request to God. Our faith was tested as we sought to identify a reliable company to dig the well. Now that the well is functioning and clean water is flowing, I can see how God orchestrated the entire process. The whole team and community learned to trust God and to act in an organized way with the resources that God gives us.”

## Vital Outcomes at No Caminho Child Development Center



200 children have access to safe water at the center



An entire community has access to a reliable source of water year-round



Increased attendance and participation in center activities



The church has increased access to fruits & vegetables

# An Interview With Isanio de Santos, Director of the No Caminho Child Development Center

## How have the lives of affected beneficiaries been changed since the completion of this intervention?

This project was important for the entire community. The lack of drinking water has been a constant problem in the city of Lagoa. The only clean water in the area comes from the center. The 200 children enrolled in the program and more than 25 volunteers directly benefited from the intervention. With the guarantee of clean water, we can organize community gardens, festivals, and other programs to bless the community.

## How has this intervention benefited the church or community?

Since the opening of the child development center, there was great concern about maintaining the center without constant clean water. The new well provides for the needs of over 200 children, staff members and volunteers as well as a small vegetable garden. For the church, the process of praying for the well and trusting in the Lord's provision helped us develop our faith and grow spiritually, in addition to demonstrating to the public that God loves the community and is blessing families through the care of these children.

## How has the intervention affected your ability to minister to the children?

Through the well we can teach children by making an analogy with the well and the water. Jesus gives us pure, living and endless water, more than any other source. In the same way, the Word of God gives us life and makes us grow if we drink from it. Today, when a child needs something, we say, just as God provided us with water because He loves us, He will take care of every need if we pray and trust Him.

## What would you like to say to those who provided financial support for this intervention?

You're transforming the future of hundreds of children in the program. We pray that Jesus will always give you living water. It is with great appreciation that we thank you for changing lives in our community.



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The presence of water changes any place by bringing life and growth. Jesus gives us pure, living and endless water, more than any other source.



Volunteers working together to build the vegetable garden outside of the church.



The completed artisan well. Below the ground are pipes that run to the church's water sources.



Children tending to the church's vegetable garden.



# An Interview With Joana, Beneficiary at No Caminho Child Development Center

*Joana is 10 years old and enrolled at No Caminho Child Development Center. She shares how the new well has positively impacted her life.*

## **What was your life like before the intervention was implemented?**

My life was more difficult. Without water in the center, we could not get a drink or use the bathroom.

## **How has your life changed now that the intervention is complete?**

Now that we have water from the well, we can use the bathrooms, drink water and cook. Everything is much better now. We can spend more time learning and participating in activities.

## **What will this change mean for your future or the future of your family?**

This well will improve everyone's health. Having access to clean water will help me grow healthy and pursue income-generating projects like growing fruit and vegetables.

## **What lessons have you learned from this intervention?**

I learned to trust God and ask Him for what I need. God has proven His love for us through His provision. There was no clean water at the child development center, so we prayed and God answered.

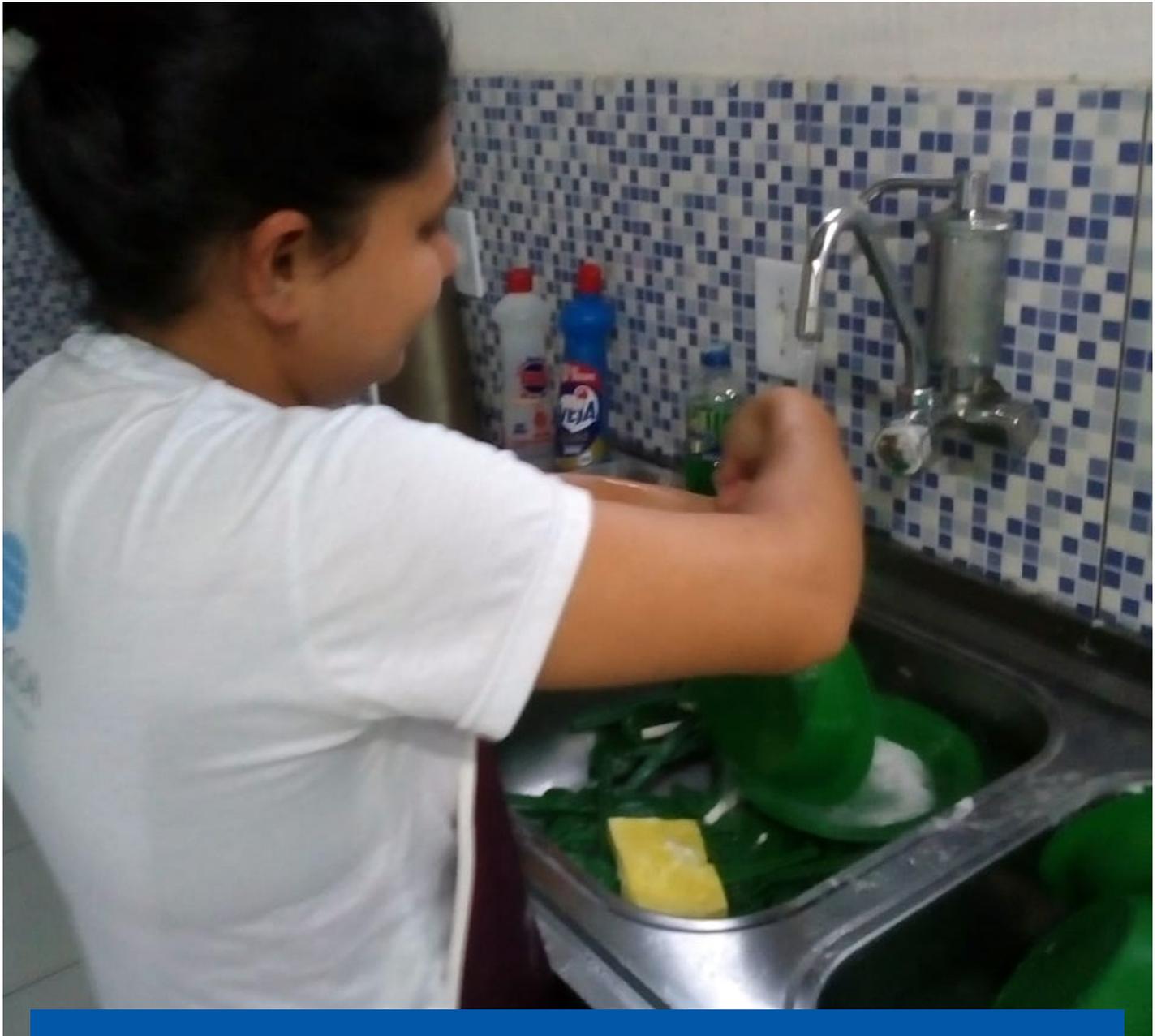
## **What would you like to say to those who provided the financial support for this intervention?**

Thank you very much and may God bless you. This well is very important to us and our entire community. We are happy to have clean water.



“

This project will improve everyone's health. Having access to clean water will help me grow healthy and pursue income-generating projects like growing fruit and vegetables.



## Thank You for Your Support

Jesus said, “And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me” (Matthew 18:5, NIV). Thank you for your heart for children in Brazil. Because of your generosity, 200 children and their families have access to clean water which will better their health and wellbeing. Most importantly, the new well displays the tangible love and care that Jesus has for his children. May the Lord bless you!

**Amy Coddington | 720-375-1046 | [adcoddington@us.ci.org](mailto:adcoddington@us.ci.org)**