



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

THE “FAMILY GUARDIAN” PROJECT RECEIVES A VISIT FROM INNOVARE PRIZE CONSULTANT AND CELEBRATES A MILESTONE WITH FRANCISCA

On the morning of Friday, 11th July, ACER Brasil experienced a special moment with the visit of lawyer Juliana Zoratti, a consultant for the Innovare Prize. The visit focused on learning more about the “Family Guardian” project, particularly its innovative process for granting legal guardianship to extended families. This process was developed by the Judicial Advisor to the General Inspectorate of the São Paulo Court of Justice (TJSP), Judge Mônica Arnoni, in partnership with the Children and Youth Court Judge of Diadema, José Pedro Rebello Giannini, with active participation from the ACER Brasil team.

The visit formed part of the selection process for the finalists of the Innovare Prize, which annually recognises practices that contribute to the improvement of the justice system in Brazil. Juliana was welcomed at ACER Brasil's headquarters by Mônica, José Pedro, and Jonathan Hannay, Secretary General of ACER Brasil. Together, they presented in detail how the project has been implemented in Diadema, highlighting the results achieved and the direct impact on the lives of children and their families.



A highlight of the visit was the moment when Mrs. Francisca, grandmother of four children, signed official guardianship documents for her grandchildren, thereby legally securing the right to care for and raise them with legal certainty and institutional support. It was an emotional moment that symbolised everything the project stands for: protecting, supporting, and strengthening family ties in a responsible and humane way.

We conducted a short interview with Mrs. Francisca, who, visibly moved, shared with us:

“It makes a big difference having legal guardianship now. I can take them to the hospital or anywhere else I need or want to,” she said. “Now I want them to study, become good people—maybe even become a doctor... But above all, I want

them to be honest, hardworking individuals.”

The “Family Guardian” project was created precisely to offer this kind of support—both legal and emotional—to extended families who are already, in practice, caring for children but face legal obstacles in formalising that responsibility.

The visit from the Innovare consultant was more than just part of the evaluation process; it was an opportunity to shine a light on a concrete, sensitive, and effective practice that could inspire other municipalities and states across the country.

The project is based on the recognition that many children, removed from parental care for various reasons, are already living with grandparents, uncles, aunts or other relatives who take on the role of caregiver with love and responsibility. However, without formal guardianship, these families are often powerless when it comes to basic services such as enrolling a child in school, taking them to medical appointments, or dealing with legal matters. Formal guardianship strengthens both in Brazil's Statute of the Child

the rights and stability of the child within their family network.

Alongside Mrs. Francisca's story, other cases were also mentioned as examples of the project's real-world impact. These are families who, despite facing complex situations, find in the “Family Guardian” approach a practical and dignified way to move forward with institutional support.



and Adolescent (ECA).

The presence of representatives of the Judiciary alongside the ACER team reinforces the importance of cross-sector collaboration to ensure that innovative practices like this one are not only developed but embedded into everyday reality. Judges Mônica Arnoni and José Pedro Rebello Giannini stressed the importance of creating more accessible, empathetic and efficient processes that reflect the real lives of families and do not penalise them for their social condition or lack of information.

The initiative has also been instrumental in empowering extended families, recognising the value of these support networks that have historically sheltered and protected vulnerable children. For many families, being recognised as the child's legal guardian is both an act of love and an expression of citizenship.

For the ACER Brasil team, the consultant's visit underscores the importance of continuing

to invest in practices that put children and their families at the centre, ensuring full protection and respect for their stories. The hope is that Diadema's example can be replicated, adapted, and expanded, contributing to the development of a justice system that is closer to people's realities—more humane and more effective.

Beyond institutional recognition, the project has had a profound impact on the self-esteem and autonomy of the families involved. By taking on the role of legal guardian, men and women become protagonists in the lives of children and adolescents who were previously in vulnerable situations. This transformation touches not only the daily lives of those children but also redefines the very meaning of family for those who welcome them.



MONTLHY NEWSLETTER

ELDORADO TÊXTEIS: WHERE THREADS WEAVE TOGETHER WOMEN AND HOPES

This month, ACER Brasil's Newsletter highlights Eldorado Têxteis (the Eldorado textile Project), a space where sewing becomes an act of expression, learning, and collective care.

More than just a workshop, Eldorado Textiles is a welcoming and communal environment where women from the local community come together to learn, share experiences, and develop skills in the world of sewing and embroidery. Among fabrics, threads and patterns, conversations are started, listening happens and bonds are formed that strengthen each of the participants.

The workshops promote not only technical learning but also creativity, independence and teamwork. With each new order — like eco-bags and customised pieces — the group takes part in every stage of the process, always paying close attention to detail and care for the materials.

At Eldorado Textiles, the most important thing is the collective process: respecting each person's pace, mutual support and valuing work done with

care. It is a place where sewing becomes an encounter and that encounter becomes transformation.

Over the years, it is not just the quality of the pieces that has evolved but also the human relationships. Many women who arrive feeling shy or uncertain find in the group a space for listening, laughter and strength. Eldorado Textiles is also a space where life stories intertwine and every achievement is celebrated together.

The workshop's production also reinforces ACER's commitment to social and environmental responsibility. Wherever possible, fabrics are reused, materials are handled consciously and each piece bears the hallmark of intentional work.

In an interview with Lúcia, who has been part of the project for many years, she shares:



"I've been coming to Eldorado Têxteis for 20 years. It's such a lovely place to work. We make friends, we do embroidery. In fact, there are many excellent embroiderers at Eldorado Textiles — and I'm one of them.

At the beginning, I decided to sign up with a friend. I never imagined how much it would change my life. What stays with me most are the friendships and the time spent with the other women and the team. Here, we talk, we laugh, we share both good and difficult moments.

You feel calmer, you know? Because working with your hands helps your mind. It gives you a boost, keeps your thoughts focused on something positive. For me, Eldorado Textiles has been essential. I suffer from depression and this place has been a way out — a light. It was the key to my success. It really helped me.

It can open new doors too. A lot of people are looking for work in this area and this is a great foundation. I've learnt so much, met incredible people, and rediscovered myself.

Women, come and discover ACER's project. Come to Eldorado Textiles. You'll feel welcomed, you'll learn, you'll laugh. Here you'll be happy."

Eldorado Textiles is also a place of listening. Between one stitch and another, conversations arise that bring relief, advice that offers comfort and stories that inspire. This space is not only about making things with your hands but also about caring for one another — a quiet support network built daily with kindness and respect.



It's common to see women who arrived withdrawn and unsure of their abilities rediscovering their strength through collective work. When a piece is finished, it's not just a completed item of clothing — it's a symbol of

achievement, of overcoming obstacles and of the simple yet powerful message: "Yes, I can." And that recognition is transformative.

The impact of Eldorado Textiles extends beyond the local community. Many of the pieces produced in the workshop are transported and sold in England and Ireland, connecting the women's work here with people in other parts of the world. This shows that the care, beauty, and dedication that flourish in this space are recognised and valued beyond Brazil's borders, further strengthening the pride of those involved.

Knowing that their creations travel thousands of kilometres and reach other cultures gives participants a new perspective on themselves.

This international recognition also shines a light on the value of artisanal work — done with care, detail and love. Each piece carries a story and, along with it, a piece of what Eldorado Textiles represents: a space of welcome, resilience and beauty built through community.

While the presence of these pieces in another country broadens the project's horizons, its essence remains unchanged: a place where women support, teach and grow with each other. Where the most important thing isn't just the finished product but the journey taken to get there — with patience, listening, trust, and sharing.

Eldorado Textiles is, above all, a space of possibility. The possibility to learn, to reconnect, to make friends, to grow stronger and to be happy. With every stitch sewn, a new door opens. With every bond formed, a future is redrawn — full of colour and meaning.

May this project continue to inspire, welcome and transform. And may every product that leaves that room carry forward not only the beauty of what was made but the strength of the woman who made it.