



Jesuina Ribeiro
17 years old
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Studies at the Teaching School

Jesuina started at TRANSFORMARTE – a non governmental organization whose main role is to use peer educators to inform the youth about HIV/AIDS through the use of art, theater, dance and radio - in the year 2000. Out of the four projects that TRANSFORMARTE develops in one of the poorest neighborhood of Rio de Janeiro, Rocinha, she is involved in all of them except one (dance). The four projects are drama, dance, radio communication and interventions and they are coordinated by the GRAPAAR (translation: ARGPAAR – Acquired Resistance Group for the Prevention of AIDS in the Rocinha). Through these projects Jesuina was trained as a peer educator in sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and AIDS. She also says that in TRANSFORMARTE she learned about citizenship, STD/AIDS prevention to human rights and maturity.

In the drama project, the last play that she acted in was entitled “O Julgamento de Marculino” (Marculino’s Judgment) and it was such a big success that it was presented several times during the last two years! Last year she started as a drama producer at the Art Caravan Against Tuberculosis and HIV/AIDS, another drama project where Marculino’s Judgment was exhibited.

Jesuina and three other youths went to the 2003 United States Conference on AIDS, in New Orleans, with TRANSFORMARTE, the only Brazilian organization represented. A short sketch taken from Marculino’s Judgment was presented to over 3.000 people! Jesuina was quiet nervous with such a large audience – the largest of her life! She says that this whole trip was an unexplainable experience in her life!

As a peer educator she does not restrict her action to the stages, she introduces all the information she learns into her day-by-day life. She uses the information at home, dialoguing with her parents and relatives, at school and anywhere else she can.

In her Interventions activities – conferences at public schools – she uses slides, condoms, models of the human body's sexual organs, and informative flyers and posters to reach the young audience. This young TRANSFORMARTE leader thinks that working with youth is easier than dealing with adults, because at this age people are more open to learning and are more relaxed, without losing the seriousness of the issue. Adults are difficult to educate about STDs/AIDS, because at first they don't really trust the young and it seems that they are shy about exposing their doubts.

Each day Jesuina learns more and more about STDs/AIDS through the internet, newspapers, magazines and with the TRANSFORMARTE's professionals and she's learning new teaching tactics to improve her Interventions.

In the radio communication project called "Tá no Rádio" (It's on the Radio), Jesuina is the program's production director and she says it was very nice to learn how everything works in a radio. The programs are focused on STDs and HIV/AIDS.

Jesuina loves what she does and her dream is to keep growing with TRANSFORMARTE and keep on believing that a world without AIDS is possible!