



## Who We Are

EBM INTERNATIONAL is a mission organization where Protestant Christians (Baptists) from 27 countries work together in the global mission. It is important to us that the Gospel of God is being spread; and also to help the people in their basic needs. Therefore, we work through many social projects. In Latin America, only local people work in these projects and are being supported by EBM MASA (Latin America section within EBM INTERNATIONAL). As part of the Union of Evangelical Free Churches in Germany (a corporation of public law) we are entitled to issue tax-deductible donation receipts.

## Life Situation on Cuba

The life situation of many children and young people on Cuba is very hard. Poverty, crime, drug trafficking and other serious problems lead even the youngest of them into strong feelings of hopelessness and despair. They are lacking educations and hope for a better life.



## Project Description "Youth Sports Program"

In order to counteract these facts, EBM INTERNATIONAL supports several projects on Cuba. We would like to introduce to you a project that enables new life perspectives to children and youths on Cuba.



This project started with Christians who were deeply moved by the lives of the children. Several years ago, they started to develop missionary aid projects in the slums of Havana, where many families live in poverty and need.

The aim of this project is to meet the needs of these young people, who are usually left alone during the whole day, with practical help through the love of Jesus.

They need to be got off the streets, away from the drug scene and from criminal dangers. Sports and games are good and proven means to reach this aim.

Through the **Sports Program** more than 800 children and youths are already being reached. About 50 of them are between five and nine years, 150 of them are between ten and 12, 300 teenagers are 13 to 16 years old and about 300 young people are between 16 and 20. Through this sports program, children, teenagers and youths get a chance to develop new life perspectives. Many of those young people suffered from violence and can now experience big changes. To do sports is healthy and at the same time, Christian and social values are being taught, which lead to new hope. They can leave behind all their sorrows and find people with open ears and hearts for their problems.



The offered sport activities are:  
Soccer, volleyball, basketball and others



Seven co-workers and many more voluntary staff people are involved in this project. Additionally, a program is offered to help the parents. They live with huge existential problems. They are given advice, can attend seminars and receive practical assistance. About 200 families make use of this offer.

Moreover, these families get visits from staff people. They look after their needs and offer help.



### New Values – New Life

It is really remarkable to see, how much love these volunteers have for the people in their surroundings. They are always ready to share their time and goods, though being in need themselves. This affects these children and young people in a positive way.

They have fewer fears, change their behavior towards each other, and have hope for a better life.



The youth sports project teaches important values which achieved the following changes:

- ❖ They are taught to recognize the risk of drugs and crime, which they are constantly exposed to. They are encouraged to give up on those things. The success is that some of them could already quit criminal groups. They now help out in these projects and help others to receive this change and help in their lives.
- ❖ A strong focus is on also on communicating to the young people and their parents and showing them how important it is to practice respect and esteem towards others. They have never experienced that before. One example: The young people attending the sports program are used to using bad language without any reason. Therefore, a rule was brought in during the games that prohibited swearing. Whoever used bad language get the red card and had to leave the game. At the beginning lots of red cards were shown, but now, it happens rarely. The staff members now said that during the latest soccer competition with twelve youths teams, only three red cards were shown. The way of speaking really changed.
- ❖ All participants of the project should recognize the value of healthy relationships and be ready to take practical steps to reach that aim; also in order to fix broken relationships. These topics are worked through with the children and their parents because the family situations are terrible in that area. Anyways, success is visible. On a Baptism, a whole family cried for joy because they have experienced change in their behaviors towards each other and forgiveness. They can now start a new and hopeful life together.
- ❖ Education is important! – Many of these children and youths have hardly any interest in school and education. They also do not receive much motivation and support. This as well is being communicated in the sports program and the kids are being encouraged to invest in lives with perspectives. Education is an important factor. The staff members try to support the children with their difficulties, they give advice to the parents how to better support their kids and even visit their schools and talk to the teachers to better get to know their difficulties in order to help. Regularly, they evaluate the progress and can be happy for many good results. It is great to see how these young people like to go to school and develop a healthy ambition. The prior hopelessness changes into hopeful progress.

These positive developments within the young people and their families also achieved positive social changes.



We are so grateful for donations that offer new chances to Cuban children and youths.

Thank you very much!

### **Contact details**

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### **Donation account**

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