

2nd Writing Contest on Environment & Peace

Theme: *Environment, Peace and the new Corona Virus: what has that got to do with me?*

Servas Brazil and Servas Portugal joined the organizing team of the Second Writing Contest. This initiative of the Environment & Peace Project is linked to the *How Responsible is Your Organization* (CERO) programme, developed by the Research Group on Careers and Skills Development Laboratory (LCDC) of the Federal University of the São Francisco Valley (Univasf), in Brazil, in partnership with the Public Prosecutor Office of Bahia State and the University of Bahia State (Uneb).

It all started some years ago, when Alvany Santiago, member of Servas Brazil, a university professor in Univasf and environmental researcher, took over a “fazenda”(farm) from her parents, where she was born. There, she found the degradation of the land, since, trees were cut and the water was polluted. Alvany initiated then a project with family, childhood friends, locals, as well as with Servas visitors, planting trees, preserving the “mata atlântica” (Atlantic forest), recovering the water sources, building a sustainable water management...and bringing back the birds. The visitors that came to this “fazenda” connected in such a way that they decided to create a group called “Santiago EcoAmigos”. After some time, Alvany launched the idea of involving students in her environmental voluntary work and contacted local schools, the Education Federal Department and other entities.

In 2019 the First Writing Contest was created, involving a population of two-thousand students, from basic to high schools. The outcome was so positive, both for the students community as for the local society, families and teachers that now in 2020 the second edition was launched on June during the week of World Environmental Day (June 5th). The Contest will last until November 20th (Black awareness day), when the winning contestants will receive their prizes.

- The theme of 2020 Writing Contest is: “ Environment, Peace and the new corona virus: what has that got to do with me?”

The Contest aims to increase ecological awareness and contemplation of nature, emphasizing the importance of peace and environmental preservation for improving quality of life and protecting health in these times of pandemic. This is on the basis of principles promoting peace and tolerance with a supra-party,



