



IF YOU'RE GOING
TO LIVE, LEAVE
A LEGACY. MAKE
A MARK ON THE
WORLD THAT CAN'T
BE ERASED.

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AJU is a non-profit organization, and has been since early 2008, an IPSS – Private Institution of Social Solidarity. Inspired by the life and work of Father Jerónimo Usera, our goal is to dignify the human person and empower underprivileged families, giving them new models for life and opportunities for change.

We work with vulnerable and at risk families, children, young people and adults. Because we want lasting solutions, we fight the inequalities that keep people locked in poverty and injustice - we work for genuine, durable change.

Our vision, mission & values

- **Our mission**
is to develop activities and projects which actively contribute to the integral promotion of the human person and the family, especially serving the most disadvantaged and marginalized in the community.
- **Our vision**
is to be an institution of reference based on the conviction that, with the right help, each person can be an agent of their own change.
- **Our values**
are love, as criterion, foundation and center, as well as respect, transparency, rigor, trust, innovation and joy.

Our main activities

AJU provides services aimed at the specific needs of the different community groups it supports, low-income families, through four main areas of intervention:

- **Childhood and youth**
(Crescer project, soccer school, summer camp and Ludoteca - Play and Grow);
- **Adult life and parenting**
(with the three projects Recriar and Ser Capaz and support service to moms and dads);
- **Active/senior ageing**
(Clube Sénior and Samaritanos);
- **Social and community intervention**
(baby support, food support, clothing store).



Our social support programme

The AJU Foundation's main activities and services are supported by four teams: Social Work, Psychology, Social Integration Income, parental counseling center and Projects & Pastoral. These teams work together on an integrated approach that brings changes to families and individuals at different stages of their life.

AJU's projects involve accompanying families, encouraging their healthy development, preventing parental neglect through the promotion of positive parental behaviour models, helping with the development of personal and socio-professional skills and fighting isolation and loneliness.

In 2021

AJU serve 481 families, supporting a total of 1,134 people. Several of our beneficiaries were integrated in one or more of our support programmes, leading to a total of 1,670 enrollments.

By working closely with our families, AJU enabled their integration and strengthened the community. This was achieved through the series of projects and activities, resulting from the direct needs of the supported families and of the solutions designed by our technical team.

The individuals and families supported by AJU have different social needs and fragilities, which require AJU to provide services in an integrated approach that

takes into account the various dimensions of these needs (food, health, education, employment, housing), all of them essential to guarantee a transformative outcome.

Sustainability

AJU's financial sustainability is a key condition for enabling the implementation of future initiatives, as well as ensuring the full funding for current resources and activities.

Our two social businesses largely ensure the financial health of our foundation. These are our: Kiosk "A Ver o Parque" and our shop "2nd Hand by AJU".

The solidarity Kiosk "A Ver o Parque", at the Marechal Carmona Park in Cascais is a space open to the public, which guarantees the creation of value and allows improving the sustainability of the institution's projects while preserving the focus on AJU's social mission. (With the support of the Catholic Parish of Cascais and the Municipality of Cascais)

2nd Hand by AJU - Clothing for a cause. 2nd Hand by AJU is a clothing shop where the profit from the items sold is fully reinvested in social projects that contribute to improving the lives of the supported families. The idea is to re-use clothes in the best possible way, fighting waste and creating a commercial alternative that is socially responsible and environmentally friendly.

The additional means of financing are:

- Friends of AJU
- Fundraising Campaigns
- Partnerships



What some of our supported families say about AJU:

"AJU changed my life and that of my entire family. Nowadays I feel that I have a future, a decent job and new perspectives."

(Father of a family accompanied by AJU)

"If there was another opportunity to participate in Recrear, I would take it. Even when it was raining heavily, we were eager to join"

(Participant in the ReCriar Project)

"By being part of the 'Bebe a Colo' project, I learned that being a mother is also about being re-born together with your baby, and that every day is a challenge, but that there are also many learnings to make and knowledge to accumulate, and the AJU team helped me a lot with this..."

(Participant in the Bebe a Colo Project)

"An open door, better living conditions!"

(Family accompanied at Merceria do Bairro)

"Since I've been in Portugal, I've never stopped coming to AJU's activities... I only skip them if I am feeling ill. The activities help me a lot."

(Participant in Senior Project)

"A place to learn... where we can be ourselves"

(Participant in the Crescer Project)

"It was a great experience. An experience with good people and good professionals"

(Participant in the ReCriar Project)