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Meeting and Culture Point: social occupational therapy in São Paulo city

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We work with homeless people. Some of the objectives unfolded are common needs, but there are others which are peculiar and require creativity and willingness on the part of the occupational therapists and technicians. To comprehend their needs it is necessary to establish a dialogue with each person/group, and together construct the basis for the projects, which carry meaning. It is the building of this dialogical perspective that lies in the experience of The Meeting and Culture Point.

The Meeting and Culture Point is a place of articulation, culture and meeting between the various knowledge and languages, built by the partnership Civil Organisation of Social Action (OCAS) - Metuia Project/University of São Paulo, with the participation of the OCAS magazine's vendors, leaderships of homeless, artists, students and the community.

For 8 years, the Metuia Project developed actions related to the universe of homeless people, in São Paulo city center / Brazil. Occupational therapists and students related to Metuia have participated in numerous circuits linked to this social group in institutions and places of political participation. Sharing the daily life of homeless people, through this commitment the initiatives recently initiated at the OCAS's Centre, have been joined by several long-term partners.

The meetings schedule is discussed between the participants, and proposed activities is to unfold their interests, such as the discussion of issues relating to the homeless, political organization, fighting for rights, violence and prejudice. The presence of people linked to the arts stimulates the exchange of personal productions related to music, literature and dance, which occur in events that participants organize - open space for performances and literature. The art works on the street and in alternative spaces in the city is recurrent. Actions from the Meeting Point also work for these spaces.

Through this experience we seek to discuss dialogue and activities to build upon this social field. Especially when dealing with actions within the social occupational therapy, the notion of activities should be reviewed and scaled in order to form an instrument for empowerment combined with dimensions social-political, cultural and the emotions of people, groups and communities.