

# Taking Care of Life, Nature, and People.

Passo Fundo, RS



Motivated by the pressing needs of recyclers in Passo Fundo, RS, Brazil, and challenged by the church, the members of the Holy Cross Province, in collaboration with three other congregations and the Archdiocesan Caritas launched the “Transformation Program.” This initiative is not only inter-congregational and ecclesial but also a prime example of synodality. The program, developed in a synodal manner, operates in four key areas:

The Socio-Environmental Education Program encourages schools and various public and private venues to raise awareness about environmental preservation, social inclusion, and citizenship among students and the broader community.

The Cooperative Program organizes recyclers into cooperatives, providing suitable conditions for their recycling work. It focuses on fostering a cooperative spirit, equitable income sharing, and promoting the autonomy of recyclers.

The Child and Adolescent Program offers activities that strengthen social connections and bonds between participants. Through educational workshops, it encourages children and adolescents to actively practice in citizenship.

The Public Policies Program advocates for the rights of individuals, particularly children, adolescents, women, families, and recyclers, by advocacy with legislative bodies for responsible lawmaking.

The collaboration between these congregations and the Archdiocesan Caritas demonstrates that collective efforts can lead to significant and lasting changes. Since 2007, the Transformation Program has been promoting the dignity and social inclusion of recyclers in Passo Fundo, RS, Brazil. This ministry also responds to Pope Francis’ call for ecological conversion and care for our common home.