

What is the Black Belt Foundation?

The Black Belt Foundation is a non-profit organization co-founded by Master J. W. Kim. The goal of The Black Belt Foundation is to use the values of Taekwondo to help people break out of the restrictive cycles of poverty, poor education, and poor health. Through teaching Taekwondo, it is the mission of The Black Belt Foundation to improve the lives of the extreme poor in Brazil by teaching them community, responsibility, perseverance, and teamwork by providing a healthy alternative to avoid the pitfalls that often accompany severe poverty such as illiteracy, drug use, and teen pregnancy.

The students served by The Black Belt Foundation are poor children who live in the slums. These children live in dilapidated shanties, and often go without food, medicine, and other basic needs. They are exposed to drugs and violence and often beg for food and money to help their families survive.

Who Teaches Taekwondo for the Program?

The Black Belt Foundation has several volunteers who teach Taekwondo in Brazil. The head of the volunteers is Master Gilberto, who is the President of the Alagoas State Taekwondo Association where the programs are located. Master Gilberto himself once had to beg for food. He credits Taekwondo with saving him from a life of poverty.

Master Gilberto has dedicated his life to helping these children, and he and the other volunteers donate their time and money to teach them. They have seen a tremendous effect on the children's lives as a result. Many have escaped the drugs and violence of their communities and can see hope for a brighter future.

What do the Students in the Program Need From Us?

The students have little or no uniforms, paddles, sparring gear, and other Taekwondo equipment. In fact, they are lacking many essentials in their lives such as food, clothing, shelter, and clean drinking water.

Master Kim, J.W. Kim Taekwondo, and The Black Belt Foundation are dedicated to bringing Taekwondo and its principles to those less fortunate. We have seen first hand the life changing effects of Taekwondo. We should all remember that there are many people who simply try to survive each day, and our lives of privilege require us to give back to those who need our help.

The Black Belt Foundation is working to provide Taekwondo equipment and training areas, food, school supplies, computers, and more to the impoverished students in Brazil.

The Black Belt Foundation oversees the distribution of funds and equipment for the program.

How can I help?

We accept donations throughout the year. In addition we hold multiple fundraisers each year. If you are interested in making a donation or volunteering contact Master Kim at jwkimtkd@aol.com or Master Mike at mschultz@theblackbeltfoundation.org.

View the video from our first Kick-A-Thon Fundraiser in 2007 at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WCbZ8wX6FOM>