

## SYNOPSIS

### « A unique old people home »

Fortaleza, Brazil - 2004 / 2005

The old people home of **Lar Torres de Mello** has been a philanthropic institution for over a hundred years and accommodates 250 old people from all over the country today.

The community of Fortaleza, Ceará has always cherished the old people home, providing it a constant and tremendous support as the institution high-performance equipment show.

Lar Torres de Mello offers a well-developed occupational therapy which stimulates both the body and mind. It runs a medical unit, a nursery as well as a natural phyto-pharmacy where herbal medicine are prepared with plants cultivated in the institution garden, also called “living pharmacy”. A small bazaar sells new and second-hand clothes and shoes. The mending, ironing and washing are carried out by the employees and volunteers of the institution themselves.

Nothing less than a microcosm, charismatic and lively.

The spirit in which both the employees and residents live here is similar to the very one that can be found in families where the elderly protect the young generation. At Lar Torres de Mello, however, it is the elderly whom are looked after by the youngsters...

The old people home is inhabited by surprising and mysterious and extremely attractive people, by women and men driven by an enthusiasm and energy more powerful than quite a few youngsters'...

In fact, even those who do not live in the “phase of passion” have entered into platonic relationships or deep friendships.

*Fátima Rocha Perini*