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- 1. Anna Maria and Ivan de Souza, 1985
- 2. Anna Maria [second from right], 23rd anniversary of the Brazilian Carnival Ball
- 3. Heather Gotlieb and Anna Maria at the 2006 Ball in support of York's Accolade Project
- 4. Anna Maria and Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, 1988
- 5. Thomas Phillips, Anna Maria and Ivan de Souza, 1997

The legacy of the Brazilian Carnival Ball and its founder, Anna Maria de Souza, will be preserved for future generations thanks to the generous donation by Ivan de Souza of the Ball archives to York University.

Ivan de Souza, together with Helen Vari, a dear friend of Anna Maria's, conceived of the idea of preserving these precious memories and making them accessible to the community, past and future Ball recipients, scholars and students around the world in perpetuity. "What better way to pay tribute to a remarkable team in Anna Maria and Ivan, and ensure others learn from their shining example," says Dr. Helen Vari, former member, York University's Board of Governors, Honorary member of York University's Board of Governors.

TREASURING THE LEGACY OF THE BRAZILIAN CARNIVAL BALL

The collection includes photos, framed honours and awards received by Mrs. de Souza, sceptres presented to Mrs. de Souza at past Brazilian Balls, programs, letters of appreciation, financial records and media clippings from the Ball's more than 42-year history. Records will document the transition of the Brazilian Ball from a church basement in 1966 to a spectacular gala attended by a host of well-known leaders from business, society and government.

"Anna Maria transformed philanthropy in this city," says York University Foundation President and CEO Paul Marcus. "Her warm, caring and dynamic personality inspired all of us. Together, Anna Maria and Ivan have touched the lives of countless individuals through their leadership and many good deeds."

There will be a travelling exhibit built by Library staff — featuring permanent panels devoted to Anna Maria and the history to the Ball, and a new panel prepared each year to celebrate the work of the current beneficiary. "The display would be available on the night of the Ball so that guests can be reminded of the immense heritage behind the event," explains Michael Moir, University archivist and head, Clara Thomas Archives & Special Collections.

Moir expects the collection will draw an international audience of people interested in culture, dance, the Brazilian diaspora and in the importance of individuals in achieving positive social change through charitable works.

The Brazilian Carnival Ball benefited York University's LaMarsh Centre for Research on Violence and Conflict Resolution in 1998 and the Accolade Project, Faculty of Fine Arts in 2006, the Ball's 40th anniversary.