



Fondazione  
ValterBaldaccini

# FROM THE ROOTS 01

THE WILL OF ONE MAN, THE FUTURE OF MANY  
VALTER BALDACCINI FOUNDATION BIENNIAL MAGAZINE - JULY 2018



Dear Friends,

Three years after establishing the Valter Baldaccini Foundation, we're launching a biannual magazine to tell you about the events and projects we've accomplished thanks to the contributions of our donors.

This newsletter is sent to those who know about us, but also to those who know little about us or who do not have access to the latest generation of digital communications tools who could miss out on some "pieces" of our solid path of solidarity. The title *From the Roots* reminds us that all of our actions have a common purpose: to perpetuate the thoughts and values of our Founding Father, Valter Baldaccini. Through him, great works of Love were accomplished that we want to keep alive and rejuvenate with the legacy of his spirit and that we remember through the phrase: **"Together we have sown a great seed that will grow into a great plant."**

In this first edition we will share the stories of some of the people we are collaborating with to carry out local and international social development projects. We will hear from some of our volunteers, but more importantly, we will hear the voices of those who now have the possibility of a better future thanks to the contributions of our donors.

At the organizational level, the Board of Directors has been

renewed with a total of five members and we also have a Scientific Committee with a variety of abilities: social-economic, medical, and psychological. All the professionals in these groups are volunteering without pay, but they are motivated by their desire to contribute to the Foundation in carrying out projects that respond concretely to needs in our community. We are already in the second year of publishing the Foundation's statutory financial statements, and this year we have even summarized it in a "pocket format" that guarantees transparency and simplicity.

I would like to thank you and leave you with a thought that guides our actions: **a country's civilization is judged by how much attention it pays to the frail, the sick, the children, the elderly, and people who are temporarily or permanently facing difficulties that cannot be forgotten or marginalized. Let us approach them gently, curbing our prejudices, and giving them the ability to hear their own voices. Maybe we can discover a world that is submerged, but true, that is capable of teaching us that there is no gesture more beautiful than giving ourselves to others.**

**Beatrice Baldaccini**

President of Valter Baldaccini Foundation

# Renato and Giovanni's travel diary

A week full of rain, smiles, hugs, and glances. This is the assessment of the days Renato and Giovanni spent in Kenya. They are our first volunteers and have already been to Africa on various trips with Valter Baldaccini. This year they have offered to go and see the Foundation's active projects in Kenya first-hand. The slow pace, the traffic, lots of children and young people, too many people in extreme poverty, the beauty of the territory, and the extraordinary strength and energy of those working in the fields are the contrasts you have to contend with every time you set foot in Africa. Contradictions that are the force that drive us to return and continue to do something for those who live in this rich land that has been mistreated too often.

This is an excerpt from Renato and Giovanni's Travel Diary.

"The slow pace, the traffic, lots of children and young people, too many people in extreme poverty, the beauty of the territory, and the extraordinary strength and energy of those working in the fields."



In the photographs, Sister Federica and the women of MUTANU: the pink garden and our volunteers Renato and Giovanni with the children studying in Kenya, thanks to the support of our donors.

## Friday April 13, 2018

Arriving in Nairobi with the April rain is not facilitating travel. Once the initial tasks are completed, we prepare to meet Joab, the project leader, and all the students that the Foundation cares for through distance adoptions. We are going to give each of them a package of food, so our adventure begins at the grocery store in the city. No one owns the quantity of goods we need, but after a long trek, we're able to put together rice, legumes, oil, flour, soap, milk, sugar, notebooks, and pens. The meeting with them is overwhelming. By now, some have been with us for several years, and we can see that they have grown and matured. Being able to embrace them and see the eyes of their families full of gratitude is what fills our hearts and gives us the energy to try to offer each one of them a more dignified life.

## Saturday April 14, 2018

In Karen, one of Nairobi's suburbs, we meet Sister Federica, a woman doctor full of positive energy and enthusiasm. Together with a group of women, bringing the "MUTANU: the pink garden" to life, she is waiting for the incessant rain from the last few days to subside. The soil has to dry out a bit before they can begin the first planting. The rainy season has allowed them to accumulate

some water reserves, a precious resource for irrigating the garden during the hot months. We talk to her about how difficult it is for the Kenyans to access health care. Thanks to her mobile clinic, she often manages to reach remote villages, trying to help as many people as possible.

## Monday April 16, 2018

What a touching encounter with the Sisters who live in Mathare, one of the largest slums in Nairobi. We welcome the shantytown children with a big party that includes dancing, singing, a theatrical show, and the distribution of sweets; a simple gesture that is worth a lot to these children. The situation in Mathare is terrible. The people who live here face many difficulties every day, from poor sanitation to illiteracy, from sexual trafficking of children to kidnapping from criminal gangs. But the thing that has shocked us the most is the trafficking of organs, which also affects the adults. They get people drunk, and then they operate on people and abandon them in the slum. The work of these Sisters is incredible. Every day they work to create job opportunities for women in the slum and teach children to read and write. They are persevering in the midst of difficulties with a strength that we attempting to treasure and take back to Italy.

# Introducing our Scientific committee

As of the end of February, a Scientific Committee has been established at the Foundations. It is with great pride that we introduce them to you. These are three professionals with different skills, but together, they can only enrich us. We have asked each of them to tell us something about themselves and what it means to be part of the Valter Baldaccini Foundation.

## Marta Franci

With curiosity and a calm temperament I had, and still have, the good fortune of experiencing deep reflection and training. After filling some reservoirs with energy and ideas between Rome, Padua, and Lousanne, I decided to come back home and try to do something here. As a psychologist, psychotherapist, and a

“Three professionals with different skills, but together, they can only enrich us.”

doctor of research in psychology, but also as a mother and nurturer, I'm following the example of Alba Marcoli, a clinical psychologist who has been dealing with juvenile distress and family problems for years.

I really like the integration and potential that derive from them! For me, the Foundation is one of these exponential multipliers. The context of the Foundation itself together with projects we contribute to and share in constructing, with the needs of the local families, are all guided by a desire to provide a scientific frame and structure to the way we contribute to people's well-being. This is my wish for the Foundation: **to continue to provide support and prevent fragility in an effective and organized way and to become an increasingly virtuous model of support in the panorama of social solidarity. I'm happy to be here!**

## Maria Frigeri

It's a matter of pride for me to be part of the Foundation's Scientific Committee. I met Valter Baldaccini in 2010 when I was Councilor for Childhood Policies for the Municipality of Foligno.

I suggested creating a Children's Library, which became a reality within a few months thanks to the support of UMBRAGROUP and Boeing. Since then, the Children's Library, with its In-Book section for children with communication disorders, and its multicultural section for foreign children, is a reliable reference point for promoting reading at an early age and for the cultural growth of the whole community.

This meeting was followed by others, which were all characterized by a **great empathy for and a sincere attention to the needs of the territory, and a deep interest in the history of each individual person.**

These values, which Valter Baldaccini admirably embodied and

exemplified every day, are the ones that drive my pediatric work as a pediatrician and at the Foundation.

## Simone Poledrini

I am originally from Arezzo, but I've lived in Perugia for many years. I work at the University of Perugia in the Department of Economics as a professor of Business Innovation Management. I have been involved with non-profits, especially social enterprises. My principle focus is the idea that Valter Baldaccini's presence can still be with us.

Of course his memory can be evoked by doing charitable works in his name, just as Valter himself did in his lifetime. However, I believe that specific activities aimed at understanding humanity and the Baldaccini's managerial approach must be one of the Foundation's main tasks.

I have a great dream for the Foundation: I would like to see it slowly transformed over the years into an operational foundation. **That is, a foundation that operates directly within the community and whose activities, together with other companies and entrepreneurs, directly promote Valter's "culture" within the economic and social context of our country.**



Our Scientific Committee in front of the portrait of Valter Baldaccini at UMBRAGROUP's entrance: Simone Poledrini, Marta Franci, Beatrice Baldaccini and Maria Frigeri.

# New Projects: in-books, the book that include

In the heart of Foligno, in an historic building, there is a beautiful library dedicated entirely to children and adolescents. It is the **Children's Library**, a place that is special to the Foundation. It was 2010 when Valter Baldaccini enthusiastically committed to the project with the Municipality of Foligno to create this space. Thanks to contributions from UMBRAGROUP and Boeing, the project took shape in just a few months, and even today it is a center of excellence in our region. Four years later, starting with the idea that **the right to read must be for everyone**, a section dedicated to in-book was created. Unique to the region of Umbria, it was completed thanks to contributions from UMBRAGROUP and the Kiwanis Club of Foligno.

## The in-books are books illustrated with the text translated into symbols.

### DONATE NOW



9 € TO PURCHASE THE PAPER AND NECESSARY MATERIAL FOR PRINTING



15 € TO PURCHASE A NEW BOOK IN SYMBOLS ALREADY PUBLISHED



25 € FOR PRINTING AND BINDING



40 € TO HELP OUR TRANSLATOR ROBERTA. SHE TRANSFORMS WORDS INTO SYMBOLS.



100 € FOR THE SUPERVISION AND GRAPHIC LAYOUT OF THE BOOK



**But what makes this library so special? The in-books are books illustrated with the text completely translated into symbols.** They are useful for those who have difficulty learning and communicating, but are also useful for those who don't have any particular disabilities because they stimulate reading independently. Among the most diligent of the regular visitors the Children's Library's in-book section is **Bruno, a seven-year-old boy who has difficulty communicating.** When he started school, it seemed as if his problem was an insurmountable wall which caused him to isolate himself from his class. However, through in-book he was introduced to the teacher, Marta, who used it as a tool for teaching him to read. It also became the key for getting closer to his schoolmates. Sitting next to the teacher, Bruno follows the symbols with his finger, repeating them out loud and discovering enchanted places and fantastic characters. Not only that: his intrigued classmates began to compete with each other for the chance to read together with Bruno. **The in-books encourage in-timacy for in-tegration and in-clusion.**

After several years of activity, the section needs some new energy. **Together with the Kiwanis Club of Foligno**, we would like to revitalize this section of the library, which can be useful to many families in need who don't know about it. To remedy this, a seminar and a training course, open to everyone, will be held next October. **We would like to have all the shelves in this section filled with new in-books for that occasion, and to do that, we need everyone's support! We would like to buy some that have already been published and some that need to be translated. You can help us buy or make an in-book! Thanks to your support, many children like Bruno can feel less alone and can discover the richness of reading. Reading is a right for everyone! Find out how you can help us on the Valter Baldaccini Foundation's website. Thank you very much for your support.**

**The Valter Baldaccini Foundation needs your support to carry out its projects!** Thanks to everyone's help, we can give the gift of **dignity, the opportunity for redemption, and a better future** to those who find themselves in difficult circumstances!

There are many ways to donate:

- With a credit card: [www.fondazionevb.org/en/how-to-donate/donate-online-now](http://www.fondazionevb.org/en/how-to-donate/donate-online-now)
- With a bank transfer: IBAN IT 84 Y 02008 21703 000104143165 BIC: UNCRITM1J35

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