



Fondazione
Valter Baldaccini

FROM THE ROOTS 02

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



Dear Friends,
Christmas is approaching, and at that time of the year when we spend more time with our families, we stop to reflect on the past year and we experience the "joy of giving" in various ways. Since its inception, the Foundation has always recognized the **family** as a place where the first relationships are established, the significant ones that will accompany us throughout our lives. However, for various reasons, it is not always possible to start off on the right foot. The family may experience profound crisis related to health, economic, social, or psychological problems.

You will have the opportunity to read about Antonio, a man who, since childhood has had to face displacement, being treated as "different", and lacking family support. He fell into delinquent activities that led him to always live on the edge of illegality. But then, thanks to the **Diocesan Caritas of Foligno** and his own willpower, he managed to re-emerge, and today one of our work grants is giving him a new opportunity, a life that is dignified and law abiding. Next you will meet Roberto, a 40-year old man. Thanks to the help of his family and the Umbria Delegation of the **ANT Foundation**, he managed to battle a tumor while staying close to his loved ones with adequate care by profoundly ethical professionals that allowed him to live surrounded by love until his last breath.

There were also months of "public recognition" for the Foundation. In fact, we celebrated two memorials dedicated to Valter Baldaccini. The first was promoted by the **Cannara Onion Festival**, which saw more than 200 people running through the streets of our Founding Father's birthplace. The second was promoted in collaboration with the volleyball team **SIR Safety Umbria Volley Perugia** and **UMBRA-GROUP**: At the request of SIR President Gino Sirci, the proceeds from the match were donated to the Family and Work Project. Once again, I would like to publicly thank the Cannara Onion Festival and SIR for these precious gifts to the Foundation.

In my greeting and wishes to you for a Merry Christmas, I would like to thank the friends, the donors, the Board of Directors, the Scientific Committee, and all the people who make it possible for the Foundation to support the neediest people in a tangible way. **Because in life you can fall, but you can also get up again, and it is also the responsibility of those who have been more fortunate to not judge severely, but to reach out and provide help to others.**

Merry Christmas to all of you and your loved ones!

Beatrice Baldaccini

President of Valter Baldaccini Foundation

A vocational path for Antonio

It has been a life like the plot of a film, halfway between a comedy and a thriller, a life of departures and returns, of voyages to new shores - not always sun-kissed, and of rebirth. It is the one Antonio has lived throughout his 60 years and, **thanks to the Family and Work Project we are promoting with the Diocesan Caritas of Foligno**, he has found stability.

A stability comprised of mornings spent at the farm and afternoons spent with the youngest of his four children. **“Here, I’m fine - he says - I feel I have reached a beautiful point in my life. Of course - he confesses - there are difficult moments because problems never go away. But today, there is a bit of air.”** He says this while looking ahead, staring at an indefinite point, perhaps the trees in front of him, perhaps he sees the future on the horizon.



In the photograph one of the person involved in the Family and Work Project. The project was also renewed for 2018-2019 and provides for the disbursement of an additional ten grants for families in distress in our area.

A future that is probably different from the one he thought life had given him, but that isn't so bad.

Especially looking back and revisiting all the experiences, sometimes adventurous, that have left their mark. “I was born in Naples – he explains, going back to the past ‘but at the age of four, I moved with my family to Umbria’. It was the sixties, and even though he was a child, Antonio will never forget the difficulties his parents encountered once they arrived in Foligno. ““They were terrible years, - he continues – when there was a lot of distrust of the Southerners. The only ones who were hospitable to us were the owners of the Hotel Italia. They rented us a room and a kitchen. It was me, my mother, my father, and my sister. Four other brothers had remained in Naples.”

Thus began his life “in the North”. His family was large but only his father worked. “And I remember that I – even as a child – contributed, giving a hand. I was only 6 years old and I was collecting iron and cardboard.” Little interested in studies, at the age of 7 he was sent to a boarding school in Belfiore for three years. When he returned home, he resumed his studies; however his strong temperament got the better of him.

“After the first year of middle school I was suspended, and at that point I decided to leave school permanently.” He would resume his studies at the age of 16, attending night school with the goal of getting into the third year of secondary school. But at that time, he

had some problems with the law. Still a minor, he was sent to Fabriano to do some socially useful work. It was an alternative “punishment” to juvenile prison. There he began to work for some companies, but when his girlfriend, who later became his wife and the mother of two of his four children, visited him, he decided to give up everything to follow love.

And then his first daughter was born. Then the other three arrived. He had the last two with different companions. In between, he had a job as a linen representative that took him around Italy, but above all, it was the first great journey of his adulthood. It was in the early nineties, and he decided to follow his new partner to Russia. “I lived there for four and a half years – he recounts – and I met all kinds of people, spent time in disreputable places, and was always living on the edge. Then I returned to Italy to be with my children. But after a short time, I ended up in jail for the possession of a pocket knife. I kept it in my fishing box, one of my passions.”

However, this explanation was not enough to avoid arrest. “Released from prison – he continues – I started working again. Some friends had enlisted me in running a night club, but it did not end well, so I found myself serving another small prison sentence.” Next came the other great journey: Mexico. “I was there for a year and a half. Then I came back to Italy to be close to my father. He wanted me to return, so I did. He was ill and I took care of him, and then he left us. I had decided to return to Mexico, but in the end, I stayed here for my children.”

However, in his 18 months overseas, life had not been a bed of roses. Once again he found himself in situations on the fringe of normalcy, even at the risk of his own life. In short, experiences have left their mark on him but they taught him, in hindsight, that there is something else.

“Now that I can count on this work grant, it seems like I have a lot...”

The return to Italy, the economic difficulties, the problems in making ends meet, and the inability to think about the bills, pushed him toward Caritas. “The day I met Patrizia (Deputy Director of the Diocesan Caritas of Foligno) I was facing great economic difficulties. I had nothing”.

And now that I can count on this work grant, it seems like I have a lot. I've learned to understand the value of money and I no longer have the yearnings I had in the past. My life has changed. Now I savor things that I didn't care about before. Some friends have suggested going to the United States, but I told them, now that I'm on the farm, I want to stay here. Every now and then I bring my youngest daughter. **I'm fine now.**

We would like to thank the press office of the Diocesan Caritas of Foligno for collecting and writing Antonio's story.

Sara, an on-call doctor for cancer patients

Sara is a young doctor specializing in hematology. This year, with support from the Valter Baldaccini Foundation, **she is part of the ANT Foundation team of professionals in UMBRIA.**

Together with Dr. Valentina, Nurses Elena and Angelica, Nutritionist Deborah, Coordinator Silvia, and Psychologist Giacomo, **they visit the homes of about 35 cancer patients throughout the territory every day to offer them free medical and health assistance.**

ANT's work is based on the principle of **Eubosia**, a Greek word that means "good life, dignified life", and it is precisely for this reason that for Sara "every patient is a person, ahead of being a sick person, who has the right to spend the difficult and painful days of the illness at home and in the company of loved ones".

The doctor has told us many stories about the people she meets every day, stories that, unfortunately, don't have a happy ending most of the time. Her stories always reflect her professionalism, seriousness, and passion for her work, but the characteristic that impressed us the most is her profound humanity.

For the professionals at ANT, taking care of these patients means entering into their lives and the lives of their families on tiptoes to overcome fears and diffidence. It means creating a relationship with the patient through words, looks, and silences, but also by sharing dreams and desires. This is what happened with Roberto. "Roberto was not yet forty and had long been struggling with intestinal cancer. He had undergone two major surgeries and chemotherapy, which he had to stop because it no longer had any effect.

Roberto was a man with a lot of friends, intelligent and very witty in spite of his exhaustion and a story that is not easy to hear.

When we began going to his house to help him, he immediately opened up. Each visit became an exchange of laughs to die for. Roberto had three sisters and his greatest desire was to go the wedding of his youngest sister, who was getting married just as he was getting worse. On the wedding day the nurse, Angelica, and I escorted him to the ceremony and we supported him throughout the day so he could spend it with his family and friends.

"... Eubosia, a Greek word that means good life, dignified life ..."

In the evening when everyone went to the reception and I reattached his feeding tube, he joked with his father and said that the doctor had put three things in it: the appetizer, the first course and the second course!"

Roberto died a few days later, happy to have achieved one his great desires, surrounded by the love of his family, and with dignity. Everyone has a right to **Eubosia**, even during the difficult times brought on by an illness.

Thanks to the Umbria Delegation of the ANT Italia ONLUS Foundation and to photographer Chiara Putini for her availability and for graciously allowing the use of the images.



In the photograph Dr. Sara with Lino, one of the patients in the care of ANT's professional team in UMBRIA this year.

Short updates about ongoing projects

Post-Earthquake Reconstruction

More than two years have passed since the earthquake struck and damaged our region. From the very beginning the solidarity of the citizens been shown, and from among the numerous projects it received, the Foundation has chosen to support the restoration of the **CNOS-FAP Institute of Foligno**. At this time we have selected a design studio and have received all the authorizations required for installing the structure's fire prevention system. **We are very pleased to announce that the work has begun and we hope to invite you to celebrate the completion soon!**



In-book, the inclusive books

The Conference **"The Library for Everyone, In-books as an instrument of inclusion"** will be held at Palazzo Trinci, in the heart of Foligno, on **November 24th**, starting at 9:00 am.. The meeting is part of a project the Foundation has supported this year in collaboration with the Kiwanis Club of Foligno, with the aim of relaunching the section of the **Children's Library** dedicated to the in-books. **On this occasion, the Library will receive a donation of books that we have been able to produce and purchase thanks to the precious contribution of our donors.** With the coming of the new year, free training courses will begin that are dedicated to these special books designed for families, caregivers, and teachers.

For additional information: Foligno Municipal Library tel: 0742 330610 e-mail: bibliotecomune.foligno.pg.it

Chiara's Research at the Assisi Seraphic Institute

Chira is a young neurologist who has been at the Assisi Seraphic Center's new InVita Research Center for several months. She is studying how the music of Mozart, in particular sonnet K448, can have beneficial effects on people who suffer from epilepsy and for whom medicine is not effective. The team at the Center is made up of professionals with diverse disciplines who are united by a passion for research with the aim of **giving hope and support to all the families that face their children's illness every day, often without even being able to understand it. We are happy to be able to stand with these special people who deserve to have the chance to feel better just like everyone else.**



MUTANU: The Pink Garden

The greenhouse came to life thanks to the help of the many donors who fell in love with this project. Sister Federica in Kenya, together with twenty women, is cultivating an all-woman vegetable garden. This is a solid opportunity for work, autonomy, and dignity for these people. The plants are growing and very soon they will produce their fruits that will be sold at the local market. **MUTANU means joy** and that is exactly what we feel when we see the smiles of these hopeful women.



CHRISTMAS GIVES HOPE TO SO MANY PEOPLE IN NEED

Every day, the Valter Baldaccini Foundation promotes projects to support those who are the most vulnerable. In the last year, thanks to the precious help of donors, we were able to offer **ten job grants to families facing difficulties** in our area and to **create many new in-books** for children with communication problems.

Thanks to everyone's help, **a young researcher** is trying to improve the living conditions for the special guests at the Assisi Seraphic Institute, and **an ANT doctor in Umbria** closely monitors people suffering from cancer. And that's not all. After a long wait, **post-earthquake reconstruction** has begun at the CNOS-FAP Institute of Foligno that will offer adequate professional training to many young people. In Kenya, **MUTANU** has come alive, it is a vegetable garden that is allowing twenty women to make a living from their own work, and thanks to long-distance adoptions, **more than fifty children** in Kenya and Burkina Faso are **attending school. And there is still so much to do.**

"Together we have planted a great seed that will become a great plant!" is the phrase of Valter Baldaccini that informs our work every day. Help us make this tree even stronger and more vigorous. **Offer concrete solutions to those in need. DONATE NOW!** **Thank you very much for your support, every gesture represents a precious resource for us!**

There are many ways to donate:

- With a credit card: 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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