



Fondazione
ValterBaldaccini

FROM THE ROOTS 03

THE WILL OF ONE MAN, THE FUTURE OF MANY
VALTER BALDACCINI FOUNDATION BIENNIAL MAGAZINE - MAY 2019



Dear Friends,

The first few months of 2019 were intense in that we continued and enriched some of the projects we began in 2018 and we began some new ones. Together with Sister Federica, we identified ways to expand the project: **Matanu: The Pink Garden**. We will raise some dairy goats next to the lush greenhouse that has given the women here the opportunity to grow and sell fresh vegetables for the first time. We will give each of them two goats because we know that the milk will be a source of livelihood for the women and their families, and they can also be sold and worked. We would like to thank those who joined our campaign in support of this project which **has already allowed us to raise 1,070 euros and buy 17 goats. We've also launched two new projects, one locally and one internationally**. Together with Dr. Marta Franci and Dr. Maria Frigeri, who are part of our scientific committee, we've identified the need to support some vulnerable families in the area who need help in the first few months after childbirth. **We know that first few months of life have a profound influence on who one will become as an adult. Supporting these babies from the start offers them the precious opportunity for the future.** The project is being done in collaboration with the services within our area and the Tenda Community. The third project is based in Saginaw, Michigan, where UMBRAGROUP acquired a new company

last year. This project arose from the Foundation's desire to establish a presence in the communities where UMBRAGROUP operates through projects promoting social development for people in need. **I had the opportunity to personally be in contact with Emmaus House, an organization that has worked with women for over thirty years.** All are women with complex pasts, often victims of abuse, violence, and dependence. **Based on Christian Principles, it is a place where these women have a real opportunity to take back their own lives.** With our support and donations, we will accompany them on their path of rebirth. Finally, I would like to thank Damiana Bovo, secretary of the Pro Trevi Association, who worked with my father for 38 years, and the students of class 2A from the T. Valenti Secondary School in Trevi, for selecting Valter Baldaccini. **To have him nominated to be among the Righteous in the Garden of the Righteous is a recognition that honors us and encourages us to continue on the path that he began, caring for those most in need and participating in a concrete and solid manner in order to help our society move forward.**

Thank you from my heart for your valuable support, and warm regards to all.

Beatrice Baldaccini

President of Valter Baldaccini Foundation

With Families



The all-woman team of project "With Families"

Maria is the young mother of Luca and Fabio. She is a tenacious and courageous woman who decided to leave her neglectful husband despite the discovery that she is expecting a baby. She is a single woman who works a lot, even with a disease she is forced to live with. Thanks to the help of friends and relatives, she is doing the best for her family.

These people's situations are not easy. The services in the area know this. They are already taking care of them, and the arrival of little Emma puts the fragile equilibrium of this nuclear family at risk. "With Families" was established for this, to help mother Maria manage this difficult and delicate moment and to guarantee little Emma the best possible start. One of the La Tenda Cooperative educators, our partner in this project, goes to their homes every week. Together they confront the difficulties of everyday life and figure out how to support little Emma in her growth and development, because it's truly here, in these first months of life that will determine what a person will become. **The mission of this project is to be with the families, accompany them and create new relationships and possibilities focused around the child. Being with these children from the beginning is a way for us to offer them precious opportunities for the future.**

This year there were ten families that received assistance from the team: a group of professionals from the public and private sectors working with the existing services in the area, to ensure that these families are not left alone, but instead build relationships, becoming more autonomous and independent, connected with both the social fabric and the network of services.

Entering the world of families means reaching parents who are reluctant to ask for help. It means reaching out to families rather than waiting for them. For this reason we immediately involved

services that can reach out to people who are going through a difficult time such as clinics, the gynecology department of the Foligno Hospital and pediatricians active in this area.

The method the educators follow has scientific validity and was developed by Professor T. Barry Brazelton, an important American Pediatrician. It is called **the Touchpoints method, and it aims to**

"to give little Emma the best possible start"

create stable and functional relationships and growth opportunities for the babies in their various phases of development.

In Italy the Touchpoints Training Center is in Rome, the staff working on the "With Families" project have taken these training classes and these experts from the Center assist and council our educators in their work of providing support to families.

The foundation began taking about this project at beginning of summer, 2018. It was **Dr. Marta Franci and Dr. Mariolina Frigeri, from our Scientific Committee, who proposed this action dedicated to the little ones and their families.**

We are happy that within a few months what had been an idea became a concrete action in our area.

A seed in America

Valter Baldaccini is the Founding Father of UMBRAGROUP. For the Foundation that bears his name, it has a profound mission to promote projects that support people in difficulty, including those in areas where the company's various offices are located. It is from this intention that the Foundation's first project in the United States was born, in the state of Michigan, in the city of Saginaw, where we learned about Emmaus House, Sister Mary Elizabeth Klier, and Joan Douglas.

Emmaus House is an organization founded by two enlightened Sisters: Shirley Orand and Marietta Fritz who have worked with women for over thirty years. They are all women with complex pasts, often victims of abuse, addiction, and violence. They come from prison or rehabilitation centers, having just finished their journeys in these institutions, but they have no place to go. For each of them, the risk of falling back into the mistakes of the past is too high. Following Christian principles, Emmaus house helps them with this. It is the bridge between prison and an autonomous and independent life. It is the place where women have the possibility to regain their lives with dignity. In the Bible Emmaus is the place where the resurrected Christ

accompanied until each one of them is ready to walk on their own. This year the Foundation is supporting one of the House Managers in the valuable work they do with these women. It is contributing by reimbursing the expenses for one of the accepted persons. Each of the guests is required to carry out socially useful

"And behold, on the same day two of them were on their way to a village named Emmaus... Jesus himself approached and walked with them"
(Luke 24: 13-15)



The guest choir ready to perform during an event for the community

revealed himself for the first time. **For the more than 3000 women who have been accepted, Emmaus House has represented and continues to represent a rebirth, the beginning of a new life.** Emmaus is a temporary sanctuary, where each woman is considered a unique individual, where everyone can train, take responsibility through work, and learn to manage their own home and salary, by engaging in an educational, psychological and spiritual journey. Emmaus manages seven houses that can accommodate up to 33 women. After an initial period of about a month in a large community house, the guests move to smaller houses where, with the supervision of a professional educator (House Manager) they are



The President, Beatrice, with her husband Fabrizio and friends James and Virginia, and Tracy during the Italian-American lunch at Emma's House.

jobs weekly in the Saginaw community to help familiarize them with work and money management. They receive a small reimbursement for expenses that they must learn to manage wisely.

Five years ago, on the occasion of the Easter blessing, a little less than a month before his death, Valter Baldaccini said: "Together we have planted a large seed, which will become a great plant".

We are proud to have thrown one of these seeds overseas.

Mutanu: Goats arrive in the pink garden

Mutanu means joy. It's heartwarming that for a year, with the all-female garden project in the village of Kathonzweni, near Nairobi we are trying to assist twenty women who live in absolute squalor and poverty. It is sometimes difficult for them to succeed and also have even one meal a day. It is an exciting project, made possible thanks to the precious work of Sister Federica, a woman-doctor full of energy, tenacity and love for others. Thanks also to the many donors who fell in love with Mutanu.

A greenhouse was built on completely bare ground, with a cistern and an irrigation system. Here women have been able to grow vegetables, especially beautiful tomatoes, to sell in the local market, creating income for themselves, but also for their families. This job opportunity is allowing their children to go to school and build a better future for themselves. **Mutanu represents the opportunity for these women to regain pride, redemption and autonomy.** As Sister Federica wrote in her letter: "Women are the backbone of African society and this simple project can have a significant impact on their existence and on that of many other people. We believe and hope together in the possibility of a new dawn for many Kenyan women!". A year has passed since the start of the project and we are already at the second sowing of tomatoes. On the outside of the greenhouse women, enthusiastic

about having this unique opportunity, are trying to grow peppers too. Our desire is that the rose garden will continue to grow and that, through the dignity of work, these women will become more and more independent. And that is why Sister Federica, very attentive to the real needs of these women and above all to the feasibility of these actions, in an area where it is not always easy to act, asked us to expand the project **by entrusting each of these**

"MUTANU represents the opportunity for these women to find pride, redemption and autonomy"

two women with milk goats. Milk is an important source of livelihood for women and their families and can also be sold and processed. **Each little goat costs 60 € and thanks to your help we will be able to donate 40 goats to the women of Mutanu. Your generosity will provide them with a concrete possibility for work and redemption.**



The pink garden and the women



Valter Baldaccini, the right one

March 9th was truly a special day for the Valter Baldaccini Foundation, the Baldaccini family, and all UMBRAGROUP employees. **Valter Baldaccini was named as one of the Righteous in the Garden of Trevi.** The Righteous are those who have distinguished themselves in the course of their lives for their service to others through significant humanitarian and social actions and gestures. The Gardens of the Righteous are scattered all over the world. They are places where the important principles these people represent is kept alive. We are truly honored and proud of this important recognition. Thanks again to the PRO TREVI Association and to all the students from class 2A from the T. Valenti Istituto Comprensivo Secondary School in Trevi for choosing to nominate him.



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
- **With a bank transfer:** IBAN IT 84 Y 02008 21703 000104143165 BIC: UNCRITM1J35

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