

“ The will of one man,
the future of many ”



Fondazione
Valter Baldaccini

FROM THE ROOTS 09

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VALTER BALDACCINI FOUNDATION MAGAZINE

THE BEST POSSIBLE
START



>> A CHILD AND A MOTHER FROM THE "WITH THE FAMILIES" PROJECT

A MESSAGE FOR YOU



Dear friends,
we open this issue of "From the roots" with important news:
I am happy to give a warm welcome to our new director Fabio Luccioli.

Fabio is a very good journalist, he has always been a dear friend of the Valter Baldaccini Foundation and I am thrilled that he has accepted this position. I'm sure his advice and support will be invaluable to us. He will be the one to tell you about Women of impact, the radio program we host together on Radio Gente Umbra.

This is a new beginning with Fabio, a new adventure that will lead us to growth. I like to think that this is also what we do in the "With the families" project where, together with an incredible and competent team of professionals, we are committed to giving children from the most fragile and vulnerable families what we call "the best possible start".

Four years have already passed since that summer in which, together with doctors Marta Franci and Mariolina Frigeri of our Scientific Committee, we began to think about this project. During this time we have met single mothers, families where both parents work and lead a dignified life but who have encountered crises with the arrival of a child, wives who have experienced violence too many times and who do not want the same for their children, mothers little more than adolescents, Italians, foreigners, women with a life marked by addictions or mental suffering. In some cases, our support lasted a few months, in others we found ourselves confronting such complex stories that the journey together lasted a longer time, but the goal has always remained unchanged: **to give all the children of these families the concrete opportunity for a better future.** And what we hope is that this project will last a long time.

I wish you a good summer.
Best regards,

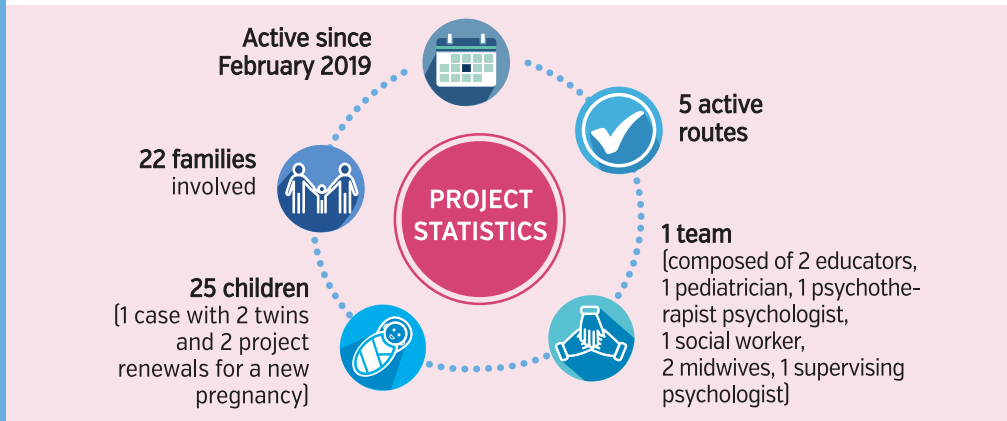
Beatrice Baldaccini
President of the Valter Baldaccini
Foundation

"WITH THE FAMILIES", A PROJECT FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE AREA

The first thousand days of a newborn's life are very important. They are the ones that determine the emotional, cognitive, social development and learning capacity of everyone. For this reason, giving support to the most vulnerable and troubled families who are also facing the great change linked to the birth of a child is important. It is for those who have just come into the world, for parents, for the family and for the entire network of relationships that surround them.

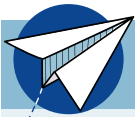
The "With the families" project follows several fragile families in the area, for about a year, through the home visiting formula. They are very different families, some have complex histories and live in a strong condition of social distress, while others are close-knit but are simply facing a difficult moment.

Specifically, the educators, Drs Annachiara Papa and Cecilia Tazza of the Community La Tenda cooperative, make home visits and spend an hour and a half to six hours a week with their families. For each family, this path is supported and integrated with the activities and services already present in the area, such as pregnancy checkups, birth coaching courses, basic pediatric care and early childhood education services. For this reason, the team following the project also includes social worker Dr. Francesca Montagnoli of the midwives, Dr. Sara Sforza and Dr. Maria José Quezada of the Subasio Foligno Clinic. They are essential for family referrals and monitoring different situations.



The intervention method that the team follows to support these families was developed by Professor Berry Brazelton, an American pediatrician. It is called the Touchpoints method and aims to create stable and functional relationships and growth opportunities around the child in the various stages of his/her development. In Italy, the Touchpoints Training Center is in Rome. The Center's professionals accompany the project team in the important support work for families with periodic supervision by Dr. Luca Migliaccio.

"With the families" is the first project proposed and conceived by the Scientific Committee of the Foundation, in particular by Dr. Marta Franci, family psychologist and therapist and by Dr. Mariolina Frigeri, pediatrician.



Marianna's letter

My journey with the "With the families" project has come to an end, although it sounds strange to call it such. Actually for me and for my little girl it represented a constant of pleasant encounters with Annachiara who tiptoed into the intimacy of our home as an educator and came out as a dear friend. Not by chance my daughter calls her "Annacara"!

It ended with a promise to keep in touch, to keep seeing each other and for us it couldn't be otherwise. "Annacara" is now one of the adult figures of reference for Giulia, who she has always welcomed with excitement, because she knew that she would play happily for more than an hour.

For me she was a discreet person, able to listen to the outburst of daily frustrations, big and small or she was simply a friend with whom we exchanged views on films, books, restaurants or ideas on how to spend a weekend doing something satisfying for the whole family.

I am grateful that such a beautiful person took me and my little girl by the hand and walked a piece of the road with us, together in what has been and will be the long and luminous life path of my wonderful Giulia!



>> A DRAWING TOGETHER WITH THE EDUCATOR



Maria's story

"Value passion wherever you find it" is one of the core principles of the Touchpoints method used by our educators when they met Maria and her 3 children. Maria has a history marked by substance abuse, but motivated by the desire to return to her children, she has been drug-free for several years

now. Her journey has been difficult. It was hard in rehabilitation center, but once she got out, her life took a new and unexpected turn: a move to a new city, a new partner, and a new pregnancy.

Maria is excited about this new beginning even though there are no shortages of difficulties: the children are still very young and everyone needs time to get to know each other.

Our educators first meet her when her third-born Matteo was 4 months old. They gave her support and helped her manage her new life. Mary is a resourceful, strong, resilient and feisty mom, but she is also insecure, tired and has strong feelings of inadequacy.

Her journey has been filled with satisfaction and good memories because she has relied on the educators, learned to see the needs of her three children and has given herself time to find some compassion for herself as well.

There is still a long way to go. Maria faces many challenges, but there's no lack of love and affection: little Matteo has to start kindergarten, the second child Giulia will start elementary school in September at the same school as Sofia and the oldest will go to third grade. Children grow, needs change, and being a mom requires a lot of energy, which Maria certainly has a lot of. And we are really happy to be able to be beside her on this journey.

What "With the families" means to me

We asked our of team to tell us what this project means to them.



>> MARIOLINA FRIGERI

"Being close to children, to all children starting from the first days of life; being close to families, to all families starting from the most fragile ones; being part of a community that wants to grow without leaving anyone behind".
Mariolina Frigeri, pediatrics and member of the Scientific Committee

"It's like a long car ride where we educators get in the car and sit in the passenger seat, trying to support the driver on the journey. At the start, everyone brings his or her own baggage full of pieces of

life, on the way we may encounter detours, we have to stop for refueling and refreshment. During the journey there are times when there is laughter, joking, singing, silence, and the educator observes the driver to see if he or she is paying attention and if the children sitting in the car seat are okay. The educator tries to figure out how tired the driver is, to give her support and allow her to



>> CECILIA TAZZA

regain her strength. When they arrive at their destination, the educator has to jump out although for the family the journey continues. The educator hopes she taught the driver to read the map, to understand which route is best to take, who to ask for directions if there is a need, and to know when it's the right time to stop".

Cecilia Tazza, educator



Fondazione
ValterBaldaccini



Since 2015, the Valter Baldaccini Foundation has been committed to preserving the life testimony, values and actions of Valter Baldaccini, a Christian man and enlightened entrepreneur. Every day it supports those who are most in difficulty by carrying out projects in three areas: family, education and work, in the area and around the world.

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- with a bank transfer:

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TUNED IN

By Fabio Luccioli

"Tune in". I think this is the most appropriate term to use for an occasion like this. And not only because in recent months the Valter Baldaccini Foundation has developed a collaborative presence over the airwaves, on the frequencies of Radio Gente Umbra. But also because, for as long as I can remember, I have embraced the ideals that drive the Foundation to embody Valter's spirit, as well as to the people who put them into practice on a daily basis. After all, it is always the people who make the difference. I had the good fortune to chronicle as a journalist the birth of the Foundation, just as I had the pleasure of being able to collaborate on some of its initiatives. I remember with pleasure the presentation, in Cannara, of the book dedicated to Valter.

And now I am thrilled to be able to pen my signature as editor in the periodical "From the roots", which has already been chronicling the commitment, love and dedication that are put into the projects carried out by the Foundation. This is



>> BEATRICE BALDACCINI AND FABIO LUCCIOLI READY FOR A NEW EPISODE

why I want to thank President Beatrice and all her valuable staff, who have always involved me in a project that is stimulating and full of vitality. Tune in, we say. It is no coincidence that this saying comes back frequently. Yes, because at the turn of 2021 and the beginning of this year the first episodes of "Women of impact," the Foundation's broadcast on Radio Gente Umbra, opened the microphone to all-female stories. Women protagonists in their fields. This is the case of Sister Marilena Botta, who has been living in Nairobi, Kenya, for 15 years. During the episode, the story of her involvement in the Mathare slum moved us. Always impactful - it really has to be said - were the testimonies of Francesca Di Maolo and Fiammetta Rossi. The former is the president of the Seraphic Institute of Assisi, the latter is a young skeet shooting champion, who dreams of defending Italy's colors at the next Olympics. At the end of the summer break "Women of impact" will return with new protagonists. Meanwhile, the work of the Valter Baldaccini Foundation does not stop. And, personally, I am proud to jump on board and be part of this new adventure.



LISTEN "IMPACT WOMEN"

[available only in italian]

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- 🕒 at 12 p.m. and rebroadcast at 7 p.m.
- 📍 on Radio Gente Umbra (frequencies 88.6 - 93.0)
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Archived episodes are available on the Foundation's YouTube page