

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



Fondazione
Valter Baldaccini

FROM THE ROOTS 12

DECEMBER 2023

VALTER BALDACCINI FOUNDATION MAGAZINE

WORK IS DIGNITY



>> ALÌ DURING HIS WORK GRANT IN CARITAS

GUARDIA

A MESSAGE FOR YOU



Dear friends,
in this Christmas edition of our periodical, I will tell you about the job placements we have been providing in Foligno, together with the Diocesan Caritas. It is one of the Foundation's first social projects and **thanks to the help of many supporters, it has already allowed 31 people to have access to a work grant**, i.e. a temporary job placement which is incredibly important for the most fragile people, or those who find themselves facing a difficult moment.

One can easily understand how fundamental this project is through the words of Mauro Masciotti, director of Caritas Foligno, interviewed by Fabio Luccioli. Mauro also talks about an innovative element introduced this year: the activation of these work grants in vulnerable families and therefore the creation of double help: for those who benefit from the grant and for the family that is supported. Among them there is also Cristina who told her story to the journalist Maria Tripepi, who I would like to thank for having contributed, together with Fabio Luccioli, to the editing of this issue.

There are many touching stories of the people I have met in recent years, and there is one meeting in particular that I remember: it was with Leonardo, the father of two children, and the family's only salary who became unemployed because the company he worked for had gone bankrupt. At the end of his work grant when we met him to tell him that the company where he had worked wanted to offer him a contract, Leonardo, who is a man of few words, told us: **"Thank you, you have given me back my dignity"**.

His words filled my heart that day. Years have passed since that moment, but when I think about it I still feel the joy of having contributed to changing this person's life. Helping others is a gift we give to ourselves and the wish I would like to give you this Christmas and for the New Year is precisely this: reach out your hand to those around you, only in this way will you make your life fulfilling!

Best regards,

Beatrice Baldaccini
Presidente Fondazione Valter Baldaccini

TO BE PRESENT

by Fabio Luccioli

Times are difficult and we need to reflect deeply on the economic crisis that is raging, and on the problems experienced on the human front in different segments of society. Consequently, we need coordinated action between local, regional, and national institutions to deal with what is increasingly emerging as a social emergency. For some years now the Foligno area has seen The Valter Baldaccini Foundation, working together with the Diocesan Caritas, the Arca del Mediterraneo Foundation and the Cooperativa Territorio & Solidarietà, address this emergency by coming together to answer the needs of the community.



>> BEATRICE BALDACCINI, H.E. MONS. GUALTIERO SIGISMONDI AND MAURO MASCIOTTI ANNOUNCE THE START OF THE PROJECT IN 2017

The "Family and Work" project was born in 2017 and in its first six years of life it supported 31 families in the area. In fact, many "job grants" have been provided which activated temporary employment paths.

As Pope Francis also reminds us, work is dignity.

Which is a phrase that even the director of Caritas Foligno, Mauro Masciotti, never tires of repeating. The pastoral office he leads has now become the first port of call for those experiencing difficult situations and to whom they therefore turn for help. Support can be of a material nature with access, for example, to the Solidarity Emporium for necessities or clothing. It can also be of another nature, such as a job opportunity. Single-parent households and families turn to Caritas. *"In recent years - explains director Masciotti - we have tried to respond to the needs of our brothers and sisters both based on the difficulties they face but also by virtue of the 'talents' of those who have asked us for a support"*.



>> GRAZIELLA DURING HER WORK GRANT IN THE CLEANING SERVICE AT CARITAS

The emergency increasingly concerns the middle class: women and men who have lost their jobs and have not been able to find another job.

“People - continues Mauro Masciotti -, even at an advanced age, are asking to redeem themselves after the difficulties they have encountered. We try to offer ‘360 degree support’ by making professionals available to them such as social workers, psychologists or lawyers, based on the different cases”.

The objective, on the employment front, is to expand the network of companies willing to open their doors to welcome these workers, many of whom until now have been employed - again through the instrument of "work grants" - in services relating to the Diocese. Even though the results to date have been positive, Mauro Masciotti emphasizes that, **more can and must be done.**

Meanwhile, the “Family and Work” project has taken an important step forward.

In 2023, the employment of people in difficulty took place within fragile families, through assistance to people with disabilities or the elderly.

“From our listening center and from the parish centers - explained director Masciotti -

the need for greater closeness to the community, to those people who need help at home and in dealing with matters, has increasingly emerged and in taking care of daily chores but which also experience the specter of loneliness:

a request that led us to embark on this new path”.

Three "job grants" have been activated in this area since the beginning of 2023.

“It is a project born, so to speak, in an ‘experimental’ way with respect to the numbers and needs we have uncovered - underlines the Caritas director - but which is designed to continue over time, especially in a region like ours where there is an aging population. Today we could today define this as the ‘fourth age’.

This is, in fact one of the most pressing critical issues connected with poverty we are dealing with. Often - underlines Mauro Masciotti - the first need these people have is to feel pampered, loved and accompanied. Often they are not elderly or disabled alone, they do have families, who must deal with the fast pace of our society which allow them to take care of their loved ones as they would like.

Our commitment, on this front, is therefore to allow these people to continue living with their families, in their homes.

And the request we receive is that this project, this type of assistance, continues over time: this is the greatest concern. It is a strong request that comes to us from our community”



>> PIERO DURING HIS JOB PLACEMENT AS A GARDENER

*To protect the privacy of the project's beneficiaries, the photographs published in this issue do not show people's faces



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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ALONGSIDE THE MOST FRAGILE: CRISTINA'S EXPERIENCE

by Maria Tripepi

Cristina is 29 years old and is among the three beneficiaries of the "Family and Work" project which expanded this year through an initiative to support those families which include people with disabilities or elderly people. *"I took care of assisting a lady,"*



she says, *"by helping her around the house, accompanying her to do the shopping or to do other chores and going on long walks with her"*. A meeting between Cristina and Monica

took place at Caritas of Foligno, where they both worked as volunteers. When Monica needed assistance, Cristina was assigned to her. *"It was a new experience"* she explains. *"When I went to her for the first time I was a little scared, because I was entering her daily life. Then, little by little I melted."* And a beautiful friendship was born between the two women. *"She trusted me and when she learned that I would be the one to accompany her on this journey she was happy. She opened to me and told me about her problems. It was a powerful experience, because at the beginning you don't know what to say to someone who has difficulties, but then you react."*

On a human level she touched me deeply. You realize that you are doing good for those who are going through a complicated moment. They were intense months, but I would re-live them for what they gave me". Despite her young age, Cristina has been working in the social sector for years. She feels a closeness to others which over time has taken on different forms: from the experience as a volunteer for the Spello Red Cross to that in the pediatrics department Foligno's hospital thanks to the clown therapy project.

"As a child," she says, *"I had a health problem, for which I was hospitalized. In those years there was not yet a clown therapy service and I know what it means to spend entire days in the ward. We enter the hospital to give smiles and we receive just as many from the hospitalized boys and girls"*. Her experiences have expanded over time, allowing her to experience various aspects of society first-hand. This includes Caritas, where she entered through the Universal Civil Service, taking care of the Solidarity and Clothing Emporium. It was there that she met Monica. *"It was a wonderful experience that helped me a lot"* she says, *"because you understand that not everyone has the same possibilities as you, but that you can help them. It also helped me a lot on a personal level, it helped me grow"*.