

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



Fondazione
Valter Baldaccini

FROM THE ROOTS 06

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VALTER BALDACCINI FOUNDATION MAGAZINE

In the footsteps
of Valter Baldaccini



>> VALTER BALDACCINI IN KENYA

A MESSAGE FOR YOU



Dear friends,

In these days now close to Christmas, I have been reflecting on this past year, on these months that we will never forget, on the losses, sufferings, worries and necessary limitations which, unfortunately, we have been forced to live with.

I think back to the numerous images we have seen online, on television and in the pages of newspapers. Among them is an image of Pope Francis that stands out, completely alone in a deserted St. Peter's Square. It was March 27, the lockdown had just begun, and we were all in our homes, perhaps still unaware of the reality we would have to face. It is impossible to forget the words that Pope Francis said on that occasion: "We found ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples of the gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected and furious storm."

We realized that we were in the same boat, all fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and necessary, all called to row together, all in need of comforting each other".

After nine months those words are still relevant. My wish, for this Christmas, is for all of us, even if we are distant, to be strong and **not to lose hope**. Even more important challenges await us at the Foundation. Requests for help are increasing and the situation of the poorest is worsening, but I am sure that thanks to your support, because we are all rowing together in the same direction, we will be able to continue to give concrete help to those who need it most. We sail to the horizon and hope will not abandon us, the hope that we also found in the writings of Valter Baldaccini: "This is today's message: the present is difficult, but we have a future".

The whole world is facing this moment. For this reason, after having told you about the active projects in our local area in the last issue, we decided to retrace the footsteps of Valter Baldaccini and dedicate these pages to projects in Africa, a land that he cared about deeply.

A joyous Merry Christmas to you and your whole family.

Beatrice Baldaccini
President of the Valter Baldaccini
Foundation

MUTANU: AN ALL-FEMALE VEGETABLE GARDEN

Valter Baldaccini and Sister Federica Zoia met by chance in Kenya during one of Valter's trips to Africa. From that moment a great friendship was born between them, a relationship of esteem and sharing of a deep faith. That bond continues today with **Mutanu, a female-operated vegetable garden project that is giving autonomy, independence and dignity to twenty women.**



>> THE GREENS GROWN THANKS TO YOUR HELP

vegetable garden project that is giving autonomy, independence and dignity to twenty women.

Sister Federica is a doctor who has dedicated her life to the mission in Africa. Every day she brings care to those who are sick with her mobile clinic, but also smiles, enthusiasm and hope to those who are in great difficulty.

Three years have passed since she told us about the importance of giving substance to a project dedicated to women:

"Women are the backbone of African society - she told us - and a simple project can have a significant impact on their existence and on that of their families. We believe and hope together in the possibility of a new dawn for many Kenyan women!"

From there the idea of **Mutanu, the pink garden**, was born.



>> BEFORE



>> THIS IS THE GREENHOUSE TODAY THANKS TO YOUR HELP

There was nothing, only an arid and uncultivated plot of land that today has become a beautiful greenhouse. Tomatoes, peppers, onions and tufts of *sukuma*, a kind of salad typical of Kenya. The production is so rich and luxuriant that cultivation has now also moved outside the greenhouse, where some *dania* plants have also been planted, the fruits of which are used as spices.



>> YOU MADE THIS WOMAN SMILE BY CONTRIBUTING TO THE GOAT PROJECT

All the women involved take care of the entire production cycle: sowing, growth care, cleaning, irrigation, harvesting and sale of the crops at the local market.

This **guarantees each of them a source of subsistence and a small income** for themselves and their families. They are all very poor women, some younger, some older. Most of them have children, even very young ones, who can go to school thanks to this work. One of them had a baby during the project and she never stopped: she tied the little one with a colored band around her back and went off to help in the garden!

For about a year and a half, the project has been enriched with a **small goat farm**. At the beginning we started with a small herd of goats that has

doubled in a short period of time thanks to your generosity. Goats produce a lot of milk, which is both sold and consumed by the workers.

This year the first kids were also

born and there was also a twin birth.

A lot is being generated from that wasteland. And now??

Our dream is autonomy for the project and for the women.

Surely there is still a lot of work to be done. This year the women began to attend a training course on agriculture and one on microcredit was also planned. The health situation has slowed down this development a bit and the rainy season is taking a while to arrive, creating drought problems in the area, but we are not discouraged.

Mutanu means "joy" and this is exactly what we feel every time we hear from Sister Federica and receive the photographs and videos of the songs from the pink garden. Of all the Foundation's projects, the pink garden truly takes on the figurative meaning of Valter Baldaccini's phrase:

"Together we have sown a great seed that will grow into a great plant".



>> SMILING MUTANU WOMEN, THANKS TO YOU



>> THE SEEDS YOU DONATED ARE SPROUTING

YOUR CONCRETE HELP IN AFRICA

- 2 COUNTRIES**
Kenya and Burkina Faso
- 56 LONG DISTANCE ADOPTIONS**
for children and teenagers
- 20 JOB OPPORTUNITIES**
for 20 women with Mutanu: the pink garden



Fondazione
ValterBaldaccini



The Valter Baldaccini Foundation was born in 2015, a year after Valter Baldaccini passed away.

The Foundation was established to preserve his life testimony, his values and his actions as a Christian man and enlightened entrepreneur.

The Foundation supports those who need help most, in our territory and in the world, by creating projects designed for families in difficulty, initiatives that create job opportunities and educational paths that are opportunities for redemption.

*To realize that we need your support!
Please*

DONATE NOW

- With credit card:

<https://www.fondazionevb.org/en/how-to-donate/donate-online-now>

- With a bank transfer:

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VALTER'S COMMITMENT TO THE LITTLE ONES

"Education is the best gift you can give to a child" said Valter Baldaccini on his return from a trip to Africa. After visiting some of the poorest areas of Kenya and Burkina Faso and having met some families who lived in absolute misery, Valter was deeply affected by that experience. He decided to offer as many **children as possible the opportunity to attend school, seeing in education a fundamental tool to give each of them the concrete possibility of a better future.**

Thus, began the distance support projects in Kenya, with Joab



Omoto of the Focolare Movement, and in Burkina Faso with Sister Philomène Kiendrébéogo and the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This commitment continues today with the Foundation.

From that first trip to today, almost **150 children and young people have had the opportunity to attend school thanks to the generosity of our donors.**

They are young people of all ages: we met some who are very young, like little Josiane, in Burkina Faso, fleeing terrorism together with her mom and dad, who started nursery school two months ago.

Others we have accompanied for a long journey, such as Mary, a brilliant and determined girl, the youngest of eight children raised by a single mother in one of the poorest areas of Kenya. Mary is now attending Maasai Mara University in Nairobi perusing an undergraduate degree in Political Science and Public Administration, truly a unique opportunity for redemption and a concrete possibility for a better future, far from the slum, misery and poverty.



Adopt a remote child as well. Write to us or call us and we'll tell you how you can do it!

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