

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



FROM THE ROOTS 16

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VALTER BALDACCINI FOUNDATION MAGAZINE

A HOME THAT IGNITES HOPE



>> GROUP SHOT OF THE LAST TRIP TO THE LESKOC HOUSE

A MESSAGE FOR YOU



Dear friend,

The Foundation's commitment, both in our community and internationally, is growing, and in this end-of-year issue, I'd like to share two important developments with you.

A few weeks ago, in collaboration with the La Locomotiva cooperative, we inaugurated **TOC TOC Welcome Families**, a free space for parents and children aged 0 to 6 where they can experience quality educational experiences together. TOC TOC is in Foligno, at the F. Innamorati Children's Center, at Via Borroni 26, and is open on Wednesdays [4:30–6:30 pm] and Saturdays [10:00–12:30 pm].

Starting next year, our support for the Leskoc Home in Kosovo will become even more effective.

The Foundation will continue to provide education and employment opportunities for the boys and girls at the Home, but not only that. We will work hard to ensure that all the children we welcome can live in a place that provides them with listening, food, care, education, play, and growth, surrounded by the love of a family.

Without your support, none of this would be possible. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for being there for us.

Best wishes to you and your loved ones,

Beatrice Baldaccini
President of the Valter Baldaccini Foundation

THE MAGIC OF THE LESKOC HOUSE



>> THE PREPARATION OF PACKAGES FOR VULNERABLE FAMILIES IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

There are countries where the future weighs more heavily than the past, and perhaps Kosovo is one of them: a rich and fragile land, where the war ended more than twenty years ago, yet it lives on in family traumas, in people's stories, in unrecognized borders, and in its contradictions.

In Kosovo, there are countless young people who lack pro-

spects which is a huge problem. Our representatives Francesca Mosca and Rinaldo Marion consistently tell us this: young people feel betrayed by a job market that doesn't exist, by a system that makes university a difficult dream, perceived as pointless, and by corruption that stifles ambitions. Many of them are trying to build a future in Europe.

For women, the climb is even steeper: rights written on paper but invisible in real life, violence that goes unreported in the home, and employment that only two of every ten women enjoy.

Furthermore, the most vulnerable are increasingly marginalized especially in rural areas.

Amidst all this **there's a place that smells of bread and hope.** Among fields that blaze with summer sun and are blanketed in white in winter, there's a special place: **the Leskoc House; a refuge, a family, a beautiful and welco-**



>> VOLUNTEERS LUCA AND DANIELE DEALING WITH SOME MAINTENANCE WORK

ming place, where you can feel at home.

Eight children and adolescents live there permanently. Fifteen more arrive during the day, to play, find a hot meal, have a laugh, and interact with someone who truly listens to them.

At the Leskoc Home, they don't feel alone; they find warmth, protection, normalcy, and they learn that they too deserve a future.



>> ONE OF THE GIRLS WHO ATTENDS THE DAYCARE CENTER AT THE LESKOC HOUSE

Since 2016, the Valter Foundation has been committed to providing training and employment to the children who grow up in the Home. Over the years, we've had the good fortune of meeting and accompanying **Dardana**, who was taken in with her siblings as a child after

the loss of her mother. She now studies Social Sciences and dreams of giving back to others. **Valentina**, who grew up in a complex family situation, now works at the Home, cooking, doing laundry, and caring for the children. She dreams of independence, and one day she will have it because she's a smart girl. Meanwhile, in the bakery, there's **Hasimet**, the man responsible for that unmistakable smell of freshly baked bread that fills the Home every night. Taken in at just five years old, we met him when, just after finishing his studies, he wanted a job that would make him independent.

Starting next year, we want the Foundation's commitment to have an even greater impact, because the House is a special place, creating better life opportunities for boys and girls who otherwise wouldn't have one. The volunteers who come to Kosovo with us can see this with their own eyes. For a week, as a volunteer you



>> ARIANA AND DARDANA

are available to work in the garden, accompany the children to school and play with them, feed those too young to do it themselves, do maintenance work, organize the warehouse, and prepare and deliver parcels of clothing, food, and medicine that are distributed to one hundred families in need who live near the House. For a week, you're incredibly fortunate to have an experience that opens your eyes to a world where you help others, but you're helping yourself, where what you are receiving is much more than what you're giving.

This is the magic of the Leskoc House.



>> THE CHILDREN OF THE HOUSE WITH OUR VOLUNTEER SAVIO



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.

DONATE NOW

- Online: fondazionevb.org/en

- with a bank transfer:

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FROM THE ROOTS (DALLE RADICI)

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A STORY FROM THE HOME: NAIM, MERITA, AND FADIL

When you arrive at the home of Naim, Merita, and Fadil, it's impossible not to immediately grasp the hardship and poverty they live in. The courtyard is a mass of garbage and clutter, the door is a wooden plank with two poorly attached hinges, and there is flooring, but not in every room. Their home is dark, except for three tiny, bright smiles **Merita**, 4 years old, **Naim**, 2 and **Fadil**, 10 months old. The siblings began attending the Leskoc Home when **Fadil** was just a few weeks old. He was born prematurely, and his mother, who is in her early twenties and has significant cognitive challenges, didn't know how to feed him. Today, after months of care and attention, he crawls, laughs, and is growing, surrounded by those who support him every day.



Naim was also born prematurely, and due to poor care, he has partial vision in one eye. He's a lively and curious child; he loves drawing and asking questions. His little sister, Merita, is never still. She's intelligent, cunning, affectionate, and attentive to everything: she's very caring towards her younger siblings. If anyone needs help, she's always the first to notice.

At home, the situation remains difficult. Their mother, sweet but fragile, cries often: *"It's not that I don't want to raise them, it's just that I can't."* Their father, tired and impulsive, sometimes gets angry, then regrets it. The staff and volunteers at the Leskoc House have redone the floors, cleaned and sanitized the house, and welcomed the children into the day center, where they eat, are cared for when they're sick, play, and learn. Today, Fadil is growing strong, Nail is smiling, and Merita is playing with the others. They are still in an extremely difficult situation, **but no longer alone.** Through mistakes and new beginnings, these three children continue to teach us that **life always finds a way forward.**



While we were putting together this issue of "Dalle Radici," our editor, journalist **Fabio Luccioli**, passed away.

For the Valter Baldaccini Foundation, Fabio was a friend, as well as a caring and generous professional. He enthusiastically accompanied us on this editorial project and was at our side at many important events. We want to dedicate this issue of "Dalle Radici" to him.

Goodbye Fabio, we will miss you greatly.