

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



Fondazione
Valter Baldaccini

FROM THE ROOTS 04

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VALTER BALDACCINI FOUNDATION MAGAZINE

The Foundation in Kosovo

*Our volunteers in the
Leskoc House for one
week.*



EDITORIAL



Dear Friends,
With Christmas approaching, we should all take some time to reflect on the year that is ending and on what has happened in our lives.

Thanks to our donors, in 2019 the Foundation supported 10 projects at the local and international level to support families, women, and children in difficult situations.

Here are two examples:

In the Foligno area, we assisted 10 families who were having difficulty welcoming their newborns. We have given the new parents the self-confidence to be able to face one of the most important changes in life. Now these families are stronger and more solid.

We created new projects in Kosovo, constructing a barn adjacent to the Leskoc House where Massimo and Cristina and Caritas Umbria welcome children and abandoned people. Through this new stable, a number of young Kosovars are acquiring their own financial autonomy and the ability to face the future with hope.

It is in Massimo and Cristina's House that we are truly learning that family goes beyond blood ties. When we broaden our view of who we consider to be part of our family, we can create a fraternal relationship with others and reach out to the weakest among us.

I would like to thank our donors, our volunteers, and our project partners. Together we are helping to unite the world.

Best wishes for a Blessed Christmas.

Beatrice Baldaccini
President
Valter Baldaccini Foundation

IN THE LESKOC HOUSE

"The important thing is not finding solutions to every problem but, instead, creating connections and discovering that these connections change me and open me up (Jean Vanier)".

Perhaps this is the greatest lesson we have taken home from the trip to Kosovo. Together with Victor, Michele, Francesca and Giuseppe we spent a week volunteering in the Leskoc House and getting to know the barn construction project.

Kosovo has a complex history, full of contradictions and injustices and perhaps, looking from the outside, as people comfortably living in a stable country, it's easy for us to judge and reach hasty conclusions. Destroyed by the war

twenty years ago, Kosovo has been rebuilt, but it is still not recognized as an independent state by the eighty - member states of the UN and five by five of the European Union. There is a permanent ethnic conflict with Serbia in the territory, which can still be clearly seen today.

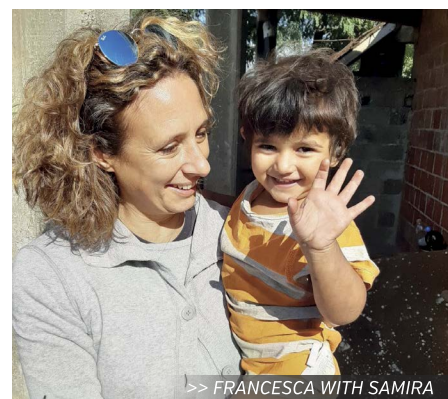


>> MICHELE HELPS ISSA EATING

In Mitrovica, north of the country, the river that runs through the city is like a wall. On one side, the Orthodox Serbs

read and write in Cyrillic and purchase strictly Serbian products with dinars in the shops. On the other side, the Kosovar Albanians, Muslims, communicate in Kosovar and they use the euro. Connecting, or rather, dividing the two parts of the city, there is a bridge, manned day and night by the KFOR mission soldiers, under NATO command which also includes the Italian army.

In this context, where feelings of hatred and nationalism are heavy, a new generation is growing up. Welfare allows practically everything to be built and there is a lot of unemployment.



>> FRANCESCA WITH SAMIRA

Despite compulsory schooling, not all children attend. Arranged marriages are the norm. Women are far from emancipation and crimes of honor are still considered legitimate. Those who can afford to leave often go to Germany and Switzerland. They then send the money back to their native country and build Hollywood-style villas inhabited only a few days during the summer. The glittering plaster seems to shout: **“Look at me, I’ve made it!”**

And who’s left? There are those who are too poor and have no choice, but also those who are strongly tied to their land and, despite the difficulties, they want to stay to try to make a concrete contribution to a country that deserves the best.

For twenty years, **Massimo and Cristina, guided by a profound faith, have made themselves available to those most in need in Leskoc House.** They entered the first refugee camps as soon as the war ended, when Kosovo was just a pile of rubble. With humility and respect for ethnic and religious diversity, they have been helping this country ever since. Massimo and Cristina have decided to remain in Kosovo and create a refuge dedicated to welcoming minors, which in 2014 became a real shelter.

Over the years, Massimo and Cristina have hosted not only the children in the splendid Leskoc House but they have taken care of over 200 families that live all around the territory on a daily basis. They have embraced them all as family.

The children housed and raised in Leskoc House have become adults, and therefore the need has arisen to create job opportunities. The Cooperative was established for this purpose. It is led by the very nice and capable Besart, who manages the farm, the fields, the bakery and the production of cold cuts and cheeses.



A job that for these young man and woman means having an opportunity for redemption and the possibility of a better future.

This is the reason why the Valter Baldaccini Foundation has offered its support for the construction of a new barn. Thanks to the breeding of calves and cows, the House will have a source of income and employment will be generated for ten families.

And for next year, together with Massimo, we have thought about an important new project: starting a bakery and pastry shop for women. For women, work can really start a journey towards autonomy, independence and emancipation.

Falemiderit (thanks) to the whole Leskoc House for welcoming us and for this wonderful volunteer experience.





The Valter Baldaccini Foundation was established 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 accomplish this we need your support!

Please **DONATE NOW**

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A BOOK DEDICATED TO VALTER BALDACCINI

"From my youth, I shared the gift of a sincere, fraternal friendship with Valter that was based on the common search for profound values to guide our lives. His death, however, did not break the bond that allowed us to have challenging, but pleasant experiences that were always animated by his cheerful and smiling character. In fact, every day, memory reconnects the broken thread, and images resurface animated by an extraordinary personality, that of a joyful man, true to his principles until the end".

With these words Ottavio Turrioni, the author of **"Valter Baldaccini. A great man, a great friend (1945-2014)"**, published by Morlacchi editore, tells about his deep friendship with Valter.

A bond that started when they were children and played together in Cannara's streets, which lasted until the last moments of his earthly life.

Born into a humble family, and losing his father at a young age, Valter first distinguished himself in his studies. He then used his uncommon human and technical talents to establish UMBRAGROUP. A man guided by a profound Christian faith, he always acted with generosity and respect placing people at the center of all his activities: in sport, first as a footballer, then as President of the ASD Cannara Sport Association; in work relationships, and in promoting humanitarian projects in his own territory and, in Africa, to help those most in need. Valter was also a father and a husband, for whom the family was a precious gift and a core value.

The book was born out of the Valter Baldaccini Foundation's desire to preserve the exceptional nature of his life, his values and his actions as a man of faith and an enlightened entrepreneur. It was presented in his birthplace, Cannara on September 9th, in Albenella on December 17th in the Municipality that, in 2012 awarded him with honorary citizenship, and on December 20th in Foligno, the home of UMBRAGROUP, the company he founded and the Foundation that is dedicated to him.

