

AMMP

Associazione Maria Madre della Provvidenza ONLUS

Mary Mother of Providence Association - ONLUS was incorporated on May 8, 2001 in Turin, following the transformation of the former Committee Mary Mother of Providence founded November 7, 1996.

The idea of bringing together a group of people willing to spend some of their time to help the most unfortunate and suffering came after the last blood conflict in the former Yugoslavia (1991-1995). Over the years many people have participated in several humanitarian shipments both in Croatia and in Bosnia Herzegovina. In addition to the transport of essential supplies and medicines, a group of friends in Torino helped build a shelter for orphans in Citluk, near Mostar. This center called "Family Center John Paul II" was opened on 25/6/1996 and currently houses over one hundred and twenty children.

Also Italy and particularly our city of Turin want to be a sign of hope. In 1997 we went to the earthquake-hit areas of central Italy to take a concrete contribution in basic necessities such as the purchase of an electrical installation in a large prefabricated house used as a nursery and primary school in the town of Foligno. During the flood in Piedmont in October 2000, our association collaborated with local authorities both in providing first aid and in raising funds for the most affected families. Now we run C.R.A. (Collecting Food Centre) in Turin which provides food to many poor people and we assist people who are in very bad conditions.

The heart of AMMP is the various national and international projects involving monthly and/or weekly, about 250 volunteers operating in various locations in Italy.

In Italy the two most important projects are certainly the CRA (collecting food centre), through which, every three months, we organize effective food collection, involving more and more supermarkets every year and, therefore, collecting more and more food for poor families and the project Auxilium (assistance to people in need in Italy), which requires the help of our volunteers on a 360 degrees term with very poor families: we start from a strictly financial support to look for accommodation and transport for the the sick (the main seat for this project is Giaveno).

In fact our main association can count on different seats located throughout Piedmont and Lombardy. The seats involved in a constant way in the projects at national level are Giaveno, Turin, and Casale (see appropriate section).

Moving on international projects, there is one that involves a great number of volunteers in Mozambique, in particular in the area of the mountainous province of Niassa, near the borders with Malawi. Our Association has been operating since 2007 and and succeeded in building a dam in order to provide drinking water, then in rehabilitating the secondary school and in helping an orphanage "Teresa D' Alarme. This project is supported by two of our seats: Campogalliano (MO) and Costigliole Saluzzo (CN).

On the other hand the project in Benin, one of the world's least developed countries, is about digging water wells in the south of the country, and is supported by our seat in Lodi.

Concerning Nanmassa (Burkina Faso), a village 80 km from the capital town, smaller projects were born in collaboration with the "Group of Nanmassa Friends" and the head office. The SOS project in Bosnia is divided into 3 parts and is also connected to the International Youth Festival in which many young people participate each year. The seats that carry out this initiative are Torino, Lodi and Casale. The last but not least project is in Kenya, where we work in collaboration with Father Giuseppe Demaria, who has lived and worked in this area for over 50 years.

The different activities of our Association help to keep close ties with the various venues, thanks to the days of meeting that bring together all the representatives, plus other people, when each seat presents their projects and the procedures of team work.

In order to involve young people in rather a Christian view of prayer and in helping others the members of the association meet in the parish of St. Rose of Lima Turin, where the people pray together guided by the charisma of Father Piero. And they also meet every first Saturday of the month, at the Cenacolo Community of Sister Elvira, where moments of adoration, Mass and refreshments take place.

Moments of meeting, dialogue and friendship take place during the collection of various foods, which are part of the CRA and during the pilgrimages, first of all the Youth Festival in Medjugorje, held yearly in the first week of August, where thousands of people, about 80,000 last summer, gather from all over the world, and spend 6-7 days in joy, passion, faith and even fun. Such an experience!

1) Auxilium (Italy). Due to the dramatic economic and financial situation in which more and more people are finding themselves, the Association is working in various offices, in collaboration with the parishes and diocesan Caritas, to support families and elderly people in serious difficulty. The project consists in providing financial support for the payment of rents, rates and heating bills. The Association is also involved in trying to find jobs and housing solutions. The headquarters of Giaveno in Torino also operates a free transport service for the sick, elderly and disabled people who require treatment at hospitals in Turin.

2) The five loaves (Italy). This project was started to meet the increasing demand for food from the poorest neighborhoods of Turin. The long-life goods are collected by volunteers outside supermarkets three times a year in March, June and October. The food is then distributed to the parishes, soup kitchens and charities. In some locations they prepare a monthly food parcel and deliver it directly to the family or elderly person in serious difficulties. The Banco delle Opere di Carità and some food companies help with this project by giving packet food which is near its sell by date.

3) S.O.S. Vita (Italy). Life begins at conception! Consequently, every abortion results in the termination of life of a living human being! The abortion is a deadly deception. This was confirmed by one of the founders of the pro-abortion movement in the United States, Dr. Bernard Nathanson, a famous gynecologist in New York, author of the video on abortion: "The Silent Cry", this film shows just how much the child suffers during the abortion., Declaring himself responsible for 75,000 abortions, Nathanson is now successfully striving, together with the Movement for Life, to launch a worldwide respect for life from the moment of conception. Many volunteers in the area of Lodi, who are healthcare professionals and who are in contact with people who have chosen to abort, are trying to help these people to become aware of the crime of abortion. The project, in collaboration with the local Center for Aid to Life (CAV), also provides psychological and financial help to the mothers in difficulty until their child is one year old.

4) Mir i radost (Bosnia Herzegovina). The Civil War lasting four years (1991---1995) devastating much of the farmland and destroying or severely damaging what remained of modest industrial system inherited from the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. By 1993 the national economy was almost paralyzed and much of the population survived only due to the small international aid which was able to reach the besieged cities. The Dayton Peace Agreement of 21 November 1995(USA) has officially recognized in Bosnia and Herzegovina, two well---defined identity: the Muslim---Croat Federation and the Serb Republic of Bosnia. . The reconstruction undertaken in Mostar, one of the major cities of the Muslim---Croat Federation, struggles to take off due to a very contrast between the Muslim community (the majority) and the Croatians. The initiatives that the Association is supporting in Mostar and in the province are: a) the Catholic parish of St. Thomas the Apostle in Mostar; b) the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul in Mostar and Ljubuski; c) the "Family Centre John Paul II" in Citluk.

5) Kanimambo (Mozambique). The headquarters of Campogalliano collaborates for some projects with: the Consolata Missionary Sisters, the Diocesan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception of Lichinga and the clergy of Mozambique. For example:--- a) the economic livelihood of some orphaned children centres in the districts of Niassa and Cabo Delgado; b) improving hygiene / sanitary with the installation of clean water; c) financial support of the new fishermen's cooperative "Daily Bread" on the Island of Mozambique, their aim to achieve an economic autonomy to meet the needs of children in certain parishes in the district of Nacala, d) financial support for the care of lepers still present in Niassa.

6) Sustainable vegetable gardens (Italy). This innovative project is followed by the "Giorgio Valsania" standalone office in Caselle Torinese. The aim is to develop new activities such as distribution and marketing of locally grown and distributed organic agricultural products. The real design innovation focuses on the creation of jobs for "people at risk", thanks to the creation of a cooperative that can "produce income" and ensure the continuation of the social aid. A space for the teaching of crafts and skills will be set up and the recipients will be able to use it when fully reintegrating within society. Particular relevance is given from the future implementation of heated greenhouses to increase productivity, by anticipating and delaying the seasons, and also within a perspective of energy saving and economic-financial sustainability of the proposal. Agricultural production will be intended partly to the same people, who are the direct beneficiaries of the

project, and partly sold to distribution chain partners or to restaurants on the territory that have already approved our initiative. The beneficiaries will learn a real profession with a view to professional growth and consolidation of the new agricultural skills both from a practical point of view (sowing, harvesting, using tools ...) and in the commercial and management fields. Getting back to work in a socially rich, dynamic and welcoming context, is the way we decide to allow these people to regain their dignity, increase their self-esteem and undergo professional development. The aim is breaking the vicious circle that causes these individuals to return to prison again, providing them with the tools needed to acquire new concrete skills, resellable on the market also to other companies.

7)The "Casa Betania Oasis"-Italy

It often happens that in everyday life we are taken by too many things to stop and reflect on our being Christians and to spend time for ourselves. This frenzy imposed by today's society does nothing but cause splits and wounds in everyone's life. The project "Oasi Casa Betania" of the AMMP office in Buronzo (VC) wants to offer people in need the right opportunity to recharge the batteries in a very familiar environment. The project consists in giving men and women the possibility of being able to cut out their own space of prayer and meditation and thus stop and reflect on the meaning of the interior life. The project "Oasi Betania" does not claim to give recipes but wants to propose moments that help people, even those in difficulty both on a material level and on a spiritual level, to understand what their own way to go to undertake a path of faith. In this project we learn to be together, to be welcomed and to welcome.

It is not every day to find places where we should think about living in harmony with God and with others and, perhaps, the greatest difficulty for those who adhere to this project lies in the fact of having the courage to stop from this neurotic crisis, imposed by society, to heal one's soul. So this project was born with the intention of allowing everyone to rediscover their identity as Sons of God.

The "Casa Betania Oasis" wants to offer people in need the right opportunity to recharge their batteries in a very familiar environment. There will not be a daily rate, but a "free offer" according to their availability.

The "Casa Betania Oasis" stands out from the traditional prayer houses for spiritual retreats, because, in addition to retreats and programmed meditation days, it will always be open, available and welcoming.

The "Casa Betania Oasis" is a point of reference for all the volunteers of the AMMP offices who want to rediscover the human and spiritual motivations to give a true and profound meaning to their service to the "last".

The "Casa Betania Oasis" will also host religious men and women who wish to spend some time to meditate on their vocation in serenity and in peace with themselves and with God.

The project is based exclusively on the work of the volunteers to make the place welcoming to the people who come. It would also be useful to have a priest or a religious available, not only for retreats, but also throughout the year.

The current structure already has some reception rooms (5 with 9 beds), but would need some addition of rooms to accommodate more people.

Another necessary intervention would be the arrangement of a church or chapel for the various moments of personal and non-personal prayer. Currently there is already a multi-purpose room that is used for prayer meetings, but is more suitable for community moments.