



A CHANCE  
IN LIFE

# FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER

Boys' & Girls' Towns of Italy | Boys' & Girls' Towns of Ethiopia | Boys' & Girls' Towns of India | Boys' & Girls' Towns of Latin America

## A Chance In Life in New York City

During this uniquely challenging year, we have all been called to offer what we can to help those around us. Our organization was founded in 1945 in another time of great adversity, and A Chance In Life is determined to meet the moment with the same vision and compassion that our founder, Monsignor Carroll-Abbing, demonstrated at the start of our history. It is my honor and delight to announce that on the 75th Anniversary of our founding, we are launching an initiative to build A Chance In Life's first Youth Center in the United States to meet the rising needs of impoverished young people in our own communities.

Our study across the five boroughs of New York City identified the North Shore of Staten Island as a community with significant unmet needs for youth services. Rates of poverty and unemployment in the area were already concerning, and have likely only been exacerbated by the pandemic. To address the challenges faced by the children and families of the North Shore, A Chance In Life will offer a variety of services to support vulnerable youth and teens reach their full potential. More information on this exciting new project is enclosed inside, and our full Executive Summary of the project is available on our website.

Gabriele Delmonaco  
President/Executive Director





# 2020 VIRTUAL GALA

Honorees, Celebrity Guests, and the A Chance In Life (ACIL) community raised over \$650,000 for at-risk youth around the world on the occasion of our 75th Anniversary Virtual Gala on October 28.



Photos from left to right: Actor Ernie Hudson, Honoree Marc Taub, ACIL President and Executive Director Gabriele Delmonaco, Celebrity Chef Lidia Bastianich, ACIL Vice President of Development Claire W. Gallagher, Honoree Mark Quattrocchi.

We could not be more grateful to our honorees, celebrity guests, board members and donors that helped make our Virtual Gala such a success. It was an honor to be joined by so many passionate advocates for children across the globe. Philanthropist of the Year Mark Quattrocchi spoke of the need to care for children amid global uncertainty, and Industry Leader Marc Taub thanked his organization and the wine and spirits industry for "stepping up during a year of so many challenges" to offer their support to our young people. Others added their kind words:

*"A Chance In Life is an organization, like our family here in San Francisco, that takes care of children and their families around the world. We are so honored to participate and be able to help these children live a better life as the Monsignor always strived to do. - ACIL Board Member Larry Nibbi*

*"As a refugee, I know firsthand the challenges young people face when fleeing poverty, violence and persecution. My family and I spent two years in a refugee camp, waiting for an opportunity to start a new life. That's why the work that A Chance In Life does is so important. .... Through programs like vocational training workshops, these children are given practical, real world skills that enable them to succeed. Children in A Chance In Life's programs in Italy have the opportunity to participate in pizza-making classes, while children in programs in Guatemala attend bakery workshops. I might have some competition in the kitchen in the future, I sense!"*

*- Celebrity Guest Lidia Bastianich*

*"I know that without the help of organizations like yours, I would not be where I am today. We are one planet, one people, and we are all in this together." - Actor Ernie Hudson*

Thank you to everyone who participated in and supported this year's event. You can view our Event Journal for a list of our supporters and watch a full recording of the gala at [www.achanceinlife.org/events](http://www.achanceinlife.org/events).

Our speakers were amazing and our honorees were sublime, but we all know who truly stole the show - our inspiring young people! Michael from Italy, Nimeni from Ethiopia, Jennifer from Guatemala and Alfredo from Bolivia all shared their experiences with our partner programs and gave their heartfelt thanks to all of our supporters. You can watch their speeches and meet even more of our young people on A Chance In Life's YouTube channel.



# UPCOMING INITIATIVES



A Chance In Life will open a new U.S. program in 2021 for underserved youth in Staten Island's North Shore.

After 75 years of successfully creating and running innovative international programming, A Chance In Life is opening its first U.S. location to address the socioeconomic factors that contribute to poverty and racial inequality in the North Shore on Staten Island. The name of this groundbreaking initiative, The Village, will pay homage to our first program in Italy ("Il Villaggio".)

Staten Island's North Shore has a poverty rate greater than New York City as a whole and is home to some of the most marginalized and underserved youth in NYC. Approximately 21% of residents live in poverty, and the rate is even higher among children. With fewer programs available to help vulnerable kids in the borough and growing education inequities, there is a need for a new model of youth development on Staten Island that emphasizes education and crucial life skills. Ultimately, our goal is to support youth (ages 12 - 24) in reaching their full potential.

The Village will serve as a drop-in youth center, with elements of self-government incorporated into day-to-day activities. It will be an essential resource, not just in terms of its educational offerings, but in terms of its impact on addressing poverty and racial inequality in the North Shore. By specifically addressing the almost 20% of young people who are disconnected from school and employment, A Chance In Life hopes to prepare them for a more promising, successful and self-sufficient future.

**To learn more about this initiative and how you can become involved, contact Claire W. Gallagher at [claire@achanceinlife.org](mailto:claire@achanceinlife.org). Our Executive Summary of the project is available on our website.**

The Village in Staten Island will offer:



TUTORING



LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT



HIGH SCHOOL EQUIVALENCY (GED) TEST PREP



RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES



MEAL PACKAGES



FINANCIAL LITERACY TRAINING



COLLEGE READINESS TRAINING



PSYCHOLOGICAL SUPPORT

The holiday season has arrived! Traditions and celebrations may look different this year, but there are still many ways to safely support the causes you care about. Whether you're gift shopping or looking for ways to engage with philanthropy as a family, keep A Chance In Life in mind!

## GIVING TUESDAY

On December 1, A Chance In Life participated in #GivingTuesday, an international day to raise awareness around charitable giving. You can still join the #GivingTuesday movement by becoming a monthly supporter of our youth at [achanceinlife.org/givingtuesday](https://achanceinlife.org/givingtuesday).



Looking for a gift for the person who has everything? Sponsor a child from Ethiopia, India or Latin America for \$30/month in their name. It's a meaningful, personal and thoughtful gift for those who enjoy making a difference in the world.



If your holiday shopping plans include Amazon, make your purchase through Amazon Smile and select A Chance In Life as your recipient charity. Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to our young people at no cost to you! Support at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com).



# SPOTLIGHT ON OUR DONORS

Vince Puma, Chief Executive Officer at River Capital Group Holdings and ACIL supporter, shares his thoughts on personal philanthropy and our 2019 delegation to the Vatican City.



Vince Puma and other ACIL supporters gather for dinner during last year's trip to Italy.



His Holiness Pope Francis greets Mr. Puma during ACIL's private papal audience.

### What drives your passion for philanthropy, and what drew you to A Chance In Life's work? What does supporting your community look like to you?

My belief about life is that you Learn, you Earn and then you must Return. For me, A Chance In Life captures the essence of providing the "Return", which is why I connected so strongly with their mission when I attended their 2018 New York Annual Gala at the invitation of now-ACIL board member Guy Chiarello. A Chance In Life creates environments that enable the less fortunate to succeed. More than providing a subsidy, they've created the ultimate model for opportunity zones.

When it comes to helping causes you care about, writing a check is clearly one way of providing community support. In addition, I firmly believe that offering our God-given life experience in a proactive manner is an essential ingredient to supporting others in reaching successful outcomes. A core aspect of both my personal and professional life is to surround myself with people who are givers! People who are giving of their time, their energy and of their resources.

### What is your favorite memory from last year's trip to Italy as part of A Chance In Life's donor delegation?

The entire trip will be forever etched in my mind. Most notable for me was when the Holy Father took my hand and asked me to pray for him. That encapsulated for me the importance of humility and how we can perpetuate that theme in every single aspect of our lives.

We wish you all a safe and joyful holiday season, and hope you enjoy a few of the creative holiday cards our young people designed this year!



Italy



Bolivia



Guatemala



Colombia



Guatemala



Colombia



Ethiopia



Peru