

SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

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



You are not alone.

The A Chance In Life community is no stranger to times of crises. Since our founding in the aftermath of WWII in 1945, our organization has cared for children affected by war, civil unrest, famine and all manner of hardship. Our supporters have met each wave of need over the past seventy-five years with a determination to care for the most vulnerable among us.

Now, as we face the new challenge of COVID-19, we are so grateful to the many individuals and organizations who have chosen to make a difference and ensure our young people are not forgotten. As our children have needed you, you have answered. In the midst of this pandemic, A Chance In Life has helped feed over 2,000 children and their family members and counting. Beyond desperately-needed food supplies, you've also helped send a message to our children that even in the darkest of times, they are not alone or forgotten.

We wish you and your community strength and continued safety in the days ahead, and hope you will be surrounded by the same compassion and support you have shown our youth over the years. Thank you.

Gabriele Delmonaco

Gabriele Delmonaco
President/Executive Director



COVID-19 EMERGENCY RESPONSE



Emergency Food Distribution

With the spread of COVID-19 in March forcing schools to close and our youth sent home to familes without the means to feed them, A Chance In Life and our partner programs overseas needed to move fast to protect our children. Thanks to the tireless work of our program staff, we were able to quickly gather food supplies and begin distributing them to families in the countries hardest hit by hunger crises - India, Bolivia, Guatemala, Peru and Colombia.

To date, we've fed more than 2,000 children and their family members, a remarkable achievement made by possible by the support of our donors and a major partnership with the Caritas Pro Vitae Gradu Charitable Trust, whose generous support allowed us to strengthen and expand our food relief efforts.

We continue to work to supply 3,000 meals a month to our youth through our #MonthofMeals campaign.





Distance Learning

Program staff in each country are working to bring school to children during the pandemic. In Italy, our youth are completing a full course load of online classes (photo above). Everywhere, teachers are finding creative ways to help their students keep up in school even without access to technology - a teacher in Colombia waits at the school each week to provide printed-out materials and homework to any families without a computer at home.

Information Sharing

To keep our children and their families safe, our program staff is providing accurate health information alongside food supplies. Posters with information on hand washing and COVID-19 symptoms were distributed to families in Bolivia (photo above), and the young women still living at our Towns in India attended workshops on COVID-19 symptoms and prevention.

MAJOR PARTNERS



A Chance In Life is so grateful to announce a partnership with the Caritas Pro Vitae Gradu Charitable Trust in our COVID-19 hunger relief efforts. Established in 2011, the Trust supports over 25 international projects instigating change and promoting the Roman Catholic values of compassion, respect, tolerance and commitment to the most vulnerable people in society. Trustee Ariane Slinger provided us with more insight into the Trust's work and her own role as an entrepreneur and philanthropist.

- Can you tell us more about yourself and your work? As a successful business professional, what advice would you share with the young women of our Towns?
 - For the past eleven years I have been the main shareholder and CEO of ACE International SA, one of the larger independent trust companies in Geneva. The part of my job I enjoy the most is assisting clients with setting up and overseeing their charities. Having your passion as a job is the ultimate dream for everyone, is it not? As for my advice to children, and especially girls, I would say: Life has been very tough at times. I had to work very hard and not everyone I met was nice to me, but never forget that bad experiences are quickly forgotten when you finally reach your goal.
- Our collaboration on COVID-19 relief will save thousands of lives. It's not the first time
 the Trust and ACIL have worked together in support of vulnerable children can you
 share a bit about the origin of our partnership in your own words?
 - What more beautiful and meaningful project could we find than helping hundreds of orphaned and vulnerable children around the world get support and an education, leading to a real chance in life? Our collaboration started with a serendipitous meeting. While organizing support for another project, one of the people in charge spoke to us about A Chance In Life and its President Gabriele Delmonaco. I am still very grateful to her for this fantastic introduction. Gabriele came to see us in Geneva and told us about A Chance In Life's impressive history and mission. We agreed that we would support the construction of two schools in the Boys' & Girls' Town of the Benishangul-Gumuz Region of Ethiopia, which would serve 400 children. We also helped provide immediate medical assistance for the children living in the villages of Banush and Dosh.
- As a Trustee, how do you make the difficult decisions that come with such an important responsibility of deciding where to send funding?
 - Actually it is pretty simple we listen to our heart! Of course, first we start by collecting a lot of information and documents, references and pictures to make sure that we are working with a reliable partner. But when we need to decide if we really wish to support the project or not, the main trigger of a positive decision is when we can see and feel how much passion the decision makers have and how committed they are in their mission and their love for the most vulnerable. Without that certitude we do not donate. We believe that only with Passion, Commitment and Love, the miracle of change can happen!
- What advice do you have for young people looking to start supporting charitable causes?
 Choose a project that is close to your heart and interests. And go for people and organizations who are authentic, who have a genuine interest in what they do, and a mission that drives them to try to change the world to be a better place, be it big or small. You do not need to donate big amounts of money to make a big difference. What is most important is to wholeheartedly give to a project you strongly believe in.

Visit www.achanceinlife.org/blog to read our full interview with Mrs. Ariane Slinger.



Ariane Slinger, Trustee of the Caritas Pro Vitae Gradu Charitable Trust



Emergency food supplies for COVID-19 relief efforts in Guatemala



The Trust partnered with A Chance In Life in 2019 to build two schools in Ethiopia for 400 children



SPOTLIGHT ON OUR DONORS

This May, A Chance In Life hosted the #MonthofMeals social media challenge to raise awareness and support for our COVID-19 relief efforts. Thank you to all of our online advocates who participated and sent in such lovely photos of their home-cooked meals! We are especially grateful to celebrity chef Padma Lakshmi for spreading the word of our campaign.







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Want to start your own Instagram or Facebook fundraiser for A Chance In Life? Follow us at instagram.com/achanceinlife and facebook.com/achanceinlife to learn more.

