



## The Choice

*"A decision had to be made. Either I was to confine my activity to the temporary one of relief, or personal service to unhappy children was to become the central purpose of my life..."*

*- Monsignor John Patrick Carroll-Abbing*

In the aftermath of WWII, a young priest made a choice that would change the lives of tens of thousands of people. He dedicated the rest of his life to giving young men and women from across the globe the chance to grow into caring, responsible adults. In 1945, his first "Town" would open in Italy to care for children beset by war, poverty and neglect. His Towns not only cared for these children, but brought international renown to the idea that young people can play a leading role in shaping their communities. This extraordinary feat was made possible by the dream of one man and the thousands of people inspired to help him make it a reality.

I am honored to announce that 2020 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Monsignor's choice and the founding of what would become A Chance In Life. We will be marking this milestone with celebrations throughout the year, beginning with sharing stories of our organization's history on our website. We have three stories already waiting for you inside this newsletter!

Decades after the Monsignor's decision, we are faced with our own choice - how can we continue this legacy of love? I hope you will join us in the coming year as we celebrate a history that has given a chance in life to more than 35,000 children - and commit to serving even more young people in the decades to come.



Gabriele Delmonaco  
President/Executive Director



# WINTER EVENTS



## Christmas Party at La Repubblica dei Ragazzi

There was plenty to make spirits bright at the Annual Christmas party at La Repubblica dei Ragazzi (Boys' & Girls' Republic of Italy). Each citizen is encouraged to bring someone special to them - such as a mentor or friend from school - to join the evening of songs, gift-giving and food. Jasmine, Patrizia, Eleonora, Reina and Mihaela (left to right) represented the girls' house (House Fenice) during the celebration. Visit our website for more photos of the party!

**"THANK YOU FOR YOUR SENSITIVITY AND CONCERN FOR THE LEAST OF OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS."  
- POPE FRANCIS**

## 2019 Wine & Spirits Annual International Dinner

On November 20, Arjun Dewan was named Honoree of the Year at the 2019 Wine & Spirits Dinner. Industry leaders, longtime supporters and friends gathered to honor Arjun and celebrate the industry's long history of supporting our youth. Arjun applauded the presence of so many different companies, saying in his speech, "It's amazing that we'll come together like this as competitors tomorrow, but tonight we're getting together for the kids of A Chance In Life." Thank you to everyone who participated!



## ACIL Delegation Meets with Pope Francis at Vatican

On December 9, our President and Executive Director Gabriele Delmonaco accompanied a delegation of A Chance In Life's donors, board members and friends to a private audience with Pope Francis at the Vatican. Pope Francis addressed those assembled, saying, "I thank you for your sensitivity and concern for the least of our brothers and sisters. May God .... always accompany your efforts to build a world of greater fraternity." These words are also for you, our wonderful community of supporters. Thank you for helping us serve the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters for 75 years.





Tens of thousands of people have made our 75-year history possible. Each person has their own story - will you send us yours? We are collecting the stories of citizens, supporters and friends of the Monsignor to share as part of our 75th Anniversary celebrations. Submit yours today at [achanceinlife.org/submit-stories](http://achanceinlife.org/submit-stories), and enjoy some of the stories already sent in below!



All of us members in the Italian Club at the Academy of the Holy Angels are so grateful to be raising money for such an amazing organization. We strongly resonate with A Chance in Life's mission because we believe everyone, no matter their background or previous situation, deserves the opportunity to succeed in life. We believe in the power of education and how it can drastically change a child's life. Not only are we very passionate about this organization, but so is the rest of our school community. We hope to continue raising money for such a transformative organization.

**Sam De Martino, Italian Club at the Academy of the Holy Angels**

I met the Monsignor when he named me the honoree of the Nassau Dinner. Later that year, my wife Polly and I were in Rome on vacation and she suggested I call "that nice Monsignor that honored you." We ended up spending a day at Boys' Town with the children. At the end of our visit, the Monsignor asked me if I'd like to meet the Pope. He sent a car to get us the next morning, and before I knew it, I was shaking the hand of Pope John Paul II!

I called the Monsignor again when I got home to thank him and ask how I could ever repay him for such an incredible experience. He told me, "Herman, I need your help." Thirty-one years later, and I'm still chairing the Wine & Spirits Dinner because of that conversation.

**Herman Hochberg, Board Member**



In Egypt I didn't have the possibility to go to school because I had to work to help my family. Being able to attend school in Italy is good....going to school can help me to have a better future. The thing I like most is the hairdressing vocational training so that I can find a job after finishing school. I want to become a hairdresser in order to help my family and one day have my own hairdresser shop.

**Hazim, Citizen of La Repubblica dei Ragazzi**





# SPOTLIGHT ON OUR STAFF



## A Chance In Life is thrilled to introduce Claire Gallagher, our new Vice President of Development.

### **What brought you to A Chance In Life?**

I have spent more than a dozen years working in nonprofit development, with an emphasis on serving at-risk and underserved populations. These have included young people in foster care, first generation college students and immigrant communities. The mission of A Chance In Life resonates with me because it brings together so much of what I am passionate about – social justice, education, youth empowerment – in an organization that is impactful, mission-driven, and fiscally responsible. I am so excited to join the A Chance In Life family, and eager to work with our donors and our children!

### **What do you see as being the most exciting thing happening for A Chance In Life this year?**

Without question, this is a milestone year for us as we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of our founding by Monsignor John Patrick Carroll-Abbing. I am so excited for the celebrations in conjunction with that anniversary, including our San Francisco Ball of the Year on April 25th and our New York Annual Gala on April 28th. I would also love to have the opportunity to reengage with former donors and program beneficiaries who have been a part of our organization during the past 75 years. We would not be where we are today without a vast network of friends and advocates, and I would be honored to reconnect with many of those individuals in the coming months.

## Financial donations are crucial to our work and always appreciated, but there are many other essential ways you can support A Chance In Life and our young people:



### **SHARE OUR STORY**

Leverage your social media channels: share our website, blog posts, and other digital content on your social media channels to amplify our voice and help us tell the story of A Chance In Life to a wider audience.



### **DOUBLE YOUR IMPACT**

You can double – or even triple – the value of your financial contribution through employee matching gift programs. Use the tool at [achanceinlife.org/donate-now](http://achanceinlife.org/donate-now) to see if your company is enrolled, or contact our office to find out more about how to participate in employee matching gift programs.



### **LEGACY GIVING**

A Chance In Life is so touched to have donors who choose to leave some or all of their estate to our organization. To find out more about how to include A Chance In Life in your estate planning, contact our office today.