



## Volunteering is the Hope For Humanity

The foundation of any not-for-profit organization is its volunteers, and since our founding, A Chance In Life has relied on volunteers to fulfill our mission. We consider our volunteers to be one of our greatest strengths.

In April, our San Francisco Ball of the Year took place at the Westin St. Francis Hotel. Hundreds of guests enjoyed dinner and dancing and recognized our gracious and deserving honoree, Mark Quattrocchi, and raised critical funds in support of A Chance In Life. But none of this would have been possible without the incredible efforts of the San Francisco Committee, a group of dedicated volunteers who for many years have overseen every aspect of this event, from fundraising to flowers, honorees to hors d'oeuvres. We are so lucky to have them, and incredibly thankful for the generous donation of their time.

Here on the East Coast, our newest program, The Village for New York City hosts a Free Market Food Pantry weekly on Tuesdays. With the help of our volunteers, this program feeds 120+ families each week. This work is continuing to thrive: we have increased the number of families we are able to serve by 33% since the start of the year. Our volunteers not only help with stocking, registration, distributing, and clean up, but they greet these families with humanity every time.

Volunteering is the hope for humanity. And in the case of the Ukrainian refugees who have been displaced from their homes, and who are being served by our programs in Rome, the humanity offered by our volunteers there gives these families hope during their darkest days. Volunteers have provided hot meals, clothing, toys for the children, and the tools they need to begin a routine of normalcy after their tragic displacement.

On behalf of A Chance In Life, I deeply thank all of our volunteers who help us to uphold our mission and serve the community with ingenuity, compassion, and love. If you are interested in finding out how you or someone you know can become a volunteer with our organization, please email us at [office@achanceinlife.org](mailto:office@achanceinlife.org).



Gabriele Delmonaco  
President/Executive Director

# SPRING EVENTS & UPDATES



## We Had A Ball! ... We Hope You Did Too

The San Francisco Ball returned this year, with over 350 professionals and philanthropists who are passionate about giving young people a chance to fulfill their potential and to live dreams that otherwise would not be possible. The evening featured a cocktail reception, seated dinner and program including remarks from our honoree Mark Quattrocchi, founding partner of Quattrocchi Kwok Architects. We were also honored to be joined by Giampietro Lepore, who was a Citizen of La Repubblica dei Ragazzi in Civitavecchia beginning in 1952. He traveled from Italy to be with us and share more about how impactful his experiences at La Repubblica were and continue to be as a volunteer today.

A special thank you to all our supporters in attendance, our special guests and to the volunteer committee that coordinates this event. We hope to celebrate with you again next year!



Honoree of the Year Mark Quattrocchi with wife Tina Kelly



San Francisco Committee Members Russ Stanley and Mario Aliotti



Gabriele Delmonaco with former Citizen, Giampietro Lepore



Phyllis Clima and San Francisco Committee Chair Larry Nibbi draw names for the raffle

## Relief 4 Ukraine campaign

A Chance In Life continues to support victims of the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Our fundraising campaign has generated more than \$350,000 for refugees. Through our ongoing partnership with the Gravissimum Educationis Foundation, we have sent emergency funding directly to the Don Bosco Missions, which operate in Kiev and throughout Ukraine to provide housing and education to school-aged children. We have also provided aid to the Ukrainian Catholic University of Lviv, which through the Stand with Ukraine program offers significant social and humanitarian support to university students, their families, and the entire population.

This is in addition to our ongoing work to resettle refugee families through our programs in Italy. It is because of donations like yours that we have been able to continue these fruitful partnerships and life-saving efforts.

Top Right: In Visciano, Italy, families of refugees enjoy a meal at our program.



Bottom Right: Volunteers at La Repubblica dei Ragazzi prepare the space for refugee families to arrive.





# OUR PROGRAMS & TEAM

## The Scientific Committee

In March, our team traveled to Rome to attend the first meeting of the year of the Scientific Committee. The Scientific Committee is an advisory body comprised of experts in fields relating to education, child protection, educational institutions, scientific research, and psychology.

The Scientific Committee ensures our approach is always suited to meet the ever-changing challenges facing youth - especially marginalized and underserved youth - around the world. To continue addressing the obstacles facing youth today, A Chance In Life is increasing resources to partners in order to develop and strengthen their skills, processes, and abilities to adapt and thrive as the needs of their community do. One way in which we are increasing capacity building is through our newly formed Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Team. MEL offers framework to strengthen organizational practices, enhance capacity to become more effective and maximize the impact of results.

The three main tasks of the MEL Team are:

- To develop, review, and update A Chance In Life's policies and procedures related to grant management.
- To guide and perform periodic reviews and evaluations of Partners' projects and programs through monitoring and field visits.
- To organize and provide capacity building opportunities across Partner organizations to enhance program impact.

MEL will be conducting field visits to our programs around the world, beginning with Colombia later this spring!



## What's New In Our Programs



In March, our team conducted site visits to our programs in Italy: la Città dei Ragazzi, la Repubblica dei Ragazzi, and our newest program partner - the Padre Arturo Center, located in Marigliano, Naples.

At la Città, the team was reminded of the traditions established by our founder - self-government, vocational training, and exposure to traditional arts and cultures of the community. At la Repubblica, the team had lunch with a group of volunteers comprised of program alumni - individuals who were Citizens of Boys' and Girls' Towns of Italy 60 years ago! They are deeply committed to supporting the program to this day. We also visited with girls currently living at the program, and toured the newly renovated soccer pitch.

Lastly, the team traveled to Marigliano to tour the Padre Arturo Center and meet the boys living there - all of whom experienced unstable situations at home or had experience with the justice system. The Center ensures the students finish high school and connects them to vocational training, including pizza-making.

We are grateful for a chance to see our impact in action, and ever more grateful to our supporters for ensuring this important work continues.

## Newest Member of Our Team

We are thrilled to introduce the newest member of the ACIL team, Rianna Daniels.

In her new role as Development and Communications Manager, Rianna will work with the Development team to help identify and secure funding to address A Chance In Life's mission. She will also be tasked with overseeing our communications to provide updates of our programs and achievements.

Rianna was captivated by A Chance In Life's growth over the years. "I admire how A Chance In Life has adapted to the needs of the youth they serve globally; many companies are not in constant search of new partnerships with existing organizations in other countries. Most are just looking to enhance their already existing programs. These programs don't always align with or consider with the children's culture. A Chance In Life is actively doing both, while also working in the context of each country's obstacles." We look forward to Rianna's contributions to the team!





# SPOTLIGHT ON OUR VOLUNTEERS

## The Voices of Our Volunteers

At A Chance In Life we value our partnerships. Over the years, we have seen that partnerships come in all shapes and sizes. In March, in honor of National Volunteer Month, we had the pleasure of shining light on the partnerships we have curated with our wonderful volunteers. We caught up with Mary Dale Spach and Elaine Adamo, volunteers at The Village for New York City on Staten Island and had the opportunity to hear their thoughts on A Chance In Life's mission and approach.



Mary and Elaine outside The Village

ACIL: What drew you to A Chance In Life? How did you become familiar with our organization?

Elaine: My relationship with A Chance In Life was born at a BBQ in a time before the pandemic. I was introduced to President Gabriele Delmonaco who had nothing but wonderful things to say about the work A Chance In Life was doing and I was eager to be involved. Soon after, I invited Mary, who is a fellow retired educator, to join us. We've been volunteering for about 8 months now.

ACIL: Why is volunteering important to you?

Mary: I think we are placed on this earth to be good to each other because who knows when I'll be down and need help! If I'm not in a bad situation I should be helping. It's a moral responsibility for all of us. I was an educator for many years and one of the things I like about A Chance In Life is that they are not only giving youth the necessary tools for self-improvement, but they are also placing an emphasis on community improvement and instilling the value of giving back to society.

ACIL: What are some areas of need you would like to see The Village address in the future to help our youth?

Elaine: Books. I would like to see our youth have better access to books. Maybe with a book drive or call for donations.\*

\*We would love to add more books to our library at The Village. Thanks for the suggestion, Elaine! For information about how you can donate books, please contact us at (718) 749-0909.