

THE FIRST STEP...



Dear Readers,

It is with great pleasure that I announce the winner of the 2017/2018 Fulbright - Roberto Wirth Scholarship, Lisanna Grosso. Lisanna is an example of how my scholarship has made an impact in the lives of children who are deaf over the years. In fact, she was one of the deaf girls who participated in the experimental bilingualism (Italian Sign Language and Italian) project at The State Primary School of Cossato (Biella).

The deaf educator who taught Lisanna when she was a little girl was a former "Roberto Wirth" Scholar, Daniele Chiri.

From a scientific point of view, the Director of The Assistance Center for Deaf and Deafblind Children (CABSS), Dr. Stefania Fadda, presented at several conferences and occasions where she was able to speak about the work CABSS carries out in the multisensory laboratory with deaf and deafblind children. In particular, Stefania Fadda participated

at the third National ASI Meeting - Onda Sonora, held on World Hearing Day, and at "Hi Talk WoW" which was dedicated to sharing innovative stories of women.

In the context of fundraising, the Assistance Center for Deaf and Deafblind Children, was the protagonist of the "Spezial Party" organized by Italia Squisita, where some of the most renowned chefs, pizza chefs, pastry chefs and mixologists created exquisite dishes and drinks to support the children at CABSS.

I would like to finally thank Roberta Tamponi, Renato Mammucari and my good friend Gioia Marina Pasquinelli Furlan who throughout the past year have been very active in supporting my nonprofit organization: Roberta ran the Chia Laguna Half Marathon by dedicating her race to CABSS and transforming a day of sport into a day of solidarity.

Renato and Gioia Marina, who are always by my side, organized for the second time a beautiful art exhibition whose proceeds were donated to the early intervention programs at CABSS.

I leave you with an invitation to read the second part of the article on "Pro-Tactile", an important novelty in the world of deafblindness from the United States!

kindest Regards!



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SCIENTIFIC AREA

CABSS at the 3rd National A.S.I. Meeting #OndaSonora

For World Hearing Day on March 3rd, 2017, CABSS attended the 3rd National Meeting of A.S.I. (Facing Deafness Together) "#OndaSonora" which was held in Rome in the Camera dei Deputati.

For ten years, the World Health Organization (WHO) and the creation of World Hearing Day had the aim of raising awareness about Deafness. According to the WHO there are 360 million people who are deaf and with varying degrees of deafness, about 5% of the world's population. This figure includes 32 million children. WHO recommends that there

should be a focus and information given about prevention, early diagnosis, better access to acoustic products and technologies and full access to education even with the use of sign language.

At the meeting, Stefania Fadda represented CABSS at the round table "Our Way", moderated by speech therapist Gabriella Traisci of the Centro Cura della Sordità e Impianti Cocleari Policlinico Universitario Umberto I of Rome. A mother who attends the early intervention program at CABSS also participated at the round table. She spoke about her experience as a mom with a child who is deafblind, his story from the time of diagnosis to present and when they decided to come CABSS who welcomed them, supported them with the developmental challenges they faced and bringing forth his full potential!

Many professionals in the area of deafness spoke at the meeting but the real protagonists were the parents of children who are deaf and deafblind, as well as young deaf adults who were invited to share with the audience their experiences.

A.S.I. is a voluntary association that aims to: assist individuals who are deaf through information sharing; organize initiatives where individuals who are deaf can gather to support each other and members of their families; support children who are deaf; educate adults about deafness; support scientific research in the area of deafness; raise public awareness about deafness through conferences.



Stefania Fadda's presentation

Stefania Fadda one of 12 successful women who spoke at HiTalk WoW!

On March 5, 2017 a few days before Women's Day in Italy, our Director Stefania Fadda was one of the protagonists of "HiTalkWoW! Woman Is noW. Love. Power. Genius ", a talk devoted to sharing innovative stories of women. The event was held in Rome in the Protomoteca Chamber of Campidoglio. The event, promoted by LVenture Group in partnership with the LUISS EnLabs start-up accelerator and sponsored by the City of Rome, was sought and organized by Akiko Gonda, an internationally renowned artist and co-founder, along with Marie Gabrielle De Weck, of High Idea Talk.

The philosophy of self-empowerment has inspired the organizers, who firmly believe that every day is Women's Day celebrated on March 8, and that the best way to celebrate women is for women to team up, inspire and be inspired by love, strength and innovation. The women at HiTalkWoW's did just that! 12 excellent professionals who have revolutionized the world with their work: from design

to journalism, from the social sphere to medicine, from science to technology. Every speaker was allotted 12 minutes to tell their story.

Stefania Fadda spoke about the barriers of silence and darkness, how she met President Roberto Wirth, how she was hired as Director of CABSS and the development of the first Early Intervention Program in Italy, aimed at supporting deaf and deaf children from 0 to 6 years of age. Created in collaboration with the professionals at CABSS who are all women, the early intervention program at CABSS allows children to develop concepts, acquire skills and choose a communication modality that suits their communication needs. "I hope that one day there will be one of our deaf or deafblind children on the HiTalk stage," said Doctor Fadda with the conviction that "Each of us has their own way of being in the world and the right way of discovering how to do that is to search within oneself".

In the case of children who are deaf or deafblind parents/teachers/therapists have the task of giving children the strength to discover that light inside of them so that they can express their personality to the fullest. The other speakers at HiTalk WoW were: Giorgia Abertino (Head of Institutional Relations at Google),

Monica D'Ascenzo (Journalist at Sole 24 Ore), Elena Dominique Midolo (CEO of Clio Makeup), Annalisa Pizzetti (Dermatologist and Aesthetic Surgeon) Barbara Riccardi (Teacher, Ambassador of the Global Teacher Prize), Linda Laura Sabbadini (Statistics), Paola Santini (Astrophysical Researcher), Ludovica Serafini (Designer and Architect),

Loredana Taddei (Responsabile per le Politiche di Genere, CGL Nazionale), Carlotta Ventura CCO State Railways), Riccarda Zezza (Managing Consultant, Maternity as a Master).



Pro-Tactile: Philosophy, Movement, Responsibility - Part 2

Prior to 2007, DeafBlind individuals in the U.S. did not communicate directly with one another. Since the 1980s, DeafBlind people relied on methods like Braille, fingerspelling and physically tracking ASL to interact with each other. For many years, people who were DeafBlind with limited vision continued to communicate in ASL because they wanted to be perceived by as others as being able to see and to limit any potential discrimination. Between 2006 and 2008, members of the American Deafblind community were constrained by financial and logistical constraints to hire interpreters, and began using pro-tactile ASL on their own. As they did, the language naturally evolved, and the “pro-tactile” movement began.

Pro-tactile ASL utilizes bits and pieces of ASL and adapts them to accommodate for the loss vision. Rather than using their own hands as a reference for communication, people who convey information with pro-tactile ASL use the perceiver’s hands and body. The communicator takes advantage of the perceiver’s proprioception, or sense of where his or her limbs are. It uses touch to provide crucial visual and auditory cues and information to make communication completely accessible to individuals who are deafblind. Pro-Tactile uses haptic communication to give information including conversational feedback, emotions and audience reactions, as well as environmental information, tactile classifiers, and tactile mapping.

Pro-Tactile promotes the rights of Deafblind individuals to define themselves and their culture and not be dominated by the values or thinking of the non-deafblind dominant culture. ‘Pro-Tactile’ rejects pressure from the dominant society to conform to sighted-hearing norms.

As a method ‘Pro-Tactile’ supports ‘hands-on’ learning and ‘hands-on’ experience rather than an experience solely based on the information gathered by the DB person’s partial vision/ hearing. The ‘Pro-Tactile’ philosophy says, “DB can do!” as in earlier generation’s “Deaf can do!”

or I. King Jordan’s famous quote, “Deaf people can do anything but hear”. “DB people can do anything but see and hear, using touch and their intelligence when they are given access”.

Pro-Tactile does not put emphasis on differences such as amount of hearing a person or degrees of vision a individual who is deafblind has because it is an individualistic, “case-by- case” conception of what it means to be “deaf-blind”. Pro-Tactile’ affirms the value of a common tactile language and community.

‘Pro-Tactile’ is pro-touch, pro-experience, pro-tactile, and pro-responsibility. It is not, anti-hearing, anti-vision or anti-SSPs (Social Service Providers). ‘Pro-Tactile’ promotes the use of touch and it does not discourage any additional access a DB person may be able to make use of to enrich communication.

The philosophy of ‘Pro-Tactile’ is focused on the DB experience but also emphasizes the responsibility of the DB person to take the initiative, seek out information, think for themselves, and do tasks on their own rather than passively receiving second-hand information at the discretion of others.

To summarize, it is important to keep in mind that Pro-Tactile is a philosophy, method, attitude and political movement. It is PRO-, not anti- and values community; it is inclusive, not exclusive and challenges sighted privilege. It empowers the person who is deafblind to be independent, active participants in society and follow their dreams.

Source: https://issuu.com/dbtip/docs/pro-tactile_understanding_the_touch

<https://qz.com/758851/deafblind-americans-developed-a-language-that-doesnt-involve-sight-or-sound/>



Image source: www.deafinonline.org

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

Lisanna Grosso, the new “Fulbright - Roberto Wirth” Scholarship Winner

We are pleased to present the winner of the 2017-2018 “Fulbright - Roberto Wirth” scholarship, Lisanna Grosso. The winner was selected by the Fulbright Commission for the Cultural Exchange between Italy and the United States, a committee of Deaf experts, Representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the United States Embassy. At Gallaudet University, Washington D.C., Lisanna will have the opportunity to study and when she returns to Italy be able to realize her greatest dream of creating a center in Italy where a multidisciplinary team will support the development of deaf children and their parents.

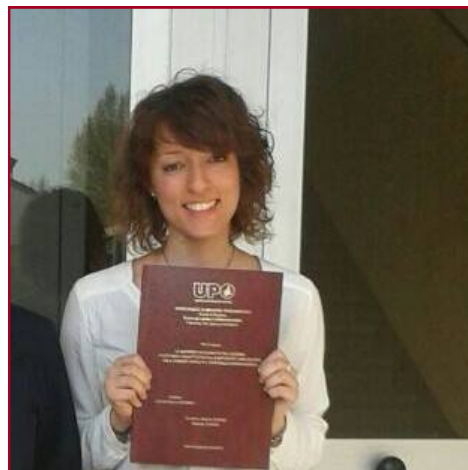
This victory fills us with pride, as the new winner is an example of how the scholarship benefits children who are deaf in Italy. It was in 1994, when Lisanna was three years old and was one of the first deaf girls involved in an experimental bilingual project (Italian Sign Language/ Italian) at the State Primary School of Cossato (BI), Italy. Right from the early years at primary school, Lisanna had the opportunity to be taught by a deaf educator Daniele Chiri, a former “Roberto Wirth” 1993/1994 Scholar, who at that time had just returned from the U.S. with innovative teaching methods for deaf children.

Today Lisanna Grosso is 26 years old and graduated with a degree in Nursing at the Università degli Studi del Piemonte Orientale of Novara and completed her Master's degree in “Family and Community Nursing” at the University of Pavia. She has been also teaching Italian Sign Language to children, teenagers and adults since 2004.

The scholarship was created in 1992 by Roberto Wirth with the aim of offering young deaf Italians the opportunity to study at Gallaudet University, the only bilingual school in the world (American Sign Language and English), totally accessible to deaf students. In the United States, scholars have the opportunity to specialize in an area that benefits Italian children who are deaf and deafblind, in the psychological and educational spheres.



Lisanna Grosso



The day Lisanna graduated



Italians get the opportunity to know more about “Il Silenzio è Stato il Mio Primo Compagno di Giochi” by Roberto Wirth

Roberto Wirth, Stefania Fadda, Corrado Ruggeri and Anna Folchi presented the book “Il Silenzio è Stato il Mio Primo Compagno di Giochi” in several italian cities...

L'Aquila



Bari



Roma



Torino



Milano



Palermo



Firenze



Bologna



Chiavari



Italia Squisita's Spring "Spezial Party" in favor of CABSS Onlus

On April 10th, 2017, twenty of the most renowned chefs, pastry chefs, pizza chefs and mixologists held a huge party at the Palazzetto in favor of the Assistance Center for Deaf and Deafblind Children. The "Spezial Party" was a great tribute to spices that were utilized in the many dishes that were created by the hands of some of the most acclaimed chefs.

The "Spezial Party" was a delicious and colorful opportunity to taste some of the most incredible gourmet foods but also an opportunity to get to know the illustrious chefs, drink homemade beer or great Italian wine and discover many products made in Italy.

Spices were the central theme of the 2017 Spring party by Italia Squisita that each year celebrates Italian cooking and supports charities, or organizations, that work towards improving the lives of individuals with disabilities. In fact, the proceeds from the evening made it possible to welcome new deaf and deafblind children into the early intervention programs at CABSS.

Italia Squisita was successful at organizing an event where gourmet and giving met. It was a time of special moments, good food, wine and conviviality, but also of hope and love dedicated to the special children at CABSS, who live with the loss of one or both senses, but who when adequately supported, can look forward to a bright future, walking hand in hand with their parents.

President Roberto Wirth and Director Stefania Fadda would like to thank Italia Squisita who organized a perfect evening and to the renowned chefs who dedicated their time and talent to supporting the children at CABSS with their delicious aromatic and exotic dishes.

Many thanks goes out to:

Chefs: Francesco Apreda ("Imago" - Roma); Anthony Genovese ("Il Pagliaccio" - Roma); Giulio Terrinoni ("Per Me" - Roma); Roy Caceres ("Metamorfofi" - Roma); Gianfranco Pascucci ("Al Porticciolo" - Roma); Fratelli Serva ("La Trota" - Rieti); Salvatore Bianco ("Il Comandante" - Napoli); Famiglia Piccirillo ("Pizzeria Masardona" - Napoli); Rosanna Marziale ("Le Colonne" - Caserta); Marzia Buzzanca ("Percorsi di Gusto" - L'Aquila);

Angelo Sabatelli ("Angelo Sabatelli" - Bari); Adriano Baldassarre ("Tordomatto" - Roma); Federico Delmonte ("Chinappi" - Roma); Cristiano Tomei ("L'Imbuto" - Lucca); Iside De Cesare ("La Parolina" - Viterbo); Andrea Fusco ("Giuda Ballerino" - Roma); Eiji Yamamoto ("Sushi Sen" - Roma); Marco Martini e Daniele Gentili ("The Corner" - Roma); Cristina Bowerman ("Glass Hostaria" - Roma); Luciano Monosilio ("Pipero Roma" - Roma); Famiglia Roscioli ("Roscioli" - Roma).

Pastry Chefs: Dario Nuti ("Imago" - Roma); Nicola Di Lena ("Seta" - Milano); Andrea Riva Moscara ("Giuda Ballerino" - Roma); Andrea De Bellis ("Pasticceria De Bellis" - Roma).

Mixologists: Riccardo Palleschi ("Caffè Propaganda" - Roma) and Dj Solko and Beat Soup.



President Roberto Wirth, Director Stefania Fadda, the organizers of Italia Squisita and all the chefs, pastry chefs and pizza chefs who participated

Painters and their Female Models: Art exhibition in favor of CABSS Onlus

In May 2017, two of our dear friends Gioia Marina Pasquinelli Furlan and Renato Mammucari wanted to make a contribution in favor of CABSS. For the second consecutive year, they organized an art show where the funds raised from the event went to the children who are deaf and deafblind at CABSS.

The theme of the exhibition was, "Painters and their Female Models from the 18 and 1900's". Beautiful paintings were displayed at the Palazzetto and were admired by the many guests who attended the exhibition. The paintings were presented by Doctor Serenita Papaldo who shared her knowledge about the paintings with us.



From left to right : Stefania Fadda, Renato Mammucari, Roberto Wirth, Gioia Marina Pasquinelli Furlan and Serenita Papaldo

The Trio Insolito band, lead by Doctor Gianandrea Pasquinelli, featured traditional music and music from the popular culture performed by an unusual instrumental ensemble. The original arrangements utilized instruments typically used in classical music like the cello with harmonic characteristics, most commonly found in folk, blues and jazz.

Mr. Mammucari and Mrs. Furlan decided support our President Roberto Wirth with his dream of "giving deaf and deafblind children the opportunity to be the captains of their own ship, guiding their ship with their parents love towards a rich and successful future. With CABSS this is possible!"

Roberta Tamponi runs in favor of CABSS

€ 5,001.00 was raised under the crowdfunding initiative, "I run for deafblind children" from March 10th to May 16th, 2017, thanks to Roberta Tamponi who ran in favor of CABSS at the VI Chia Laguna Half Marathon in Sardinia. All money raised went to the early multisensory programs for deafblind children aged 0 to 6 and their parents.

Roberta Tamponi shared with us the reason why she decided to run for the deafblind children at CABSS: "I am mom, doctor and an athlete who is passionate about running. As a mother and a doctor, I always held children who experience difficulties close to my heart and as a runner I wanted to dedicate one of my competitions to them. When I decided to participate in the marathon, a few months ago, I was able to make one of my dreams come true of supporting the deafblind children at CABSS".

Roberta dedicated so much of her time to training for the marathon and fundraising. With her enthusiasm, commitment and sensitivity, she was able to make a substantial contribution to the children at CABSS. The Chia Laguna Half Marathon took place on April 30th at the beautiful natural oasis of Chia located in Sardinia.

At the marathon Roberta ran the last lap of the marathon hand in hand with her daughter Benedetta, just as in other marathons in the past and received special recognition from Stefania Fadda the director of CABSS.



Roberta Tamponi and Stefania Fadda at the award ceremony at the Chia Laguna Half Marathon

FUNDRAISING

Support us!

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Donate Online at our website: eng.cabss.it.

PLEASE NOTE

Your donation is tax deductible!

Donate your 5X1000!

Supporting Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi Onlus is easy; make the decision to donate your 5x1000. You can allocate a portion of your income to a non-profit organization.

All you have to do is write down **CABSS' tax code in the space provided and sign.**

Remember that the 5x1000 does not replace the 8x1000 and you can donate to both. In the case that you decide not to donate be aware that the portion originally designated in favor of nonprofit organizations will go directly to the government.

Children need your support!

TAX CODE
97350450587

Support CABSS directly from the U.S.A.!

American citizens can now make a tax deductible donation to CABSS directly from the U.S.A. by taking advantage of tax deductions that support charities based in the U.S.A. (Sections 501 (c) (3) and 509 (a) (1) of the Internal Revenue Code). Here's how you can support CABSS from the United States:

By making an **online donation** on the KFBUS website: www.kbfus.org and clicking on "Donate Now" and selecting "Giving Option 1: Non-Profit Partners Overseas" "Assistance Center for Deaf and Deafblind Children (IT)".

Sending a **cheque** to: KBFUS 10 Rockefeller Plaza, 16th Floor, New

York, NY 10020. It is very important that you make sure to indicate in the memo section of the cheque that your donation is going to: "Friends of the Assistance Center for Deaf and Deafblind Children";

Through **wire transfer**. Please contact CABSS for more information.

For more information please visit:

www.kbfus.org

eng.cabss.it



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Purchase your copy today!

A portion of the proceeds from the sales of the book will go to CABSS Onlus in favor of deaf and deafblind children

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Via Nomentana 56 – 00161 Roma

Tel. 06 89561038 / Fax 06 89561040 / Mob. 331 8520534

www.cabss.org

E-mail: info@cabss.it

Tax Number: 97350450587

Director: Giustino Ruggieri

Editor: Stefania Fadda

Writers: Giusy Caravello, Marta Cidronelli, Laura Harripersad

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