

Right on target

CABSS ONLUS Newsletter

Dear readers

I am proud to announce the winner of the R.O.S.A. award (Results Obtained without Help), Dr Stefania Fadda, director of CABSS Onlus. The prestigious award is awarded to a woman of success each year. We are so very proud that it was awarded to Dr. Fadda.

We are currently organizing the first course in Italy on the "Fundamentals of Early Intervention for Deafblind Children: Methodology and Techniques", with professors from George Brown College, Toronto, Canada, a world leader in training specialized professionals in the area of deafblindness.

Inside you will find a wonderful article about our summer event: an evening of giving where noted guests and consolidated donors came together to sustain our activities.

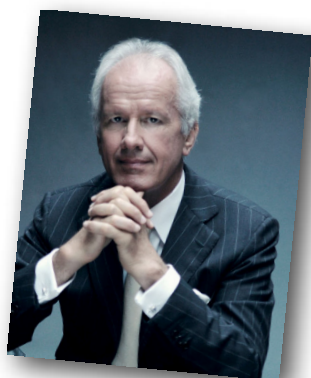
A great opportunity also awaits Italian students: on our website, apply for the 2014/2015 Fulbright - Roberto Wirth Grant in Deafness, an experience that could change your life...

Before saying goodbye, I would like to remind you that this year CABSS will also be participating in the Rome Marathon: we are currently looking for runners. If you're interested please contact us.

Hope you enjoy this issue of Right on Target!



Roberto E. Wirth



Stefania Fadda wins the R.O.S.A. award

On 4 June 2013, our director, Stefania Fadda, won the prestigious R.O.S.A. award. Unanimously voted as winner by a jury, Dr. Fadda received recognition from Annamaria Tarantola, The President of Rai and the hostess of the evening.

The R.O.S.A. award: Results Obtained Without Help, is awarded annually by the Canova Club and celebrates women in every respect but above all recognizes the achievements they have made in their careers.

Dott.ssa Fadda, was awarded the R.O.S.A. award as a result of her work, passion, and dedication in favor of deaf and deafblind children.

After she received her doctorate and specialization in Psychology and Deafness from Gallaudet University (U.S.A.), she met Roberto Wirth, "someone who profoundly understands the needs of children who are born deaf". He offered her the opportunity to become the director of CABSS.





Scientific articles

Services for the visually and psycho sensory multi disabled and family project

After the successful seminar that was held last year dedicated to individuals who have a visual or psycho sensory multiple disability, the Apostolic Movement for the Blind (MAC) decided to organize another seminar about services for the visually impaired and psycho sensory multi disabled and to discuss the results of their family project. The seminar was held in Corbiolo of Bosco Chiesanuova (Verona), on June 30th- July 2nd, 2013. The seminar focused on inclusion and the importance of training and educating parents and siblings of children or adults who are blind, visually or psycho sensory multi disabled. The main objective was to raise awareness about the services dedicated to families and to assess the effectiveness of those services.

CABSS Onlus felt it was important to make a contribution to the seminar even though they were not able to attend and provided MAC with a report about the services CABSS provides to parents and families of children who are deafblind. All families who come to CABSS seeking family services have the opportunity of benefiting from: active involvement in early intervention programs designed for their child, psychological support or pedagogical consultation with the goal of families acquiring the necessary tools in

creating a harmonious family life and the ability to respond to the specialized needs of their child.

Many organizations from all across Italy attended the seminar and included: Lega del Filo d'Oro, Centro Regionale Sant'Alessio Margherita di Savoia per i Ciechi, Istituto dei Ciechi di Milano, Istituto Chiossone di Genova, Fondazione Roberto Hollman.

MAC has a long tradition of advocating for individuals who are blind and visually impaired with multiple disabilities. A division of MAC, the MAC Insieme Foundation, provides training to teachers, social workers and students.



Course on the Fundamentals of Early Intervention for Congenitally Deafblind Children: Methodology and Techniques

CABSS is pleased to present the first course in Italy, aimed to raise awareness and teach specialized strategies specific to early intervention for congenitally deafblind children. The course, will take place on June 16th maximum of 30 participants, including professionals and family members of congenitally deafblind children.

Theoretical lessons, simulations and group work will allow participants to explore the following topics: congenital deafblindness and the four areas of intervention: Anticipation, Motivation, Communication and Confirmation; methods and techniques that promote learning in deafblind children; the total communication approach; effective communication strategies for children who are deafblind; activity and program planning in early intervention settings, the figure and role of the intervenor; skill and concept development.

The professors, Carolyn Monaco and Cheryl Ramey, will arrive in the capital from George Brown College Toronto (Canada), a leader in training professionals in the area of deafblindness.

Dr. Carolyn Monaco, has 35 years of experience in the field of deafblindness, she is the Senior National President of the Canadian Deafblind Association and Vice President of Deafblind International, a leading international organization aimed at promoting the rights of deafblind individuals. Dr. Cheryl Ramey has worked for 29 years in the area of deafblindness where she sits on the board of directors of major organizations dedicated to deafblindness. She currently offers consultation

and training on both the national and international levels. Both are professors in the prestigious "Intervenor for Deaf-Blind Persons Program" at George Brown College where Ms Monaco has taught for 17 years and Ms. Ramey for 10.

CABSS has always had the desire of offering a course that would improve the quality of life and opportunities of Italian children who are identified with a combined loss of vision and hearing (total or partial) at birth. As a result, these little ones face barriers in accessing information, developing communication skills and achieving independence. However, it has been shown that these difficulties can be overcome if he/she receives support and services early on in life. It has also been shown that children who attend early intervention programs positively effects their overall development.

 Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi
CABSS ONLUS



Corso di Formazione
Fondamenti di Intervento Precoce per
Bambini Sordociechi Congeniti:
Metodologie e Tecniche

Roma, 16 - 20 Giugno 2014
h 09.00/18.00

Docenti: Dott.ssa Carolyn Monaco e Dott.ssa Cheryl Ramey
George Brown College, Toronto (Canada)

Iscrizioni entro il 14/02/2014

Sarà garantito il servizio di interpretariato
Inglese - Italiano - Inglese e Italiano - LIS - Italiano

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Activities and projects

Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi Onlus and Fondazione Banco di Sardegna in support of deafblind children!

CABSS would like to thank Fondazione Banco di Sardegna for giving CABSS the possibility of providing the "Comunicare Con-Tatto" program for deafblind children, from September 1st, 2012 to September 30th, 2013 at our multisensory laboratory, "The First Step..."

Children, who are born deafblind, 0-6 years of age, are exposed to multisensory therapy which has proven to have positive results in the cognitive, socio-relational, emotional and communication areas.

CABSS believes that parents play a key role in the development of their child and are given the opportunity to receive psychological and/or psycho-pedagogical support and be actively involved in their child's individualized early intervention program.

For each child who is deafblind, CABSS collaborates with various professional figures who work with the child at home, school and in others contexts.

This collaborative effort has fostered a true spirit of teamwork.

The Fondazione Banco di Sardegna pursues public and social interests. They support the growth and training of young people, elderly care, civil rights, community development and public housing, public health, preventive and rehabilitative medicine, science and technological research, art, activities and cultural goods.



2014-2015 Fulbright- Roberto Wirth Grant in Deafness - Gallaudet University

Applications are now open for the Fulbright-Roberto Wirth Grant in Deafness for young Italian deaf and hearing graduates that would like to study in the area of childhood deafness at Gallaudet University in Washington D.C; U.S.A.

Gallaudet University is the only one of its kind in the world that is fully accessible and trains individuals who are deaf in the area of deafness. When graduates return to Italy they have the opportunity to share their expertise to promote the health and wellness of deaf and deafblind children in the areas of psychology and education.

In the past, Roberto Wirth, profoundly deaf from birth, founded the Roberto Wirth Scholarship in 1992 and since then many brilliant young deaf students have had the possibility to specialize in the United States and have excelled in the area of childhood deafness in Italy. The Fulbright-Roberto Wirth Grant in Deafness is managed by the Fulbright Commission in collaboration with CABSS.

The application period for the 2014/2015 Grant will expire on the 13th of January, 2014. The application form is available on: www.cabss.it and www.fulbright.it.

For more information you can also contact Dr. Stefania Fadda by sending an email to inf@cabss.it



The U.S.-Italy Fulbright Commission
Linking Minds Across Cultures



Centro Assistenza
per Bambini Sordi
e Sordociechi
ONLUS



Intern from Gallaudet University: Lisa Van de Mark's experience at CABSS

Lisa Van der Mark was our intern during the month of July, 2013. She is a psychology student from Gallaudet University.

I feel fortunate that I had the opportunity to intern at CABSS and to work with all the staff. I was very impressed to see how much they have grown in the past years and are still growing in order to be an organization that has a solid foundation, built on theoretical knowledge and dedication to deaf and deafblind children. I was amazed by the passion that the staff had on a daily basis, it was contagious! They taught me many lessons but above all taught me about the development of deaf and deafblind children. I learned how important is it that the child learns to open up, explore and interact with others and their environment. Every child I got to know at CABSS was so unique and I really appreciated all the children for who they are.



Before I did my internship I hadn't realized that it took so much effort to help children learn and succeed. I hadn't realized that before you can teach tactile sign language that children who are deafblind need to open up first, develop trusting relationships, and they need to be introduced to and given information about objects, places and people before developing concrete concepts.

Fundraising

Prestigious Jewelers: CABSS Onlus' Charity Auction

On the 13th of June, at the magnificent Hotel Hassler, a fundraising event was held in favor of deaf and deafblind children of CABSS Onlus.

Six of the most famous jewelers and jewelry stores donated beautiful pieces of jewelry auctioned off by Alessio Vinci and Livia Azzariti. Jewelry from Cazzaniga Roma, d'Avossa Gioielli, de Grisogono, Delfina Delettrez, Fabio Salini and Hedy Martinelli were worn and modeled by Nicoletta Romanoff throughout the evening.

Roberto Wirth, Founder and President of CABSS Onlus and Director Stefania Fadda, warmly welcomed numerous guests who came out to support the activities carried out by



star where it was then served in Salone Medici and the Roof Garden. The tables were elegantly dressed with white tablecloths and orange flower petals.

Many influential and distinguished guests attended the event including: the Contesse Marta Marzotto, President Franco Marini, Mario e Marisa Stirpe, Camilla Morabito, PR of the evening and husband Walter Galleni, Gianni Alemanno, Lawyer Giuseppe Consolo, Sandra Carraro, Maddalena Letta, Marisela Federici, Valeria Licastro, Honorable Domenico di Virgilio, Owner of the Studio d'Arte Contemporanea, Pino Casagrande, Tommaso and Anna Addario, Giorgio Fanfani and Professor Riccardo Masetti.

The auction was a great success, but only eight lucky individuals were able to obtain one of the marvelous jewels auctioned off: A turquoise white and gold ring, a bracelet with drops of white gold; a pair of pearl enamel cufflinks; a Colombian emerald ring; a golden bronze and white agate bracelet; rhodium silver cufflinks; a gold bracelet; a bronze / black diamond bracelet.

At the end of the evening, the Countess Marta Marzotto, very compassionate about social issues decided to donate one of her jewel purses because she was so moved by the work being done at CABSS with the children. The

purse went to the highest bidder of the evening, Professor Riccardo Masetti.

President Roberto Wirth, Director Stefania Fadda and all the staff at CABSS Onlus would like to give a warm thanks to Livia Azzariti, Alessio Vinci, the jewelers and all the sponsors of the evening that made this event possible. Many thanks also go to our many supporters that continue to sustain the work we do every day with deaf and deafblind children.

Run with CABSS at the Rome Marathon!

CABSS will participate in Rome Marathon's Charity Program and the Stracittadina 2014 with the objective of raising € 5,000,000 for a habilitation program for congenitally deafblind children that will stimulate the use of hands.

Hands are very important for a child who is deafblind for it is their primary connection to the world. If the tactile sense is stimulated early on in life it can be a communication and relational bridge essential for psycho-physical growth. Hands need to learn to explore, search, grasp, manipulate, gather information about the properties of objects, people and places, to develop self awareness and to differentiate between self and the world. Hands equally need to learn be open to receive, interact and express. Tactile stimulation is crucial, in particular, for Italian deafblind children to prepare their hands to learn Italian Tactile Sign Language (LIST), one of the communication modalities used at CABSS.

Please join us in giving these children the opportunity to optimize their tactual skills; you can make a contribution by:

- 1) Making a donation online: www.cabss.it or www.retedeldono.it, where you'll see a page dedicated to CABSS and our project.
- 2) Become a runner and a raise funds for CABSS. Your contribution will be made visible online on the Rete del Dono's and the CABSS' websites.
- 3) Participate in the Stracittadina, a non competitive 5 Km run. You can sign up at CABSS located on via nomentana, 56.

CABSS also participated in the Rome Marathon's Charity Program in March 2013. Our runner was Giovanni La Mantia, a dedicated social worker who is very passionate about running. He entered the competitive race and ran 42 Km in 3h 55 min 32 sec! His generosity of spirit, time and energy made this fundraising initiative in favor of CABSS a complete success!

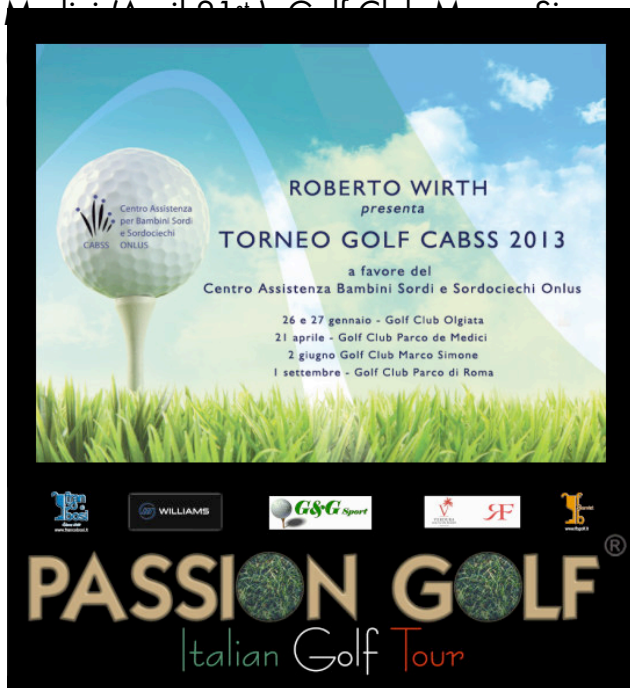


Giovanni will also represent CABSS next year at the 2014 Rome Marathon with the hope that other athletes will join him in running to support deafblind children!

Where Golf meets Charity: CABSS Onlus Golf Tournaments 2013

During the course of 2013, a series of golf tournaments, "Passion Golf", were organized to support CABSS Onlus, thanks to Mr. George Lucchetti of G&G Sport, a dear friend of our organization.

Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi Onlus were welcomed by four prestigious golf clubs: Golf Club Olgiata (January 26th, 27th), Golf Club Parco de' Medici (April 21st), Golf Club Marco Simone (June 2nd), Golf Club Parco di Roma (September 1st).



During these tournaments, where giving was the focus, CABSS met many generous people who opened their hearts to our mission and to all the children who are deaf and deafblind that attend the multisensory laboratory at CABSS, "The First Step ..."

The staff of CABSS would like to thank all the participants, directors of the golf clubs and Mr. Lucchetti, who without his support, these tournaments would not have been possible.

Support us!

Donate Online at our website: www.cabss.it
Bank transfer made out to the Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi Onlus, Piazza Trinità dei Monti 6 – 00187 Roma.

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Please give your name, address and telephone number on the transfer, for a receipt.

Non-transferable check made out to the Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi Onlus and sent to the Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi Onlus, Via Nomentana 56 – 00161 Roma along with your information (name, surname, address and phone number).

Quarterly newsletter of the Associazione Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi Onlus (CABSS)

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