

THE FIRST STEP...



Dear Readers,

I wanted to open this newsletter by communicating some of the most important things that have happened over the past couple of months such as the opportunity of organizing our annual Christmas event again! We were overjoyed especially because of what this event meant to everyone. It symbolized rebirth, oxygen for the soul, a hint of normality, that each and everyone of us strongly needed. The event took place on December 15th, 2021 at the Hotel Hassler where our supporters enjoyed a traditional dinner prepared by the skilled hands of Marcello Romano, Chef of the Hassler Bistrot.

In July 2021, I received the International Women's Event Award whose objective is to enhance female and male excellence by contributing to the growth and development of the female universe in various fields. I am proud to have received an award in the "social" category and I thank the organization that they thought of me for this very significant recognition.

From the beginning of the pandemic up until this very day, CABSS has been going through

an extremely intense and complex situation but the staff at CABSS worked and continues to work hard to ensure that children at CABSS who are deaf and deafblind are not left behind. I am happy to say that their dedication and efforts have recently bared well deserved fruits and I am pleased to inform you of the two important awards given to Dr. Fadda, the Director of CABSS, and to all the staff of the Center. Doctor Fadda was awarded the prestigious recognition of Italian Knowledge Leader, while the entire Center was awarded the Vivisalute Award in the "Social Impact" category.

Our Fantastica Fabbrica delle Storie, a CABSS project created with the contribution of the Banca d'Italia, is currently working on the creation of a new Bilingual Storybook App, in Italian Sign Language (LIS) and written Italian, designed for deaf children aged 3 to 5, but also accessible to all children. Very soon we will reveal the title of this new App that will be added to the collection of the CABSS Storybook Apps: "The Museum of Errors" and "I Capafiori". Ever since the programs at CABSS were

established, more than 10 years ago, so many deaf and deafblind children have benefited from its programs. The continuity of this service over time was also possible thanks to the support of our donors, including numerous American citizens who were able to offer their contribution through the King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS). The funds raised through KBFUS have helped CABSS to continue early intervention programs through the hardest period of the pandemic up until the present time.

Before I leave you to read the newsletter, I would like to thank the donors once again who have been close to us during this tough time and who have participated in the CABSS Christmas campaign. I am very pleased to know that our decorations were hung with love on Christmas trees all over Italy.

Kindest Regards!



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SCIENTIFIC AREA

CABSS receives the prestigious Vivisalute Award

CABSS has distinguished itself for its constant provision of essential early intervention services to deaf and deafblind children and their commitment to their healthy growth and development. The Vivisalute Association, the Bocconi Research Center on Health and Social Care Management (CERGAS), and Bocconi Alumni, chose to present their prestigious Vivisalute Award to CABSS in the "Social Impact" category at their award ceremony on the 23rd of September 2021, in Rome. President Roberto Wirth and Director Stefania Fadda were overwhelmed with emotion and gratitude as they accepted the award.

The Vivisalute Award, sponsored by the Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri is organized annually to reward excellence nationwide in Italy.

This award fills us with pride thinking about the commitment we have had for over 17 years to hundreds of deaf and deafblind children, families and professionals, teachers and school personnel. We are so happy that many have benefited from the services at CABSS such as the multisensory early intervention programs, psycho - educational projects at school and online, consultation services, international conferences, seminars, workshops, and many other initiatives.

Once again we would like to take this opportunity to thank Vivisalute Nazionale, a voluntary association operating in the field of promoting

good health and quality of life; Vivisalute (Lombardia branch), chaired by Dr. Dea D'Aprile, Rettore dell'Università Popolare di Milano Unimeier; CERGAS Bocconi, presided by Dr. Elio Borgonovi; and Bocconi Alumni Community, directed by Dr. Elena Gelosa.



From left to right: Dea d'Aprile, Roberto Wirth, Stefania Fadda and Elena Gelosa

Stefania Fadda wins the Italian Knowledge Leader Award

Dr. Stefania Fadda had the honor of receiving the prestigious Italian Knowledge Leader Award for her extraordinary leadership, achievement and her commitment in the international scientific and professional fields, as the President of the European Society for Mental Health and Deafness and Director of Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi (Assistance Center for Deaf and Deafblind Children).

The award ceremony took place at an event for the Convention Bureau Italy (CBItalia) and the Italian Tourism, Organization (ENIT) with the patronage of the Ministry of Tourism on the 24th of November 2021, in Rome. Dr. Fadda was chosen out of 30 Italian opinion leaders, who were previously chosen from a list of 100 teachers, researchers and professionals from international institutions.



Stefania Fadda at the Italian Knowledge Leader ceremony

The evening was moderated by journalist and television presenter Andrea Pancani and well known professionals in the educational, health and tourism sectors such as Professor Walter Ricciardi, President of WFPHA (World Federation of Public Health Associations), Professor Ferruccio Resta, President of CRUI (Conferenza dei Rettori delle Università Italiane), Rettore del Politecnico di Milano and Officials from the Ministry of Tourism.

"Italian Knowledge Leaders" is a CBItalia and ENIT project that aims to give recognition to Italian intellectual ambassadors who they encourage to network with each other in order to increase the prestige of the scientific and professional communities in Italy and internationally.



Roberto Wirth receives the International Women's Event Award

The third edition of the International Women's Event Award ceremony took place on the 3rd of July at the Sala della Protomoteca at Campidoglio.

The event, sponsored by the region of Lazio, is organized by the Event Woman Association, in collaboration with the Commissione Cultura, Politiche Giovanili e Lavoro of Rome.

The purpose of the award is to enhance female and male excellence and individuals that have contributed to the growth and development of the female universe in various areas: artistic and cultural; journalistic and literary; television and radio; cinematographic and theatrical; social equality; research and medicine; fashion; sport and young gifted females.

The evening was presented by Rai Presenter Savino Zaba and journalist and President of the Associazione Evento Donna, Maria Grazia Tetti. Guests also had the opportunity that evening to listen to the voice of soprano singer Marta Vulpi accompanied on the piano by maestro Lucio Perotti. This edition of the award was dedicat-

ed to Carla Fracci, a classical dancer, a symbol of excellence, strength and determination for women all over the world. Ms. Fracci

parents the tools in understanding and supporting their children along life's path. He created CABSS to make all of this possible and has entrusted these tasks to an all-female staff!



From left to right: Maria Grazia Tetti, Roberto Wirth and Sabino Zaba

has always been a passionate, committed and humble person and dedicated herself to her infinite passion of dance, symbolically carrying the Italian flag with her into some of the most prestigious international theaters.

Our President Roberto Wirth was given an award in the "social" category, together with Diana Battaglia (President of UNIDO), Rosanna Cerbo (President of the Karol Wojtyla association) and Mariagrazia Punzo (President of Paiga Rosa - Pink Butterfly Onlus).

Mr. Wirth was chosen for the award because he has provided hundreds of deaf and deafblind children with the necessary tools to lead healthy lives and has given them the hope of obtaining a successful future. He has given

All the winners of the evening:

- - In the Journalism category: Emma d'Aquino (Rai journalist); Margherita de Bac (Corriere della Sera journalist); Sabrina Giannini (Rai journalist)
- - In the Research and Medicine category: Marta Branca (general manager ASL Roma3); Giorgio Milesi (vice president Johnson & Johnson); Denise Giacomini (coordinator of G20 health works)
- - In the Sport category: Valentina Rodini and Federica Cesarini (Italian National Rowing Team)
- - In the Arts and entertainment category: Laura Comi (director of the Teatro dell'Opera di Roma dance school); Roberto Sergio (director of Rai Radio); Sara Ciocca (actress); Isabel Pabo (fashion designer)

An award was given out in memory of Mario and Antonello Riva, father and son united by their passion for performing.



The poster of the International Women's Event Award - third edition

ACTIVITIES AND PROJECTS

The King Baudouin Foundation United States supports the Early Intervention Programs at CABSS

The multisensory early intervention programs dedicated to deaf and deafblind children and their families represent the heart of CABSS's mission, which aims to offer these children the tools they need to express their full potential and be supported by parents who are aware of their specialized needs.



A moment during a therapeutic session at CABSS

Since the programs were established, over 10 years ago, many deaf and deafblind children were able to benefit from them. The continuity of this service over time was also possible thanks to the support of our donors, including numerous American citizens who were able to offer their contribution through the King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS).

The funds raised through KBFUS has helped CABSS continue early intervention programs in the toughest period of the pandemic, caused by COVID - 19 and was able to guarantee early intervention to children and families online or at the laboratory. CABSS was also able to welcome three new deafblind children in the fall of 2021.

Normally, the early intervention programs at CABSS are carried out by specialized professionals in Italy and abroad within their multisensory environment, "The First Step ...". In the laboratory children are exposed to a variety of stimuli and activities

which are designed specifically for each child. In this way, children are able to strengthen all their senses, in particular the sense of touch and their residual senses of sight and hearing. They learn to access information from the outside world, develop skills and concepts, and acquire communication methods to be able to express their wants and needs. Parents are actively involved in all phases of the early intervention program and receive support in caring for and learning how they can stimulate their child's growth and development. Parents learn how their child communicates and uses his/her senses to acquire information. Finally they learn specific methods and communication techniques which overall improves their ability to understand and respond to their child's needs.

We thank KBFUS and the American donors who have supported us in the past. If you are an American citizen, and would like to support CABSS, you can read more of how you can do so in the section dedicated to KBFUS under "Fundraising".

International Week of Deaf People. Sign language for all Deaf Learners

President Roberto Wirth and Director Stefania Fadda had the pleasure of representing CABSS on the 22nd of September, 2021 at the Istituto Statale di Istruzione Specializzata per Sordi (ISISS) A. Magarotto's initiative which honored the World Federation of the Deaf's (WFD) theme for the third day of the International Week of Deaf People, "Sign Languages for all Deaf Learners". The event involved students, teachers, famous people from the world of politics, and many associations.

Our Director spoke about the collaboration CABSS has had with the ISISS and the many projects carried out over the years with children from the ISISS. These projects have always promoted a fully inclusive educational model, supported by total communication (Italian Sign Language - LIS, Italian Tactile Sign

Language - LIST, written and spoken Italian, pictures, tactile cues, etc.) so that all children, deaf, deafblind and hearing impaired, had the opportunity to use the communication method best suited to their needs. All projects that CABSS has carried out were taught by mother tongue LIS Deaf professionals, many of whom were trained at Gallaudet University in Washington D.C., thanks to the "Fulbright - Roberto Wirth" Scholarship.

International Week of Deaf People was established in 1958 by the World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) and takes place every year, during the last week of September, to promote the rights of Deaf people around the world. The theme chosen by WFD in 2021 was "Celebrating Thriving Deaf Communities", and was divid-

ed into 7 sub-themes, one for each celebratory day.



A New Interactive Storybook App is Coming Soon!

We are happy to announce that the team dedicated to the creation of the Fantastica Fabbrica delle Storie, a CABSS project made possible thanks to the contribution of Banca d'Italia, is currently creating a new bilingual storybook App, in Italian Sign Language (LIS) and Written Italian for Deaf children from 3 to 5 years of age.

Wirth" Scholar, who has taught LIS to children and teenagers at school and who has created bilingual materials and booklets (LIS and Italian) for children. Finally, Eloisa Matina contributed to the adaptation of the story in Italian Sign Language and is the LIS narrator on the new App. She is very active in the field of Deafness and is part of a well-known group of Deaf dancers.

Our Apps help young children to cultivate reading skills and older children are able to read and learn independently in an interactive way. Thanks to the visual narration on the App children can choose to watch the story in LIS or to read it in written Italian. When children go to the interactive reading section, they are able to access a glossary by clicking on the words in the story, which are linked to videos containing the corresponding LIS sign and written word, giving them the opportunity to learn new signs, words and build on their vocabulary. Finally, the CABSS storybook Apps help children learn about the surrounding world, stimulate their imagination and creativity and teach them about emotions, friendship and mutual respect!

LA FANTASTICA FABBRICA DELLE STORIE

Segniamo e leggiamo con le nuove VL2 Storybook App in Lingua dei Segni Italiana & Lingua Italiana Scritta



SI RINGRAZIA PER IL CONTRIBUTO
BANCA D'ITALIA

The La Fantastica Fabbrica delle Storie banner

Once again the storybook app is the result of the work of a team of deaf and hearing professionals led by the Director of CABSS Stefania Fadda, who is the scientific manager of the project. We are so happy to have Silvia Palmieri, Susanna Ricci Bitti and Eloisa Matina on our team, all of who are Deaf professionals, and whose invaluable contribution represents the very heart of the project.

Silvia Palmieri is a former "Fulbright - Roberto Wirth" Scholar who studied at Gallaudet University in Washington D.C., the first university in the world accessible to Deaf students. She is a Visual Designer and expert in Graphic and Multimedia Design. She created the story and graphics for the new CABSS storybook App, and paid particular attention to making it visually accessible, even for children with a combination of visual and hearing impairment. The adaptation of the story in LIS was entrusted to Susanna Ricci Bitti, also a former "Fulbright - Roberto

The "I Capafiori" App is also part of the "La Fantastica Fabbrica delle Storie - Segniamo e leggiamo con le nuove VL2 Storybook App in Lingua dei Segni Italiana & Lingua Italiana Scritta" project, available for free on the Apple App Store. The CABSS storybook Apps are based on the most recent studies on visual learning and visual language learning carried out at the learning center on visual language and visual learning (VL2) at Gallaudet University.

The Apps utilize Italian Sign Language and Italian Written Language and are great educational tools for deaf children aged 3 but also for all children who want to improve their language skills.



Eloisa Matina while shooting the new App

FUNDRAISING

The Joy of being able to say "Christmas Event" again!

"Enjoy our Christmas" is a simple title but filled with great meaning. It was our first Christmas event after two years of the pandemic: a sign of rebirth and hope, an event that was lucky enough to just miss a further wave of infections.



Roberto Wirth and Marzia Roncacci

"Enjoy our Christmas" took place on the 15th of December at the Hotel Hassler, a solidarity dinner dedicated to togetherness in safety. The Medici and Vietri salons welcomed guests by em-

bracing and pampering them as never before as elegance and refinement created a magical Christmas atmosphere as they enjoyed an exquisite dinner by Chef Marcello Romano of the Hassler Bistrot.

Many noted guests attended the event such as: Giuseppe Conte and Olivia Paladino; the prefetto Domenico Vulpiani and Giovanna Ferri; Cesare Sammauro and Angela Melillo; Alberto Tripi and Carlotta Tolotti and many others.

During the evening, our good friend Corrado Ruggeri, well know journalist and writer who is always by our side, along with Tg2 journalist Marzia Roncacci hosted our charity auction that evening and encouraged the guests to donate to deaf and deafblind children.

The last two years has been difficult for children who are deaf and deafblind with the sudden closure of schools, rehabilitation and recreational centers, and the interruption of many other daily activities, all changes that have affected their psychological health and interrupted their overall learning and growth. During the pandemic emergency CABSS had to change its programs and intensified its commitment to ensure that children who are deaf or deafblind were not left behind and their families without support.

The emotion during the evening was strong and was visible in all of us, from the President who has never left CABSS' side, the Director Stefania Fadda who is always ready to lend a helping hand and the staff: Marta, Giusy and Laura who were there from the very start of the pandemic and who are still there every day during the pandemic on the frontlines with children, parents, schools and anyone who needs support in the area of deafness and deafblindness.

We thank all the participants, our supporters who finally were able to embrace again, even though not physically, and to all the new people who became part of our small but immense family. A huge "Thank You" goes to the sponsors of the evening: Lexacta - Global Legal Advice; Studio legale Consolo; Crédit Suisse; Barocci Private Banker. We would also like to thank Bonino - Pelletteria Artigianale and La Castagna Leopoldina - azienda agricola italiana for donating the Christmas gifts to our guests. A heartfelt thanks to all the companies who so generously donated an item to the charity auction: Galleria d'Arte La Tartaruga; Hotel Van-nucci; Ludovica Mascheroni Home Atelier; Pomellato.

The Best Thanks Ever!

Last December we organized the "Give Love with Charitable Decorations" fundraising campaign.

We want to say a big THANK YOU to everyone who supported us, with love, by purchasing our beautifully hand crafted wooden ornaments. It warms our hearts when we think about all our ornaments (reindeer, merry-go-rounds and nutcrackers) that were hung on Christmas trees all over Italy in the homes of our supporters.

Many heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Roberta Armani, the Peppino Capuano Jewelry Shop, who are always by our side, and to Giorgio's mother and father who have so generously chosen CABSS' Christmas ornaments as their bombonieres for the Baptism of their little one.



Photos of the CABSS' Christmas decorations



Leave the future of children who are deaf and deafblind in good hands

Mini Guide: Charitable Donations in Last Will and Testament in favor of Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi Onlus



Your charitable bequest will improve the quality of life of many children who are deaf and deafblind from 0-6 years of age by leaving them in good hands: hands of highly specialized professionals.

Your act of kindness will become a part of the greater mission of CABSS of cultivating and demonstrating the value of giving!

It doesn't take much to guarantee children specialized support during the first months of life up until they are of school age.

In addition you can help CABSS to create new operative sites to reach out to more children who are deaf and deafblind all over Italy.

To support our mission please include Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi Onlus in your last will and testament!

Charitable Testament in favor of CABSS: 5 Reasons to Give!

1. It is a free and revocable act with which you can decide how you will distribute your assets according to your personal wishes.

2. You can decide to do it at any time and any donation is appreciated.

3. Making a will is simple and you can choose the one that suits you best:

Holograph Testament: it is the simplest and fastest form and it's free. You must write it out by hand and the presence of a notary or witnesses are not necessary.

Public Testament: it is written by a notary who states your requests in your last will and testament in the presence of two witnesses.

Secret Testament: is a confidential document that you must deliver in a sealed envelope to a notary, in the presence of two witnesses .

4. A testament solidifies your requests: with your testament you can be sure that your assets are destined, according to your wishes, to the people you care for and those you would like to help, such as the children at CABSS.

5. You can help CABSS without taking anything away from your loved ones: Italian law, in fact, protects close relatives by reserving the legitimate quota designated to them.

You can decide to give CABSS

- Money, shares and investments
- Real estate, such as an apartment
- Work of art, jewelery or furniture
- Your life insurance policy
- Your assets

In order for the document to be valid, it is necessary to clearly write "Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi Onlus" in your last will and testament.



FUNDRAISING

Support us!

Bank transfer made out to the Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi Onlus, Piazza Trinità dei Monti 6 – 00187 Roma.

Banca CREDEM

IBAN: IT91 J 03032 03201 010000004258

BIC/SWIFT: BACRIT21318

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).

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

PLEASE NOTE

Your donation is tax deductible!



A moment during a therapeutic session at CABSS

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

If you are an American citizen, and wish to support CABSS, you can do so through the **King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS)**, by taking advantage of the tax deductions provided in the United States for charitable donations (Sections 501 (c) (3) and 509 (a) (1) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Here are some ways of how you can donate:

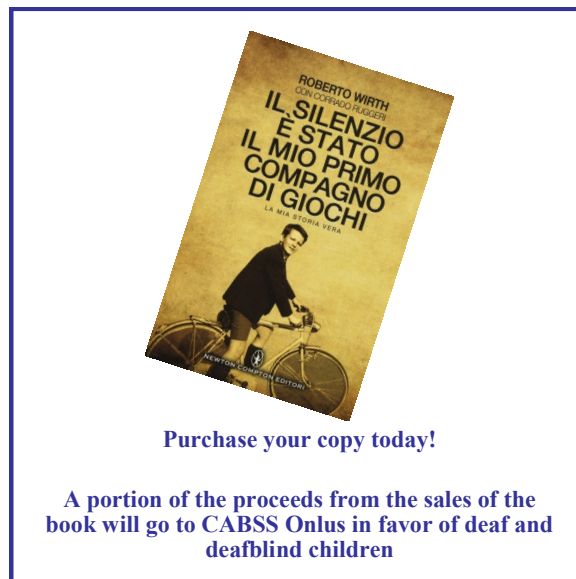
Online donation: go to <https://kbfus.networkforgood.com/>, click on the letter “A” and search for “Assistance Center for Deaf and Deafblind Children (IT)” or use the search bar and type in the organization’s name. Then click on our name

and make your donation by credit card;

Check made out to the King Baudouin Foundation United States, in the memo section please write our name "Assistance Center for Deaf and Deafblind Children" and send the check to the King Baudouin Foundation United States (KBFUS), 10 Rockefeller Plaza, 16th Floor, New York, NY 10020;

Wire transfer or other methods: contact KBFUS by sending an email to [Ellena Fotinatos \(ellena@kbfus.org\)](mailto:Ellena.Fotinatos@kbfus.org).

For more information please visit: www.kbfus.org



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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