



Newsletter n° 20 - August 2016

Dear Friends,

You will have noticed that the news we have been giving you during all this time through this Newsletter, whose first number 1 was sent in December 2007, focused on the activities carried out in the St. Maria Nascente Hospital, in Mbweni. Once a year, then, additional updates were also given on the St. Gaspar Professional School in Mtongani, in which the best ten students were rewarded with a scholarship consisting in half of the boarding costs for the following year.

Since the last Newsletter issues sent to you all, however, the diversity in the contents provided have changed, and this because we entrusted the management of the Hospital to the Daughters of Mary Immaculate (DMI), enlarging the vision of our health mission with the start of new scientific and educational relationships and collaborations between the Faculty of Medicine of Parma and the recently set up Faculty of Medicine of the St. Joseph University of DMI, as well as taking responsibility, as requested by the Rotary Foundation, of the launch of health activities in the Pande Dispensary, in Morogoro.

Moreover, Doctor Giuseppe Travaglini, in charge of the health and scientific part of our Association, began President of the Alliance of Italian Hospitals in the World, being elected with unanimity by the Assembly of that Alliance on the 23rd November 2015: a prestigious and delicate task that reward the competences and the profile of Beppe, but also that represents an important acknowledgement to the credibility of Associazione Ruvuma Onlus.

Allow me to repeat here, with some small changes, what I had already written in the Newsletter n° 18: what we have done during the last 21 years of age of our Association is only the natural development of a good idea, that, thank to a series of lucky circumstances, it has generated results superior to our initial objectives.



Rodrigo Rodriguez

Rodrigo Rodriguez

Presidente Associazione Ruvuma Onlus

tel. +39 3483585865

e-mail: dr.rodriquez@ruvuma.it

Good news from the hospital of Mbweni



The periodic Newsletter of Associazione Ruvuma Onlus is, above all, an important tool to keep you updated on the developments related to the Hospital of Mbweni, constantly aimed to make it a reliable and qualified point of reference for the local population. Therefore, we are proud to **share with you the last news:**

The old kindergarten next to the hospital has been transformed into a hospital department that will host female and male medicine, and in the future also a dialysis centre.

In the back of the hospital, it has just being launched a new canteen for doctors and all the hospital staff.

A new space dedicated to the ambulatory for the TBC will be soon built.

A canopy connecting the hospital with the laundrette services and the storehouse pharmacy has been built.

Associazione Ruvuma's commitment against malnutrition in the developing countries



In Tanzania, malnutrition is a serious problem affecting 15,8 per cent of the children below five years of age, with a prevalence among female of the 14,3 per cent. To put an end to malnutrition in the developing countries: it's the theme of the **workshop** held on the last May in Cascina Triulza, a the University of Parma, where **also Doctor Giuseppe Travaglini participated to explain the role our Association in facilitating the innovative project called PAPPA DI PARMA**, an energetic soup made of peanuts, coconuts, cashews, oil palm, sugar and vitamins. The product, extremely high in calories

and proteins and made with elements cultivated at local level, has the **objective to prevent and cure malnutrition**, especially among children.

Two years of implementation of this product in Senegal and Zambia, in fact, showed that **after 14/30 days children suffering from malnutrition and feed with Pappa di Parma gained body weight**, reaching the normal values in the long term. The need to carry out further studies on this subject aroused after the alarming statistics saying that in Sierra Leone 38 per cent of children below five years of age has low possibilities to survive because of malnutrition (source of information: UNDP).

Sustainable agriculture in Tanzania



During the workshop of the Cascina Triulza in the University of Parma, the other topic discussed was on **sustainable innovative practices in agricultures that could help to solve the problem of soil erosion and global warming**.

Agricultural waste and forest biomass, in fact, could be converted into fertilizer and fuel through the production of **biochar**, commonly known as vegetal coal, with a process of pyrolysis.

Beside being an exception fertilizer, biochar is also, according to many scientists, the only concrete action capable of diminishing the effects of CO₂ in the atmosphere.

The project – proposed by the University of Parma in collaboration with the University of Modena and the humanitarian associations Mani e SoBi (Parma), Feeda (Senegal), Fass Diom (Senegal), Mwanakuseka Foundation (Zambia) – **offers an approach aimed not only to cure malnutrition, but also to give free training courses** to the immigrants living in Italy.

Collaboration between the University of Parma and the St. Joseph University

The collaboration described in the editorial of our President has made another step forward. Doctor Giuseppe Travaglini, doctor Lucia Chierici and Professor Raffaele Dalla Valle of the Hospital/University of Parma, went in Tanzania and had the opportunity to meet, in the Mwbeni Hospital and the University of Boko, the people in charge of the administrative and academic areas of the St. Joseph University.

During those meetings, they reached an agreement on **how to implement the projects between the Medicine Faculty and the Hospital of Mbweni (where it will take place the clinical and surgery training) and the Faculty of Economy, Agriculture, Social Science and Foreign Languages**. Students from the University of Parma will have the possibility to carry out their internship and research activities at the St. Joseph University and in the Hospital of Mbweni. Valentina Meghnaghi of the St. Joseph University will coordinate the activities and the communication parts in Tanzania.

A first step of this collaboration will start in August 2016, thanks to the University of Parma, **four newly Medicine graduated will be host in the Hospital of Mbweni** guest house and will stay there for one month of training internship.

In addition, a doctor at his fourth year of general surgery specialization will stay for two months (August and September). This will be the first of the groups of Medicine students and graduated who will be present at the St. Joseph; they will also represent a test for us, since **our intention is to keep on also in the future to maintain the role of facilitators in the network of the activated contacts**.

Paediatric surgery programme in Mbweni



Professor **Andrea Franchella**, Head of the Paediatric Surgery in the Hospital of Ferrara, and since many years precious collaborator of Associazione Ruvuma Onlus, has developed a **project to train**, in collaboration with the Faculty of the St. Joseph University of Dar es Salaam, **paediatric surgeons who will guarantee to the Hospital of St. Maria Nascente of Mbweni a high quality of this delicate branch of medicine**, working in synergy with the teaching activities in order to obtain an acknowledgment of paediatric surgery that will contribute to improve the service offered to all patients.

Ruvuma solidarity evening



www.ruvuma.it

**A NOI PIACE FARE QUALCOSA E STIMOLARE
PERCHÉ..... ALTRI FACCIANO**

Sabato 25 giugno 2016

dalle ore 17.30

presso l'Agriturismo Settimano

Modigliana, via dei Raggi, 5
fax: 0546941278 - email: settimano@libero.it



**ASSOCIAZIONE RUVUMA
Serata Solidale**

On the last 25 June, at the Settimano agriturismo in Modigliana it took place the **seventh edition** of the solidarity evening of Ruvuma whose **funds raised will be used to finance the recent project of Associazione Ruvuma Onlus** to support the **school education for the poorest children** of the village of Mbweni, next to the St. Maria Nascente Hospital.

A **special thanks** goes to **Floriana Monti**, one of our collaborators, who organizes and manages the event.

Tribute to our collaborator Giuliano Maretti



The Hospital of Mbweni is 21 years old! During this journey we did many things and not always was simple, because to start from nothing a small dispensary in a remote village of Tanzania and transform it in a real hospital is always a challenge.

Behind all this, there has been the work of many people: doctors, nurses, specialized medical people, all Italian volunteers who, in these years, have given their availability in term of time and skills.

But in order to run efficiently an hospital, there is also the need to **build electrical plants, hydraulic water pipes, telephone cables, and so on.**

And this was the role of Giuliano Maretti, one of the first Associazione Ruvuma's collaborator since the launching of the hospital in 1995. During all these years, he gave us his generous availability and time.

We lost a special friend, few months ago, and we would like to remember him like in this pictures, always smiling, always willing to bring, as he used to repeat often "his small contribution" to the people of the village of Mbweni.

Indeed... that "small contribution" has been much greater of what he thought.

How to support Associazione Ruvuma Onlus

For donations::

BANCA PROSSIMA

n° 05000/1000/66862

IBAN IT 73 P033 5901 6001 0000 0066 862

SWIFT BCITITMX

For more information on our Association: www.ruvuma.it