



16 ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES TO THE CONVENTION ON THE RIGHTS OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
"LIVING INDIPENDENTLY. THE NETWORK MODEL FOR PERSON WITH AUTISM IN ADULTHOOD" - UNITED NATIONS - #NEWYORK, JUNE 15 2023
"INITIATIVE IN FAVOUR OF INDIPENDENT LIFE" : "BRUSH STROKES OF AUTISM"

I am part of the Board of LCI.

The vision of LCI is: to be the global leader in community and humanitarian service

When caring people join together, roll up their sleeves and take action to make their community better, it's a beautiful thing—and an incredible feeling for everyone involved. That's Lions. Being a Lion is about leading by example, building relationships and improving the world through kindness. It's 1.4 million caring men and women serving together, all over the world, so they can make a lasting impact and change more lives.

We are the largest volunteer organization in the world. So many communities and so many people depend on our service.

At the heart of Lions clubs there is one constant: service. Giving your time and energy to others is a fantastic way to help your community. It also provides a great feeling for you that can spread and have a positive impact in your life and how you approach the world.

LCI has enjoyed a long-standing partnership with the United Nations. LCI was one of the first nongovernmental organizations invited to assist in drafting the UN Charter in 1945.

LCI has a representative in every United Nations agencies.

Appreciation of Diversity is one of LIONS' core value. There are many service projects that address diversity and inclusion.

Today I would like to tell you Brush strokes of a-utism.

This project was created to give support to families with a-utistic children.

A member of Lions Club Vicenza La Rotonda, Gianfranco Barco, is a wathercolorist.

His idea was to create a network of watercolorists around the world who could interpret the thoughts of a-utistic children. (You can see the works on the video).

The international painters that can contribute all over the word to replicate this project.

These watercolors, all blue, were created to be presented in a traveling exhibition in iconic locations in Italy: you can see the Basilica Palladiana in Vicenza, La Gran Guardia in Verona, Palazzo Ferro Fini in Venice.

To disseminate the project as much as possible, weekly table calendars have been created with the reproduction of watercolors.



Thanks to the international network of Lions members, 55 artists were involved in the first year, and over 100 in the second year.

The network of artists grows year after year, finding ever greater consensus.

Donations to get watercolors and desk calendars made it possible to support a project for the autonomy of autistic children.

The project is carried out in collaboration with the Blue Heart Foundation, an association formed by the so-called "Blue Families", since Blue is the color of autism.

Families are involved at the forefront of daily living with the problem of autism at different levels.

The Blue Heart Foundation is supported by field professionals.

The project financed two shelters: one in Verona and one in Vicenza.

The relief houses are organized with different solutions:

- two clinics for psycho-educational and evaluation activities.

- gym and Snoezelen room.

- Spaces for occupational activities of the Day Center,

- dining room / relaxation / occupational activities, a professional k-itchen (for cooking laboratory activities and for internal use)

- Spaces for small group activities (IT, strengthening social skills, manual activities laboratory, etc.) aimed at guests of the Day Center and external autistic people

- And finally a space intended for use as a guest house and, for this reason, it was designed to be divided into 4 bedrooms with bathroom, for a total of 8 beds.

The goals of the project are:

- Accept at least 10 children in the structured Day Center for autism

- Intercept every year at least 20 families with early diagnosis by offering parent coaching courses

- Fully support the 120 families in the daily management of their autistic children

- Offer at least 3 structured activity workshops to foster social skills, autonomy and permanent/pre-work occupations

- Activate a specialization training open to 25 educators on Autism in collaboration with the University of Human Sciences of Verona

Where, there is the need, there is a Lion member.

Every year the Lions serves 500 million people.

When Lions come together for the good of humanity, there's nothing we can't achieve.

International Director 2021-23

Elena Appiani

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elena Appiani".

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