

Right on Target

CABSS ONLUS newsletter

Dear Readers

I'm happy to announce the winner of the Dea Madre award, Doctor Stefania Fadda, Director of CABSS Onlus. This prestigious recognition from the region of Sardinia was given to Doctor Fadda by former President Ugo Cappellacci.

Doctor Fadda, has represented CABSS at various seminars in Italy and abroad, including the European Society for Mental Health and Deafness (ESMHD) symposium in Madrid, where she presented on the early intervention programs carried out at CABSS.

Last December CABSS organized its first Christmas market to raise funds in favor of deaf and deafblind children. In addition, CABSS held its 22nd seminar dedicated to the "Fulbright-Roberto Wirth" scholarship.

Over the past few months, we have enjoyed collaborating with two important organizations: Fondazione Thun, with whom we were able to offer ceramic classes focused on emotion and the Guardia di Finanza for an event that was held at the Scuola dell'Infanzia and Primaria 173° Circolo Didattico, located on Via Nomentana.

I would also like to give a special thanks to Fondazione BNL, who has made a financial contribution to CABSS, making it possible to obtain additional learning materials for the children who attend the programs at CABSS.



Roberto E. Wirth



Sardinia, "Dea Madre" awarded to Stefania Fadda

On February 11, 2014, our director, received the "Dea Madre" award, a prestigious recognition from the Region of Sardinia. The award was given by the former President of the Region of Sardinia Ugo Cappellacci who affirmed: "We are proud to give an award to a Sardinian woman that has obtained results on a national and international level on her own merit, academic preparation and ability. The "Dea Madre" represents for us the essence of Sardinia, continuity and the meaning of life".

Doctor Fadda dedicated her award to deaf and deafblind children. As she accepted her award she shared, "Sardinia, the place where I was born, has given me the passion and determination needed to realize my biggest dream: to create, in Italy, early intervention programs for children who are deaf and deafblind. The "Dea Madre" award represents, for me a source of motivation and inspiration to keep on going".





Scientific area

International Symposium on “Mental Health and Deafness: Diagnosis and Treatment”

The symposium was held on November 7th, 2010 in Madrid and organized by the European Society for Mental Health and Deafness (ESMHD). The objective of the symposium was to discuss the current situation of European organizations that offer diagnosis and treatment in the area of mental health and deafness. This initiative provided the opportunity to propose possible solutions needed to meet the needs of individuals who are deaf.

Internationally renowned professionals from different European countries presented at the symposium which included: Ines Sleeboom (The Netherlands), psychiatrist and President of ESMHD, who presented on the aspects of psycho pharmaceutical treatment for individuals who are Deaf; Margaret Dufeu (Ireland) and Peter McKenna (UK), both psychiatric consultants, who discussed the difference between schizophrenia and hallucinations in individuals who are deaf; Johannes Fellingner (Austria), psychiatrist that spoke about mental health risk factors in individuals who are deaf. Rachel Hayes, a deaf professional from the National Deaf CAMHS (UK), Nora Olazabal Eizaguirre, Spanish psychiatrist and Lea Strandberg, Swedish clinical psychologist discussed the

situation of mental health services for individuals who are deaf in Europe.

From Italy, our director, Stefania Fadda presented on the “Challenges of Mental Health Settings in Italy” dedicated to services for deaf and deafblind children. In Italy, progress has been made in neonatal audiological screening, speech therapy and educational services that are now widespread. However, the situation is not so good when it comes to early intervention. In Italy, in fact, there are a lack of organizations and services that promote the welfare of deaf and deafblind children not only in the medical area but also in the psychological and social realms. CABSS is the first Italian organization to offer early intervention programs to deaf and deafblind children and support parents and professionals (doctors, therapists, teachers, educators) in their parental and professional roles.



Conference: "Objective LIS"

The "Objective LIS" conference was organized by ENS with patronage from the Senato della Repubblica. It was held on January 31, 2014 in Rome at the L'Aula dei Gruppi Parlamentari-Camera dei Deputati. The goal was to raise awareness among politicians about the importance of recognizing Italian Sign Language.

Among the experts that presented included, the director of CABSS, Stefania Fadda. She spoke about the importance of recognizing LIS as it relates to freedom of choice for individuals who are deaf and making health services more accessible. In particular, the recognition of LIS would mean that individuals who are deaf would obtain the right to receive clear information regarding informed consent.

In addition, the recognition of LIS will also open the door to training opportunities for deaf professionals in the area of psychological health of deaf and deafblind individuals, adding great value to health services.



Information Seminar on the "Fulbright-Roberto Wirth" Scholarship

In February of this year, an information seminar was held about the "Fulbright-Roberto Wirth" Scholarship. The objective of the scholarship is to offer young Italian graduates the possibility of attending Gallaudet University, in Washington D.C and specializing in the area of infantile deafness or deafblindness.

The seminar emphasized the importance of the scholarship. A historical overview was also given about the "Roberto Wirth" Scholarship and of former scholars who, today are successful professionals working in the field of deafness.

All collaborating organizations of the scholarship were represented and included: Dr. Nicholas J. Jacob, Cultural Attaché of the Embassy of the United States of America and Vice-President of the Fulbright Commission; Dr. Roberto Wirth, President CABSS Onlus and founder of the scholarship; Dr. Stefania Fadda, Director CABSS Onlus, Dr. Paola Sartorio, Director of the Fulbright Commission and Dr. Sandro Zinani, Educational Advisor of the Fulbright Commission.

The seminar closed with former "Roberto Wirth" scholars, Tiziana Gulli e Vincenzo Speranza speaking about how their experience in the United States positively affected their lives.



Working together towards a brighter future: CABSS - GBC partnership

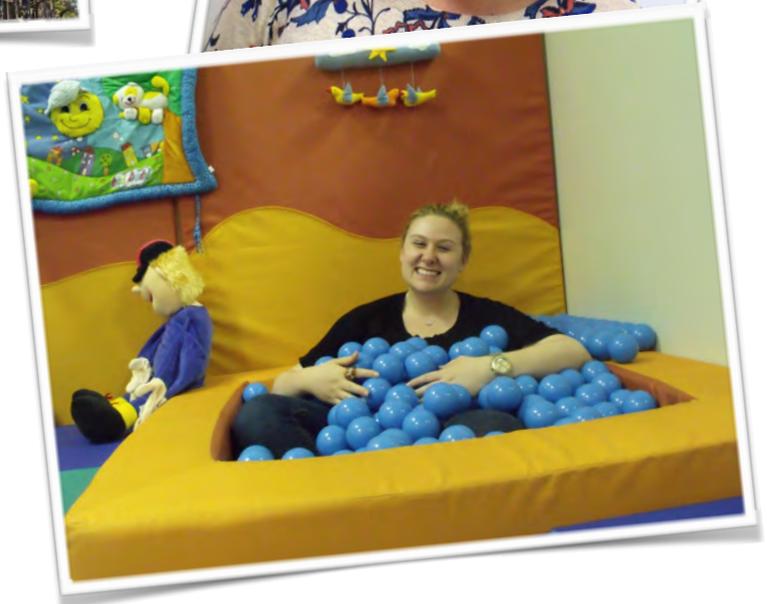
We are delighted with the collaboration that has been established between CABSS and George Brown college.

Located in the heart of Toronto in Canada, George Brown College is a leader in training professionals in deafblindness, thanks to the "Intervenor for Deaf-Blind Persons Program", the first and the largest of its kind in the world.

We are happy to have one of their graduates on our team at CABSS, Laura Harripersad, who has been with us since 2010. We have also had the pleasure in 2012 of hosting interns from the GBC Intervenor program, Lisa Bentivoglio and Morgan Epp and this May we will welcome Lidia Consiglio.

This collaboration has enabled CABSS to implement a Canadian model of intervention with children who are deafblind to its early multisensory intervention programs.

The exchange of knowledge and practical experience among CABSS and GBC has been invaluable and we look forward to continued collaborative growth.





Activities and projects

CABSS - ISSIS 2013/2014 Agreement

This year, CABSS-ISISS formed an official agreement for 2013/2014 academic school year. CABSS agreed to offer its services specific to integration among deaf, deafblind and hearing students at the kindergarten and primary school levels to the ISSIS. This agreement makes it possible for the ISSIS to benefit from the services at CABSS.

Teachers are able to: request that the professionals at CABSS carry out in-class observations in the area of psychological and relational dynamics; receive consultation regarding strategies that can be utilized with students in the classroom; receive support in planning, adapting and implementing educational activities based on the specialized learning needs of deafblind children.

Parents of children who are deaf or deafblind who attend l'ISSIS also have the opportunity to receive psycho-pedagogic counseling from CABSS.

"Emotions and Masks": Ceramic Modeling Laboratory

"Emotions and Masks" was a ceramic modeling laboratory created for deaf and hearing students who attend primary school (classes 2°, 3° A e B) at the ISSIS. The project was offered by CABSS, thanks to the collaboration with the Fondazione Contessa Lene Thun Onlus.

Classes were taught by two professional ceramists and children learned specialized clay modeling techniques. Children created masks which gave them the opportunity to use their imagination and creativity in a total explosion of emotion! Working with emotions is very important in the work we do at CABSS. Emotions such as joy, fear, sadness, anger, surprise and disgust accompany children on their path of growth since their very first experience with the world.



When children are able freely express their emotions and work through them, children gain a better sense of self and are able to understand the relationships they have with others, the world around them, and also learn to express their needs and desires.

Emotions are communicated from the very first years of life through facial expressions/body language. Once children are able to individualize and recognize these emotions they are able to learn how to communicate them through words/sign language.

Emotions can be communicated also through the use of art. Molding clay represents not only an external experience of creation but also an inner experience of using clay to express emotions that sometimes may not be easily expressed by other means.

The Fondazione Thun has its main office in Bolzano where they organize and carry out ceramic art projects in Italy and across the world with the main objective of giving to charitable causes.



Guardia di Finanza in support of Deaf and Deafblind children

In December 2013, Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi Onlus organized an event in collaboration with the Guardia di Finanza, at the Scuola dell'Infanzia and Primaria 173° Circolo Didattico, Via Nomentana.

The men and women of the Fiamme Gialle spoke to the children about what they do in the community. Children enjoyed watching cartoon clips of "Finzy", the Guardia di Finanza's mascot. Finzy is an eagle, who solves various cases dealing with criminal activity such as smuggling, organized crime, money laundering etc.

All children anxiously waited for the intervention of the canine unit. Everyone gathered in the playground and the children created a huge circle for the dogs and their trainers to demonstrate how amazing the dogs of the canine unit were at sniffing out drugs leading to the arrest of drug dealers.

The friendship among CABSS and the Guardia di Finanza has solidified over the years and we are happy to offer this "show" to the children (hearing, deaf and deafblind) that attend the ISSS. Thanking the Fiamme Gialle's sensitivity, time and effort in putting on such a great event!



Fundraising

CABSS Onlus Christmas Market

This year, Centro Assistenza per Bambini Sordi e Sordociechi Onlus organized a Christmas Market. The objective of this initiative was to raise funds to sustain the early intervention programs in favor of deaf and deafblind children at CABSS.

The event was held at the Studios Cinematografici on Via Tiburtina. Scenes from the movie, "La Fabbrica dei Giocattoli" were displayed on huge panels that hung from the ceiling, drawing the attention of hundreds of people who came from all parts of the city to spend a Sunday in support of a good cause.

With children as the main focus of the day, there were many fun activities and games specifically planned for their enjoyment such as child animators, pony rides on "Pioggia e Trilly" where children were also able to pet and comb the ponies, and a space designated for children to listen to music, watch cartoons and draw.

Parents were able to admire the beautiful clothes and accessories collected by Garage 142's Alessia Carello and Daniela Marzanati who embraced our cause with great enthusiasm and sensitivity.

Even though it was a rainy day, it didn't stop people from coming out to the market, located at one of the most historical sites of Italian cinema. Walking through the streets, you can almost sense the cinematic atmosphere where some of most acclaimed movies were filmed such as Oscar-winning "Malena" by Giuseppe Tornatore, "I Cento Passi" and "La Meglio Gioventù" by Marco Tullio Giordana.

For us, (the staff at CABSS), it was real pleasure to see the Studios transformed into a place where we could spend an enjoyable day with friends, family and our many supporters. Thanks to all who made this event a great success!



You can support CABSS by donating 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 to support nonprofit organizations will go directly to the government.

Deaf and Deafblind Children need your support! Make the decision to donate your 5x1000 today!

**CABSS' TAX CODE
(CODICE FISCALE): 97350450587**



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 indicate your name, address and telephone number on the transfer, so that we can send you 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).

PLEASE NOTE

Your donation is tax deductible!

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