

# KALONGO NEWS



"You think: times are bad, times are thought, times are difficult. **Live well and times will change**"

*Saint Ambrose*

## DEAR FRIENDS,

November 20, the day of the beatification of Father Giuseppe in Kalongo, marks for us a new beginning that strengthens the sense of responsibility towards his material and moral legacy.

Unfortunately, in consideration of the evolution of the Ebola epidemic, which is affecting Uganda, with certified cases also in the capital Kampala, in compliance with the alert indications of all the international agencies, the Foundation, while maintaining an attitude of prudence to protect the individual and of the community, with great regret, decided not to participate in the presence of the beatification ceremony of Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli in Kalongo.

**We participated in unity with the whole Church and with Kalongo** in the solemn celebrations presided over by H.E. Cardinal Oscar Cantoni, which has been held on **Sunday 20 November in the Cathedral of Como, in conjunction with the celebrations of Kalongo**, and will be held on the **3<sup>rd</sup> of December in Ronago**, the birthplace of Father Giuseppe.

**We sincerely hope that the beatification of Father Giuseppe will open a window to the hospital and the school of midwifery.** Helping us to carry on his priceless work and to make it appreciated by those who don't know it yet.

The initiatives we have organized on the occasion of this extraordinary moment, first of all, **the photographic and video documentary exhibition which will be inaugurated in Como on December 3<sup>rd</sup>**, show who Father Giuseppe was, the dreams he lived, and the challenges he faced.

**We believe and want his story and his example to inspire and spur people, especially the younger ones, to solidarity and commitment to a more equitable future for all.**

But as we approach the celebrations and the events that will follow, we cannot ignore the current situation, which even before Ebola, is today undermining the daily work of the hospital.

The international energy crisis is weighing on the poorest families and naturally also affects the hospital. The costs of medical devices, drugs and materials are soaring due to the increase in the cost of the raw materials and energy needed to produce them. After the difficult years of Covid, the threat of a new epidemic is added.

In the face of these dramatic challenges, we want to remain firm, rigorous and adherent to reality, as Father Giuseppe taught us.

**Stay close to us dear friends, participating in the joy of the beatification of Father Giuseppe and continuing to support our commitment to Kalongo.** First, by believing it. Every help, even the smallest, is more precious today than ever.

*Giovanna Ambrosoli*  
Giovanna Ambrosoli



**It is his life that has spoken.  
His way of treating everyone  
without discrimination, non-  
Catholic, Catholics, the sick,  
nurses, and doctors.  
It is his life that he spoke.**



**A legacy to the Ambrosoli Foundation is a free, concrete and generous choice.**

**A choice that** will take nothing away from your legitimate heirs and **will allow you to continue doing good in the future**, helping to carry on the legacy of Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli in Kalongo.

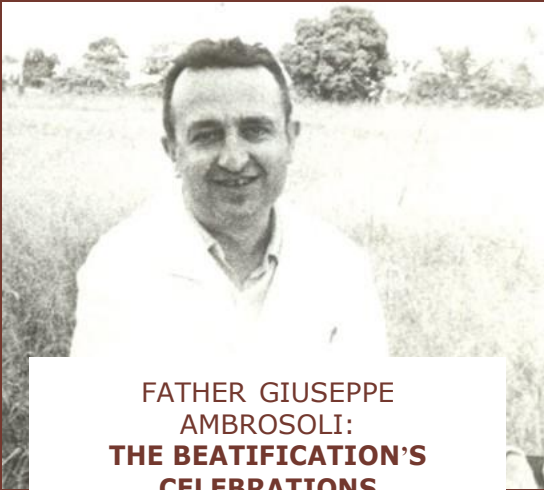
Large estates are not necessary, even **a small contribution can transform the lives of those who need it most.**

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**If you would like more information on bequests:**

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FATHER GIUSEPPE  
AMBROSOLI:  
THE BEATIFICATION'S  
CELEBRATIONS

The solemn celebrations took place on **November 20 in Kalongo**, the Holy Mass celebrated by the Apostolic Nuncio in Uganda, Archbishop Monsignor Luigi Bianco.

At the same time, **H.E. Cardinal Cantoni** presided over the Holy Mass for the beatification of Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli, on the same **November 20 in the Cathedral, in Como**.

On Saturday **3<sup>rd</sup> of December at 17**, **H.E. Cardinal Cantoni** will celebrate a solemn mass in **Ronago (CO)**, the birthplace of Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli.



You can read  
the story of  
Father  
Giuseppe, and  
find other  
testimonies and  
his writings on  
our website

## THE STRENGTH OF THE EXAMPLE

“Right from the start, Giuseppe confided that he wanted to leave for Africa and asked to be able to go to London to specialize, learn English and study tropical diseases. And so, it would happen: after the war, he resumed his studies with even greater conviction and graduated in Medicine and Surgery in July 1949 [...]

Before the flight to Great Britain, however, Giuseppe takes his motorcycle and goes as far as Rebbio, a small town where his mother Palmira also went from time to time to knock on the convent of the Comboni brothers [...]

*«My name is Giuseppe Ambrosoli and I'm from Ronago. I have just graduated in medicine, but my wish would be to go on a mission. I wanted to know if in your institution a doctor can become a priest and if one of your priests can continue to be a doctor».*

Few but clear words, like the life project that Giuseppe has in mind for himself”.

*From the book "Call me Giuseppe"*

**The story of Father Giuseppe is a simple story in his extraordinary nature, exactly like he was. A charismatic but very humble man, tenacious but compassionate, demanding but respectful. Whose example he touched and often transformed the lives of those who met him.**

*“What immediately struck me about Father Giuseppe was his kind gaze. We have many memories with Beatrice, my wife, but what still accompanies us today is her ability to always be present: with my wife and me, and then with Barbara, our daughter who was born in Kalongo in her arms, with all the other doctors and Italian expatriates, with his brothers and sisters, with all the hospital staff and, above all, with HIS patients”*

**Giuliano Rizzardini, Director of Infectious Diseases at the Sacco Hospital**

*“For me, the secret of Father Giuseppe's 'holiness' lies in his great simplicity and in his utmost devotion to duty. The other doctors greatly respected and admired the professionalism of Father Giuseppe, who also insisted with me that, without preaching, we set a good example as Christians with an attachment to work and respect for people's dignity”*

**Dr. Luigi Tacconi, paediatrician**

*“I must immediately clarify that direct knowledge of Father Giuseppe had been a point-in-time event. It was certainly a strong impact that marked my life as a doctor and surgeon in a very significant way and meant that since then I have never stopped following his activity as a "missionary surgeon" and the evolution of his work in Kalongo. Beyond his undisputed surgical skills and great missionary charisma, Father Giuseppe left a very profound imprint on the human values that characterized him in the areas in which he passed, well beyond any particular religious sensibility”.*

**Dr Paolo Ferraris, surgeon**

*“At his funeral, which I attended, an immense crowd of people came out of the bush, challenging the guerrillas and the soldiers; that crowd that he had cured: lepers, the lame, the blind, children, women and old men. The same crowd that followed Jesus.”*

**Emilia Francesca Susani, laboratory technician**



# HUNGER FOR OXYGEN AND FOR LIFE

Neonatal asphyxia is due to a long-lasting decrease in oxygen supply to the brain before, during, or shortly after birth, resulting in damage to the brain and other organs such as the heart, liver, and kidneys. Douglas Opiyo, Clinical Officer of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit of Kalongo, explains to us the multiple and often concomitant reasons which, in this poor and remote place of Uganda, contribute to an increase in the risk of asphyxia in the newborn.

- The delay in arriving at the hospital: most of the mothers come from very distant places and the ambulances available for the transfer to the hospital are insufficient.
- The young age of the parturient, often in her first pregnancy and therefore less cooperative during longer and more complex labours.
- An illness from the mother such as malaria or an infection of the uterus that was not treated during pregnancy
- A delivery that requires an urgent transfer of the mother from the delivery room to the operating room, resulting in a delayed birth.

Newborns suffering from asphyxia must be treated quickly and competently to avoid dramatic consequences such as cerebral palsy or death, which in most cases occurs within the first 24 hours of birth.

**The Kalongo hospital is the only hospital in the district with a fully equipped neonatology department and with specialized personnel. Every year it welcomes and cares for an average of 400 newborns. In the last three months, 140 children were hospitalized in neonatology because they were born prematurely or with pathologies at birth, 30 of them were recorded as cases of neonatal asphyxia.**

Only the presence of a competent team, the quality of the resuscitation and stabilization of the newborns, adequate instrumentation, and an incomparable tenacity can offer that only chance of recovery to these little heroes.

The Ambrosoli Foundation is permanently committed, alongside the hospital, to support this invaluable reality which has grown in ability, professionalism and efficiency in recent years.

**As evidenced by the story of little Ben and many other babies like him.**

Ben was born on August 21, 2022, at Dr Ambrosoli Memorial Hospital in Kalongo.

Due to severe birth asphyxia, he soon developed hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy. A severe and most often permanent brain injury in the newborn. The neonatology staff took care of the baby from the first moment of life. Thanks to constant long-term respiratory support, oxygen therapy, physical stimulation, therapeutic cooling, antibiotics, and finally oral feeding with breast milk through a nasogastric tube, the baby after a few days started to improve noticeably. After three weeks in the hospital, Ben was finally released. Today he can suckle breast milk independently even if for a relatively short time and responds better and better to physical stimulation. Ben is an example that gives hope to all of us and especially to the ward staff who tirelessly give their all to help these little ones win the battle for life.



**YOU CAN HELP US!**

There is so much to be done to support the precious work of Kalongo neonatology!

The Neonatology Unit **must be constantly supplied** with antibiotics, infusion fluids, therapeutic milk, gastric-tape tubes but also life-saving machines such as, for example, oxygen concentrators and CPAPs which help babies to breathe.

Above all, it needs to be able to count on a prepared and motivated team that stays in Kalongo, through ongoing training and recognition of their work.

**This unique and special place, which represents the only hope of life for the youngest and most defenseless patients, is worth all your generous support! Thanks for what you can do.**



END OF WORK AT THE STAFF QUARTER

The renovation and renewal project of the hospital staff quarters, the so-called "Staff Quarters", never renovated since the times of Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli and the civil war, began in 2017 by the Ambrosoli Foundation, since 2018 it has been able to benefit from important funding from the Italian Episcopal Conference (CEI) through the 8x1000 funds of the Catholic Church.

The intervention involved the construction of new buildings, installing drinking water and toilets inside the new homes, constructing fountains, shared showers and toilets and renovating the most battered buildings.

In 2022 the renovations of the existing buildings were carried out. Unfortunately, **the inflation that already started in January 2022 and then aggravated by the war in Ukraine has caused fuel and building material prices to rise and the Ambrosoli Foundation has had to involve new donors to make up for these additional costs and be able to complete the work.** Increases averaged 58%, with some commodities seeing increases of 150%.

**We sincerely thank the friends of Doctors with Africa Como Onlus and our private donors who responded promptly to our appeal with great generosity, allowing us to conclude the work last August.**

## INVOLVE AND EDUCATE ABOUT HEALTH TO TREAT MORE AND BETTER

Every day in Uganda, due to extreme poverty and lack of information, hundreds of children fall ill and die of preventable or curable diseases, if diagnosed and treated promptly. The infant mortality rate in the country is equal to 53 children per 1000, while in Italy it is 3.3.

**To be able to save as many children as possible, one of the most powerful weapons we have is health education.** For example, when we teach mothers, fathers and non-specialised health personnel how to prevent malaria, pneumonia, malnutrition or how to recognize the first symptoms, we are offering children a concrete chance of survival. A dignified future for their families.

The Kalongo hospital has involved the staff who work in second-level health clinics and the community health representatives in a training course on the main issues of child and newborn health, who in turn have the task of raising awareness in the community to which they belong.

**The objective of the training course proposed by the Kalongo hospital is twofold: to reduce the workload in the hospital by decreasing the influx of non-critical cases, and to ensure the timely transfer of critically ill children to the hospital, strengthening the skills and local expertise.**

*A big thank you to **Mission Bambini Switzerland** for being by our side once again and for choosing to support our commitment to support education and health promotion.*

Investing in education and training is essential for any health promotion intervention to be truly effective, widespread and bring long-lasting benefits to people's lives.

**YOU CAN HELP US TOO! EVERY DONATION OF YOURS MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF THOSE WHO ARE MOST VULNERABLE.**





## MOSTRA FOTOGRAFICA

Dal 3 dicembre 2022 al 7 gennaio 2023 vi invitiamo a Como al Palazzo del Broletto per visitare la mostra video documentaristica dedicata alla figura di Padre Ambrosoli.

L'ingresso è gratuito.

La mostra si compone delle immagini che fanno parte dell'archivio storico fotografico della Fondazione e del **nuovo reportage video fotografico** realizzato lo scorso luglio a Kalongo dall'agenzia fotografica PhotoAid. Durante la visita sarà proiettato il **video documentario "Giuseppe"**, realizzato da The BigMama, dedicato alla vita di padre Giuseppe.

Per informazioni scrivere a: [info@fondazioneambrosoli.it](mailto:info@fondazioneambrosoli.it) o chiamare allo 02.36558852

### INVITO SPECIALE ALLA MOSTRA RISERVATO ALLE SCUOLE

**La Fondazione Ambrosoli è lieta di invitare** i docenti e gli alunni degli istituti scolastici del territorio comasco, e non solo, **a partecipare alle visite guidate alla mostra video documentaristica** sulla vita di Padre **Giuseppe Ambrosoli**. Le visite, pensate per le diverse fasce di età, sono gratuite.

Per informazioni o per organizzare la visita del vostro istituto o della vostra classe alla mostra scrivere a: [d.sigillo@fondazioneambrosoli.it](mailto:d.sigillo@fondazioneambrosoli.it) o chiamare allo 02.36558852.

## TELA D'ARTISTA

La Fondazione ha coinvolto un giovane artista visivo, **Luca Gandola**, nella realizzazione di un'opera **open air** invitando il pubblico a vivere l'esperienza in diretta. Dal 3 dicembre, nello spazio esterno adiacente al Palazzo del Broletto a Como, l'artista interpreterà **attraverso il linguaggio visivo, quello che Padre Giuseppe e la sua opera rappresentano**, punto di incontro tra il passato, il presente e il futuro. La tela sarà poi donata dalla Fondazione Ambrosoli alla comunità di Como.

**Ringraziamo di cuore** per il loro prezioso contributo alla realizzazione di questi eventi

Con il contributo di



Regione  
Lombardia

con il patrocinio di:



### A NATALE REGALA UNA STELLA

A Como, in occasione del Natale, verranno distribuite le stelle di Natale per raccogliere fondi per la cura dei pazienti ricoverati nel reparto di pediatria dell'ospedale di Kalongo.



**Per saperne di più e restare aggiornati sugli eventi previsti in occasione della beatificazione di padre Giuseppe, visitate il nostro sito internet tramite codice QR.**

visitare il nostro sito internet tramite codice QR.



### ECARD DI NATALE

A Natale scegli un dono davvero speciale che arriverà subito a chi vuoi bene e si trasformerà presto in assistenza e cure per le mamme e i bambini ricoverati all'ospedale di Kalongo.



**Scegli e invia da qui il tuo speciale regalo di Natale in formato digitale**





## THERE IS STILL SO MUCH TO DO...

"Father Giuseppe was attentive and grateful to anyone who contributed in any way to the proper functioning of the hospital and related activities in the area. It was a joy and a privilege for me to be able to collaborate for this purpose, even if it was only to write addresses, seal envelopes and attach stamps... Times have changed and a lot of water has passed under the bridge but collaboration, however modest or large, still remains an essential aspect for the proper functioning of what already exists and to ensure continuity and progress. I know one of the most important works of charity, such as in our case the care and assistance of the sick and the preparation of the personnel assigned to this service"

**Sister Lea Zandonella**

**If the hospital and obstetrics school of Kalongo, founded by Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli more than sixty years ago, can continue to exist and operate, it is thanks to those who have always been close to us, to those who have joined us during the time, to those who have been able to understand its inestimable value.**

**To each and every one of you,  
THANKS SO MUCH  
and MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

## A BIG THANK TO...

*"This reality is not the fruit of a single person, it is the fruit of the work of a person who has been able to walk together with everyone else, from the great surgeons, from the great doctors, from the great donors to the people of this place who have his message deeply"*

**Dr Tito Squillaci**

*"Dear Fondazione Ambrosoli, I had the opportunity some time ago to read a book on the life of Don Giuseppe Ambrosoli. This is why I felt the desire to know if the hospital and midwifery school project was going ahead. I am the representative of a SMALL Foundation called "FONDAZIONE CASA SANTI ARCANGELI" which works for the benefit of the neediest of the Third and Fourth World. I was thinking about whether a collaboration can be set up with you for the benefit of the Ugandan hospital. Best wishes. Sac. Francesco Saverio Bazzoffi"*  
- September 29, 2021

**With these clear and simple words, Don Saverio Bazzoffi, just over a year ago, sowed the seeds of a great friendship destined, in a very short time, to grow and bear good fruit, for the good of Kalongo.**

**Heartfelt thanks to the Fondazione Casa Santi Arcangeli which consistently and generously supports the projects of the Ambrosoli Foundation both in the health sector, such as support for the maternity ward and the fight against malnutrition and in the structural sector, such as the removal of asbestos roofs from the surgery department and the main warehouse. Demonstrating extraordinary trust, foresight and pragmatism.**

## CHARITY DINNER 2022

On 26 October the traditional Charity Dinner of the Ambrosoli Foundation took place at Villa D'Este.

A great evening of solidarity, friendship and sharing. **We sincerely thank those who participated and the friendly companies** that contributed to making this evening in favour of the Kalongo hospital unique and special.

**Ambrosoli**



**CHIARELLA**



**RATTIFLORA**



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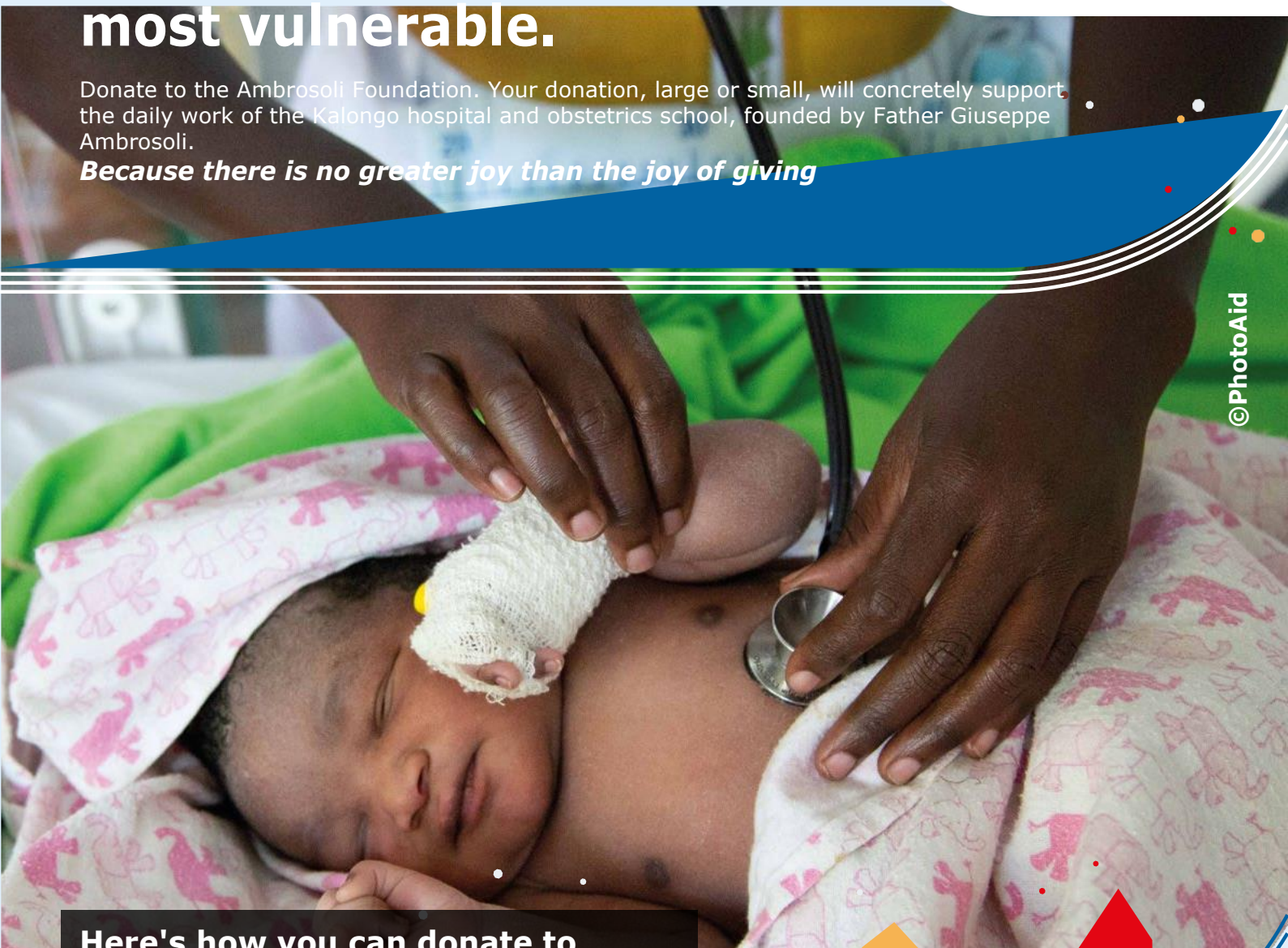
# Take care of the youngest, most fragile, most vulnerable.



Fondazione  
Dr. Ambrosoli  
Memorial Hospital

Donate to the Ambrosoli Foundation. Your donation, large or small, will concretely support the daily work of the Kalongo hospital and obstetrics school, founded by Father Giuseppe Ambrosoli.

*Because there is no greater joy than the joy of giving*



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**Here's how you can donate to  
support the Ambrosoli Foundation**



## ◆ BANK TRANSFER TO CURRENT ACCOUNT

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C/C Crédit Agricole: **IT48 C062  
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Swift Code: **CRPPIT2P321**  
Payable to: **Fondazione Dr.  
Ambrosoli Onlus**

## ◆ CARTA DI CREDITO E PAYPAL

Online donations on the website:  
<https://sostieni.fondazioneambrosoli.it>