

POPE FRANCIS, CELEBRITY CHEF LIDIA BASTIANICH TO SPEAK AT A CHANCE IN LIFE'S 75TH ANNIVERSARY GALA

Supporters from around the world gather together for first time through a virtual format

New York, NY, October 22, 2020 - [A Chance In Life](#) (ACIL), an international nonprofit that provides shelter, education and food for youth and puts them in charge of their own towns, will host its 75th Anniversary Virtual Gala on **October 28 at 9:00 PM ET/6:00 PM PT**, featuring special remarks from H.H. Pope Francis, guest appearances by celebrity chef Lidia Bastianich and Consul General to Italy Francesco Genuardi, and a performance by Jersey Boys' Russell Fischer. It will mark the first time in ACIL's history that supporters from all over the globe will come together for an event and comes as ACIL prepares to launch its first ever United States-based program on Staten Island's North Shore.

The gala will celebrate the life-changing work ACIL has accomplished over its 75 years and honor those who made that possible, featuring performances and testimonies from children in ACIL's programs in Italy, India, Ethiopia, and throughout Latin America. Renowned celebrity chef, Ms. Bastianich will connect her experience as an immigrant to ACIL's work with refugee children in Italy and across the world. From remarks at a private audience last year, Pope Francis will speak to the importance of ACIL's work and the need to prioritize the development of future generations.

"Our founder opened the first Boys and Girls Town in Italy with a simple philosophy: children are not problems to be solved, they are assets to be nurtured," said Gabriele Delmonaco, Executive Director of ACIL. "That remains our mission 75 years later, and it's all thanks to the incredible men, women and children who are at the core of our organization."

Other special guests include ACIL *Philanthropist of the Year* recipient Mark Quattrocchi, founding partner of Quattrocchi Kwok Architects and Marc Taub, *Industry Leader* award recipient and President and CEO of Palm Bay International and Taub Family Selections. The evening is made possible thanks to Gala Underwriter [Fiserv](#), Presenting Sponsor [Mainline RTP](#), and Marquee Sponsor [GalaxE](#).

"As a refugee myself, I know first hand the challenges young people face when fleeing poverty. That's why the work A Chance In Life does is so close to my heart," said Lidia Bastianich. "These children deserve hope for a better future and I want to thank A Chance In Life for giving that to them."

"My family has made philanthropy our legacy. A Chance In Life is an incredible opportunity to honor that legacy in a unique, tangible way," said Marc Taub. "It is an honor to be recognized at this year's virtual gala and to celebrate A Chance In Life's 75 years of life-changing youth development work."

Over 75 years, ACIL has served nearly **40,000** children across **17** different countries, helping children become self-sufficient adults through a system of self-government, an educational model where youth take responsibility for their own communities, making their own laws and electing their own leaders.

"After being a part of the Chance in Life community for nearly 10 years, I am no less committed to this organization's mission as I see an overwhelming need globally for action on behalf of at-risk youth," said Mark Quattrocchi. "To be of service to those in need is our highest calling. Those of us who are blessed in our personal and professional lives can make a difference for vulnerable ragazzi (boys and girls) whose lives have been so drastically impacted by the interests of nations, conflicts between cultures and now, a global pandemic. Who among us does not see them as our children, too?"

Interviews are available with Gabriele and the honorees upon request. Please contact Zach Halper at zhalper@momentum-cg.com or 862-224-3233.

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About A Chance In Life

In 1945, Monsignor John Patrick Carroll-Abbing opened his first Town to give homeless and refugee children a chance to escape poverty, putting them in charge of their own communities complete with their own currencies and laws. Today, A Chance In Life's proven approach of self-government has been successfully adapted through towns in seven countries including [Boys' & Girls' Towns of Ethiopia](#), [Boys' & Girls' Towns of India](#) and [Boys' & Girls' Towns of Latin America](#) - and given nearly 40,000 young people the chance to grow as leaders in their own communities. Overall, A Chance In Life has done work in a total of 17 countries.