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Volunteering

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When did you join the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement?

More than 50 years ago.

Why did you join?

I joined the Red Cross in Roma on the 8th of May events in 1955, when I was only seven years. It was a magic moment in my life to discover this wonderful institution.

I always wanted to be a Red Cross volunteer and to contribute to prevent and alleviate suffering, following the paths of Henry Dunant in Castiglione and Solferino.

During 50 years I have been member of the Pioneri, First Aider, visited almost all NS in the world and discovered that the Red Cross and Red Crescent is a fantastic organization, well known and respected worldwide.



What work do you do?

Chairman of the development commission of the General Assembly - Volunteer at Italian Red Cross-HIV/AIDS-Advocacy-Drugs-Youth-Volunteering-Promotion of Humanitarian Values

What has been your best experience as a volunteer?

I have had many: For example, the first time I travelled abroad; it was in a mission to Bulgaria to participate in a youth camp when I was 18 years old. I met many young leaders with the same Principles and ideas. I was young, inexperienced and plenty of ideas. I enjoyed so much that mission. In the Pioneri, the youth group of Italian Red Cross, I contributed to spread the Red Cross ideas in the country and to involve the young members in all the Red Cross activities.

As a member of the Italian Relief group of volunteers, (Voluntari del soccorso), I participated in a number of Disaster operations caused by accidents, floods or earthquakes.

Internationally, as a Chairman of the Youth Commission between 1973 and 1981, I contributed to create new ways of participation involving youth members worldwide.

In the last 20 years I dedicated all my efforts to develop Vila Maraini a centre for drug users in Roma to prevent and alleviate the suffering caused by the drugs and the HIV/AIDS.

I was so impressed with the commitment and dedication of volunteers working in very difficult circumstances in many places like Iraq, Bam, in Latin-America, Africa and the Tsunami area.

What are your hopes for the future?

Actually many people suffered from isolation, lack of friendship, absence of love and sympathy and for that reason I believed that the Red Cross volunteers are a powerful people inspiring all of us to do more and not only to watch all the people who suffer worldwide.

I hope that the Red Cross Red Crescent continue to be a source of inspiration for men and women committed to make this world more human, sensible and respected.