

Being able to light a lamp, no matter how small

Kind regards from Argentina to the mediators who receive the Big Spider.



My name is Adela Brunas. I am one of the sisters of the Congregation of San José in Buenos Aires. I live in the capital. In the house where I live a room has been fitted up as office for the National Coordination of the Liliane Foundation.

A nurse by profession, I specialized later in the psychology of children with a disability. For 26 years I worked in a hospital. I also dedicated myself to the poor people in Nova Prata, Rio Grande in South Brazil. In 1982 I returned to Argentina and then lived among the very poorest, in neighbourhoods where there was a lack of everything. In these neighbourhoods I dedicated myself to the care of children with disabilities.

In 1993 when I lived in Yuto, province of Jujuy, I came in contact with the Liliane Foundation. In November of that year I met Kees van den Broek and Sister Ignatia and I

had the opportunity to join them in attending a meeting in Cordoba. There I was informed of the philosophy and work of the foundation.

From that moment on I started to work as a mediator for a group of children with disabilities in Yuto. From the very start I have tried to see into the reality of the problems that the families have to cope with. I had the pleasure of working with a group of people sharing the same objective. We visited the families and stimulated the commitment of the parents with their child's rehabilitation.

During a conversation with Kees van den Broek, Sister Ignatia and our General Superior in 1995, the decentralization of the work of the Liliane Foundation was discussed and the possibility was suggested to exempt a sister in order to coordinate the work of the mediators in Argentina. This is why the undersigned was appointed as National Coordinator. It was also suggested to appoint a co-worker and so we asked Sister Magdalena Sofia Kissner. She is a member of the Congregation of Sisters del Sagrado Corazón (of the Holy Heart). Ever since then she has been my assistant.

In October - November of that year we were made an offer to attend a course in the Ann Sullivan Centre in Lima, Peru.

From 1996 onwards we have visited the different mediators in order to get to know everyone's local circumstances. During these visits we organised workshops for the mediators and the parents of the children.

In consultation with the head-office we promoted the education of the mediators. One of our main objectives is to promote the integration of children and youngsters in society. We always have a good cooperation with a network of professionals, parents, institutions and we can use the services offered by the hospitals. Once a year we convoke all mediators for a course. Twice, two psychologists of the Ann Sullivan Centre have contributed to this course.

These past two years we have made a profile of all mediators. This has enabled us to get to know them and their working conditions even better.

We have always taken care to properly prepare new mediators for their task. Together we have also recognized the interest of mutual communication between the mediators and the national coordination team. We have decided to publish a quarterly using material provided by the mediators themselves. We have named this magazine Redes Para La Vida, which means Network for Life (the Liliane family in Argentina).

In order to teach the parents to handle their child with a disability we have set up 22 groups. Through the Basic Facilities subsidy we can assemble and organise this orientation training.

There are 62 mediators spread over 15 provinces. We will continue with the :

- training and education of mediators
- awareness-raising of people and the fight against 'asistencialismo' (with which we mean people who just hold out their hands)
- the participation of the parents and their role in the education for life : the school of the family.

At every meeting we dwell upon the Liliane Foundation philosophy and the integrity with which the funds of the Liliane Foundation should be used.

In my role as National Co-ordinator I believe to have learned:

- to listen and to enter into a dialogue with people
- to receive and give love, to appreciate self-motivation and stimulate possibilities
- to cheer up and encourage mediators as well as parents and children.

I feel happy in this task that suits my personal vocation. This enables me to be faithful to the Lord and to the least of my fellow-man.

Many thanks for all the support that I had the privilege of receiving from the Liliane Foundation.

With kind regards, in the style of the spiders to make the WEB grow.

Sister Adela Brunas