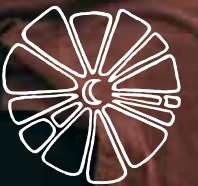


Casa Ursula: Where I live and work



Letter from the Chairman of the Foundation Board



Fiorenzo Robbiani
Chairman

For many of those we have welcomed over the years, “Provvida”, as it is often affectionately nicknamed, is a home. An extension of their family. A place to grow. A group of friends, as well as educators. A place that supports their own development and helps them become independent. A step towards social inclusion. A hug that makes them feel safe. An outstretched hand in times of need.

We really want to keep being all of this. That’s why we listen to the needs of those who deal with disabilities and try to provide an answer. We have therefore decided to set up the Casa Ursula project, confident that for the people it will accommodate, it will be much more than just a place to live and work.

Today, we want to be able
to give young people on
the path to adulthood a place
to grow, develop their skills,
and find their identity.

Giuseppe

“Working leather is a serious matter”

Great seriousness and dedication to his work are Giuseppe’s distinctive characteristics. Part of the Provvida Madre family for many years, he has long since become a mainstay in occupational activities. A lover of manual work, he works leather with precision to produce sturdy key rings, purses, and key trays.



A woman with short dark hair, wearing a light purple turtleneck sweater, is laughing joyfully in a workshop. She is seated at a workbench with a teal-colored manual press in front of her. The workshop has a wooden ceiling with exposed beams and fluorescent lights. Various colorful, handcrafted items are hanging from the ceiling. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the workshop environment.

Claudia

“Precision
is my vocation”

Making key rings is a team sport. The quality of the finished product depends on the precision of the pieces made to be assembled. There's no doubt that Claudia is the perfect person to handle a job like this: with a steady hand and quick motions at the press, she creates the leather elements that will make the key rings look great.

Becoming adults: the challenge starts here

The answer is Casa Ursula.
The need to provide
opportunities for young people
on the path to adulthood.

Like all adolescents, young people with disabilities also need something more: a space suitable for them, new stimuli, new challenges, an occupation.

Living in a “grown up” place, along with the opportunity to carry out a concrete task, represent important factors in young people’s development, contributing to the development of their self-esteem, sense of independence, and their own identity. Furthermore, occupational activities allow them to gain social recognition, improving their chances of being included in society and their psychophysical well-being.

However, it’s hard for young adults today to find a placement in a home with work, as places are all filled and there are waiting lists.

Families are concerned because they are unable to plan a secure future for their teenage children. On top of this need, there are also the needs of other adults who live at home with their families, only attending institutions for daytime activities, but who want or need to find a home that can accommodate them.

Thus was born the Casa Ursula project, a facility for disabled adults that meets the needs for both residential and occupational spaces in the Mendrisiotto and Basso Ceresio region.

A tailor-made project: Casa Ursula

Casa Ursula will be located near the headquarters of the Provvida Madre Foundation, in the municipality of Balerna.

Casa Ursula will consist of two separate buildings: the first, three-storey, “home” building will include a ground floor for public use (entrance hall, workshop, canteen, multipurpose room, and meeting room) and two apartments on the second and third floors. Each of the apartments will be able to accommodate 7 people. The second “work” building, with just one floor, will instead be dedicated to occupational activities and will house several modular workshops. An underground floor will house the car parks (reduced to the minimum necessary to encourage the use of public transport), technical rooms, and an industrial-type laundry room that will serve the needs of the more than 100 people accommodated by the Foundation.

The decision to construct two distinct buildings was guided by the basic concept of simulating “normal” life; the idea was to create conditions that promote structure in the daily routine, separating the space where people live and the space where they work. Physically moving from one setting to another means people will get dressed and leave home to go “to work” every morning, just like everyone else. The staff will also have different roles in the residential and occupational areas, and efforts will be made to encourage users to participate as much as possible in activities in the community where the facility is located, to promote social integration.





14

full-time places

6

additional places for day users

5

workshops

30

new jobs

11

million CHF investment including
the purchase of the land

2021

service opens

600

m² of living space

350

m² of workshops



Casa Ursula will be able to accommodate 14 residents and 6 users who live in other facilities or with their families and come during the day to carry out occupational activities. Various professional figures will be needed, and a total of 30 new jobs will be created (educators, social welfare workers, nurses, caretakers, janitors). The residential facility will be open 365 days a year, while the occupational activities will take place 250 days a year.

The buildings of Casa Ursula will blend in harmoniously on the hill, creating a sort of continuity with the existing landscape. The Minergie-certified complex will be powered by geothermal probes and photovoltaic panels; it will also fully comply with the SIA 500 standard for accessibility for disabled people. The proximity to the Foundation's headquarters, which are about one kilometre away, will favour synergies for the benefit of both the people accommodated there and the environment.

The architectural solution
perfectly meets the needs of
both day users and permanent
residents.

Manuela

“Throwing herself into carpentry”

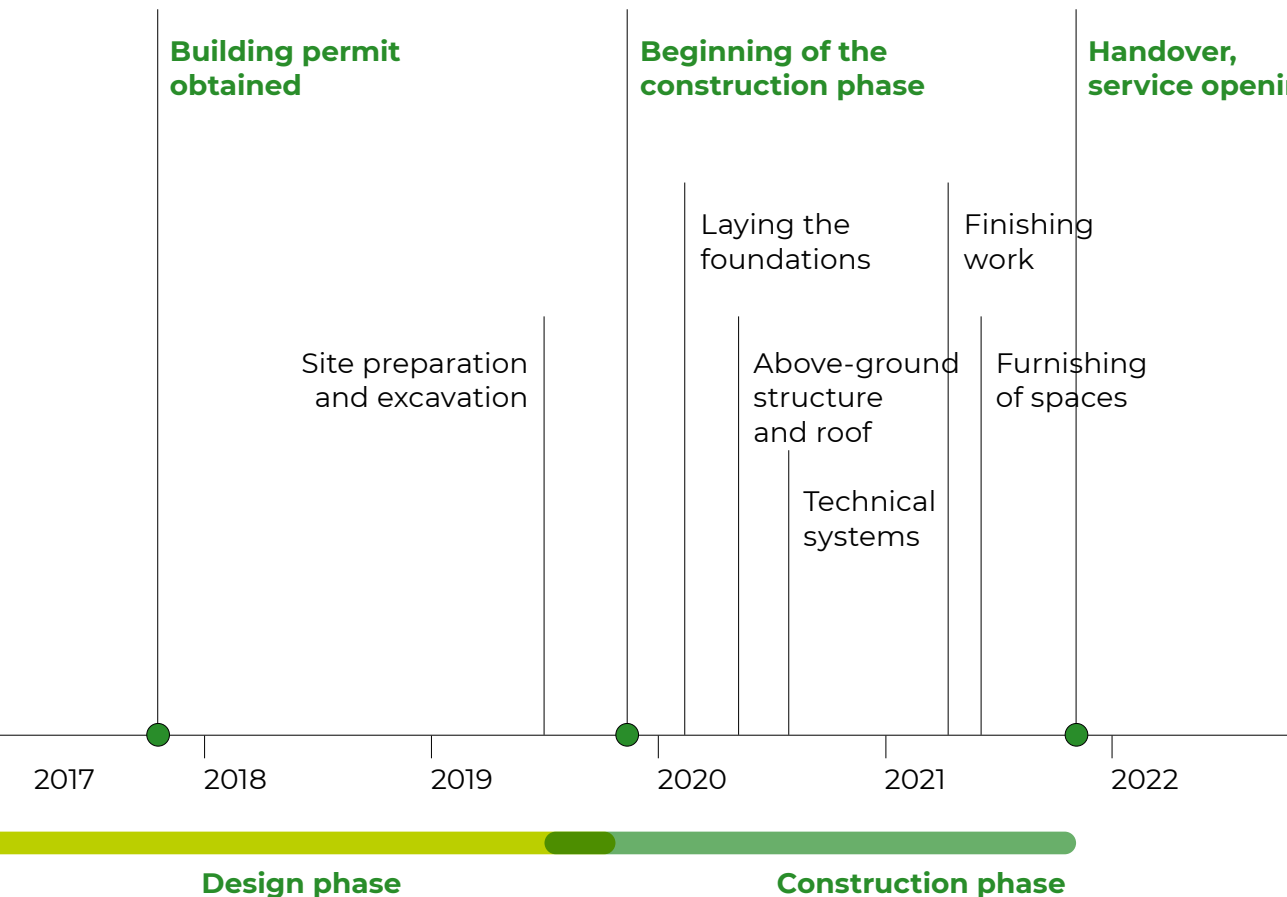
There is no challenge that can discourage Manuela. Enthusiastic by nature, she loves doing all kinds of manual and non-manual activities. In particular, she likes to work with wood because of its distinctive fragrance. A driving force in the group, Manuela feels at ease in the Foundation’s carpentry workshop and is always ready to make fire-lighters or toys.



Timeframe and funding

The Casa Ursula project was able to be launched thanks to the generosity of a private donor who granted an interest-free loan to acquire the land.

Everyone has the right to become an adult.
Help us to help.



Estimate for construction
CHF 9'500'000

Financing

Non-repayable cantonal grant
CHF 3'600'000

Mortgage
CHF 1'550'000

Contributions already confirmed
CHF 1'000'000

Funds to be raised through donations
CHF 3'350'000

A young man with dark hair, wearing a dark grey hoodie and blue jeans, is seated in a black wheelchair. He is holding a tablet computer with both hands and looking at it with a smile. The background shows a bright, sunny outdoor setting with a grassy area, a paved path, and a modern, light-colored building with several windows. The lighting is warm, suggesting late afternoon or early morning.

Salvatore

“My world
in pictures”

Ever since he was a child, Salvatore has been intrigued by cameras: whether he's posing or behind the lens, he's always in on the action. Thoughtful and composed, he never leaves his special camera behind, a faithful companion to express his feelings. He has also proudly exhibited his works at a photographic exhibition.

Provvida Madre: all-round commitment

Founded in 1970, the Provvida Madre Foundation accommodates children and adults of both sexes, with no age limits, who suffer from intellectual disabilities, often accompanied by physical disabilities and / or psychological problems.

It offers all-inclusive care and support, with the aim of promoting psychophysical well-being and development, as well as inclusion in the social fabric in close collaboration with the families.

In addition to nursing care, therapy, and school education, the Foundation offers many activities aimed at pursuing the aforementioned objectives. In conjunction with care, it also offers occupational activities such as gardening, cooking, carpentry, and DIY, which enables the Foundation to sell various products at the La Butega studio. In their free time, users can also engage in music, cinema, introductory sessions with Mirtillo the horse, walks, and physical activities. The Provvida Madre Foundation's proximity to the centre of Balerna means that residents can also experience life in the community that has welcomed them with open arms for some time now.





Well-being, development,
and inclusion. These are the
objectives that guide us.



A woman with dark hair, wearing a black beret, glasses, a grey sweater, and a black apron, is smiling and using a silver fork to taste a pie. The pie is on a white plate with a white paper liner, sitting on a white table. In the foreground, there are several fruits including green and red apples, yellow lemons, and brown eggs. A blue plate is partially visible in the bottom foreground. The background shows a kitchen with white cabinets, a stainless steel kettle, and a window with blue curtains.

Giulia

“Cooking comes
from the heart”

Passionate and emotional, Giulia loves to try her hand at making tasty cakes. Obviously, once they are ready, she also loves tasting them! Passionate about singing and music, for her, cooking is like playing the drums: it takes energy and a lot of heart. Her cheerfulness and desire to feel alive infects everyone at the day centre.

The Foundation in numbers

Occupational activities

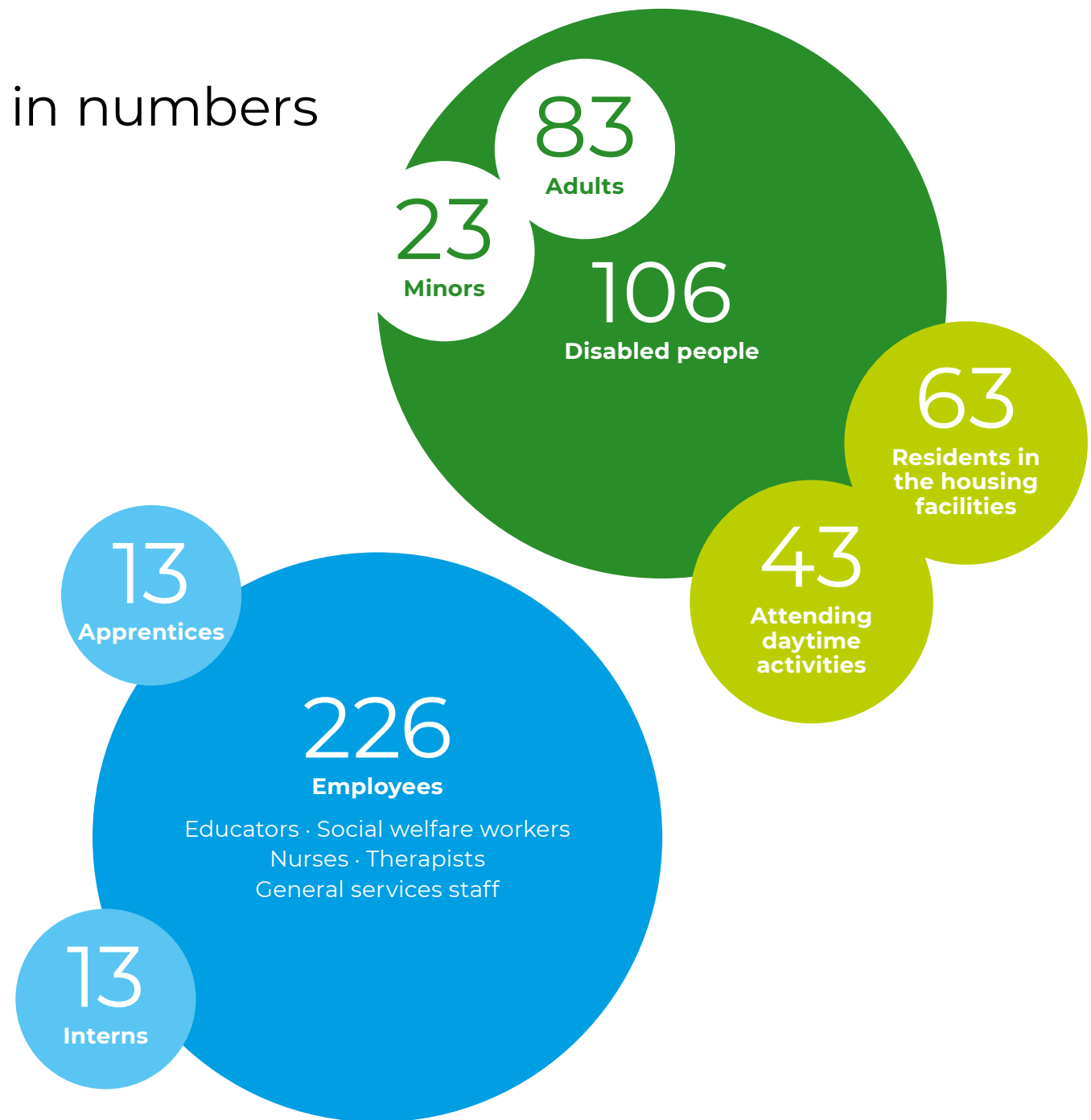
- Carpentry
- Leather working
- Work for third parties
- Marmalade and jams

Recreational activities

- Music
- Painting
- Pottery
- Photography

Other activities

- Basal stimulation
- Physical activities
- Day trips
- Cultural visits
- Holiday camps



Thank you
for your
valuable
support

For your donations

Patronato Opere Provvida Madre
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Fondazione Provvida Madre

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