

The MensAmica Project

*“Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery but today is a gift. That's why it's called the present”
(Oogway in the film Kung Fu Panda)*

Since 2003 the Altrocanto Association has collaborated with the City of Collegno in the “MensAmica” project which gathers unused food from school canteens.

17 schools (kindergartens, Primary Schools and Middle Schools) are involved in the project.

Thanks to the active participation of the children and the decisive role of volunteers in 7 Parrishes approximately 50 kg of food (bread, fruit and packaged snacks), which would otherwise be destroyed, is retrieved every day.

The effectiveness of this retrieval is of a social nature, because the food is distributed the same day in the city's solidarity chain.

The effectiveness is also environmental and economical, because there is a reduction in garbage dumping, with a reduction in related costs.

But the most relevant aspect is the cultural one. By learning not to waste and to donate food, a sense of responsibility and solidarity grows in young people.

The City of Collegno has reinforced this service by arranging for the collection of some "cooked" foods which are offered to the needy through our association. This activity began in February 2007 and has produced excellent results. In these months approximately 15 meals a day have been recovered and redistributed.

Principal destinations for the collected food

“**Il Cenacolo**” soup kitchen prepares and distributes 30 full meals every day to the needy in a friendly homely environment.

Every day the volunteer run kitchen receives the portions of uneaten cooked food from Grugliasco and Collegno's council canteens as well as the "dry" food (bread and fruit) from the two cities' school canteens.

The Dining area and Kitchen have been constructed according to modern structural principles and in respect of current regulations. The personnel has been opportunely trained according to the principles expressed in D. lgs 155/97 and following the indications of an established Selfcontrol Manual.

The Cenacolo is not only a soup kitchen but also a place for people of all ages, especially the needy, to meet and establish relationships.

The Solidarity Bank “BorsAmica” sustains 40 local poor families by means of the distribution of bags of food. By meeting the urgent need of many families who have difficulty making ends meet at the end of the month our volunteers experience a fullness which only a person who gives can receive.