

FAMVIN HOMELESS ALLIANCE - PROGRESS SUMMARY



In 2017, the Famvin Homeless Alliance (FHA) was created to mark the 400th anniversary of the Vincentian Charism. Since then, this initiative has achieved much and is continuously learning and growing to better support the Vincentian Family's service to homeless people.

International Conference

In November 2018, the FHA brought together over 100 Vincentians from across the world in Rome to learn more about homelessness in its many guises. We talked about the needs of slum dwellers and the recurrent issue of contested land and property ownership. We learned about what it means to welcome refugees in host communities; the many challenges street homeless people experience across the world; and the cross-cutting theme of modern-day slavery.

The atmosphere throughout these days was welcoming, enthusiastic and eager - with many ideas being shared about what more could be done.

The 13 Houses Campaign

With Vincentians from across the world present, the conference in Rome was the ideal place to launch the 13 Houses Campaign - a global campaign aimed at ending homelessness in all of the 156 countries in which the Vincentian Family works.

In small workshops, people started to think about how their services could be brought to the next level; how they could change lives in the long-term and how Vincentian collaboration might help them to do so. The results were inspiring. People started to talk about how re-forestation could improve the sustainability of housing projects; how a health centre could prevent long-term adverse effects of displacement on refugees; or how homes for street children could work towards breaking the cycle of multi-generational homelessness.

In the following months, the FHA focused on developing the infrastructure needed to support the Campaign. This included the establishment of the Solidarity Fund to offer financial assistance for less affluent branches and projects; the appointment of a Campaign Coordinator to help organise efforts; and the development of a digital platform to inform the Vincentian Family about progress.

After only eight months, the 13 Houses Campaign has inspired Vincentians across the world: 36 projects are being planned in 32 countries. Of those, seven projects are currently being built and two have already been completed. With so much enthusiasm on the ground, we are confident to meet our target of projects in 50 countries by the end of 2019.

Ambassador's Programme

We further created an Ambassadors Programme to promote the work of the FHA in the Vincentian Family and the wider Catholic community. Spread across five continents, our volunteer ambassadors (*see Appendix 1: FHA Ambassadors' Cohort*) represent 8 branches of the Vincentian Family and many work directly in homelessness projects. They help to widen the FHA's reach through digital communications and by speaking at events, as well as advising us on future initiatives. Some are also helping to build 13 Houses projects in their communities.

In July 2019, the ambassadors came together for a training weekend in Paris to learn more about the work of the FHA and future endeavours, and talk about how they could advance our mission in their regions.



Strategy 2019-2021

In the beginning of 2019, the FHA reflected about what had been learned thus far and brought those together in the new Strategic Plan 2019-2021 – shaping the work of the FHA over the next years.

The Strategic Plan is built on a paramount commitment to Vincentian values – they remain the main driver of our work and are transferred into all activities. We believe that the Vincentian dedication towards the poorest of the poor and the devotion, perseverance and creativity with which work is carried out are not only a great source of inspiration but also a source of knowledge. The Strategy therefore explicitly focuses on local expertise and local solutions and their application to the global stage through collaboration.

This commitment to local knowledge and solutions is reflected in all of the three key activities that the FHA is carrying out to support the service to homeless people:

- Sharing of knowledge, both practical and spiritual, within the Family
- Aiding the growth of new services for homeless people through collaboration
- Advocacy, both global and local, to promote systemic change

The Strategic Plan aims to multiply the impact of these activities by focusing on actions that will help us to better understand what is currently done across the Vincentian Family, provide opportunities to learn about homelessness, improve and transform the lives of homeless people across the world and encourage structural changes both locally and globally.

Appointments

In 2019, the team of the Famvin Homeless Alliance was expanded to better the resource its work over the next years.

Natalie Monteza joined as a part-time Campaign Coordinator – focusing on advancing the reach and impact of the 13 Houses Campaign. She will further be responsible for collating information on 13 Houses Projects and reporting progress to the Vincentian Family.

Santiago Agra joined as a full-time FHA Communications Manager – responsible for communications across all media channels and website management. This was an important post to fill as effective communication is vital to ensure the success of our work.

Outlook

In the second half of 2019 we aim to fully implement the Ambassador's Programme – giving our Ambassador's all they need to successfully advocate on our behalf.

We further want to take the 13 Houses Campaign to the next level – motivating new countries to join the movement, inspire Vincentian collaboration and address the most pressing needs of those that do not have a place to call home.

Finally, advocacy efforts are going to come to the fore with the FHA focusing on shining a spotlight on the plight of homeless people across the world – raising awareness amongst local and global leaders; asking them to support the Vincentian Family in their efforts to end homelessness.

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Appendix 1: FHA Ambassadors' Cohort

Ambassadors were selected through an application process for two (2) years.

You can find our Ambassadors' bios in our [website](#).

Country	Name	Branch
Zambia	Justin Mumba Sandi	SSVP
Costa Rica	Frander Josué Vindas Hernández	Vincentian Vocation Ministry
Chile	Álvaro Tamblay Godoy	CM - REJUSEVI
USA	Michael J. Raposa	SSVP
Rwanda	Henri Matsinga Muvugha	CM
Peru	Ricardo Cruz Huamán	CM
Rep. Dom.	Gina B. Paredes Burgos	VMY - Lay Vincentian
Lebanon	Rodolph Haddad	Missionary Group of Charity
Nigeria	Christiana Olachi Oronsaye	AIC
Brazil	Ada Ferreira	SSVP
India	Dr. Tomy Varghese	SSVP
Guatemala	Luis Absel Camarena Poveda	CM
Zimbabwe	Tendai Kusembedzera	SSVP
Spain	Sr Rosa Tere Vicedo	DC