**Chapter III**

**AIC Today**

* AIC's Grassroots Actions
* Advocacy
* **Training Volunteers**
* **Communication**
* Finances and Code of Ethics
* Legal Framework

**Training Volunteers**

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| Following the example of Saint Vincent, who at a very early age was concerned about education (a concern that continued throughout his life), AIC views the on-going training of each volunteer as an **indispensable** requirement in order to accompany our less fortunate brothers and sisters "…*it is a question of justice on behalf of those living in poverty whom we want to support*"(Fr. Celestino, CM, *Vicente de Paúl: un corazón sin medida,* [Vincent de Paul: a heart beyond measure] p. 242).  AIC offers the volunteers **on-going training (technical, human and spiritual)**. This training is done through:   * ***Documents*** that are sent electronically to the volunteers who are invited to reflect together as a group on the content of the documents; * ***Seminars*** on a national, continental and international level; * ***Visits*** to the national associations and the local groups by the continental coordinators, the members of the Executive Board, and those responsible for projects at the International Secretariat.   Every two or four years, on the occasion of the International Assembly, we focus on specific guidelines which are called **Priority Lines of Action**,which in turn guide the work of all the volunteers from across the AIC network.  Recently AIC has begun to offer an **on-line Diploma** which has as its objectives:   * Providing the volunteers with tools and knowledge in order to cement the fundamental concepts of BEING a part of AIC; * Developing specific competencies in order to DO the work better, thus providing the volunteers with sufficient tools to allow them to carry out organised work and coordinate themselves effectively within their groups; * Increasing the knowledge and the ability of the volunteers with regard to the development of projects, fundraising, social communication and strategic planning; * Developing leadership and professionalism among our AIC members. | **An indispensable**  **requirement**  **On-going training** |

**Communication**

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| **Communication and Visibility**  AIC highlights the importance of **internal and external** communication in order to develop the projects and the activities of the Association.  **Internally**, communication is **fundamental** in:   * **Training** the volunteers; * **Exchanging their experiences** **and knowledge**; * **Spreading AIC's message and image** both within and outside of the Association.   **In its external relations, AIC’s image** is constructed on the basis of the work that groups carry out with people living in poverty. This is the work that gives the association **credibility**.  Moreover, the actions undertaken are presented with total **transparency**, as is the way that the donations have been used to implement these actions.  This credibility should allow AIC to continue its Christian and social mission and to attract new volunteers, donors and partners. Therefore, above all else, the name AIC ought to associated with the idea of credibility.  **Concrete means to achieve visibility**  The present means such as the website and Facebook page help us to communicate with one another and to communicate to others what we are doing. These tools are utilized by AIC International as well as by many national and local groups.   * *Website*: [www.aic-international.org](http://www.aic-international.org) * *Facebook page*: [www.facebook.com/AIC-International-713564958772833/](http://www.facebook.com/AIC-International-713564958772833/) | **Communication and Visibility**  **A fundamental tool**  **Values**   * **Credibility** * **Transparency**   **Website**  **Facebook page** |

**Questions to reflect on in groups:**

1. **For what reasons does on-going training seem important to you as you go about your day-to-day Vincentian work?**
2. **What have you taken away from the training that you have received recently from AIC International?**
3. **List some of the activities that your group utilizes in order to enhance both its internal and external communication.**