

Foundation launches NIAF/Abruzzo Relief Fund

More than \$400,000 donated to Italian government to date

Following the devastating April 6 earthquake in Abruzzo, Italy, the Foundation established the NIAF/Abruzzo Relief Fund to help the victims and communities affected. Every dollar contributed will go directly to the victims.

The earthquake, with a magnitude of 6.3 reported by the U.S. Geological Survey, resulted in the deaths of hundreds of individuals, more than 1,500 people injured and tens of thousands displaced from their homes.

There is no typical donor. Contributors range from a 96-year-old man living in Philadelphia to **Brandon Jennings**, a basketball player from California now living in Rome who contributed \$50,000 to NIAF's relief efforts. But all are united

by the common desire to help and we urge you to join them.

Individuals, corporations and foundations who wish to donate to the **NIAF/Abruzzo Relief Fund** can do so by visiting www.niaf.org/relief. Additionally, donations can be made by check payable to the **NIAF/Abruzzo Relief Fund**, The National Italian American Foundation, 1860 19th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009.



Basketball player **Brandon Jennings**, who lives in Rome, donated \$50,000 to the NIAF/Abruzzo Relief Fund.

NIAF President and Secretary visit site of Abruzzo earthquake

NIAF President **Joseph V. Del Raso**, Esq. and Board Secretary **John F. Calvelli** traveled to Rome and L'Aquila in Italy to meet with prominent officials of the Italian government and the U.S. Embassy. While there, they discussed the allocation of funds collected for the Abruzzo relief efforts and presented a check for \$400,000 to the Italian government.

Del Raso and Calvelli arrived on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, and met with Chargé d'affaires **Elizabeth Dibble** and her staff at the U.S. Embassy in Rome. The NIAF mission also included meetings with **Antonio Manganeli**, director of national police, and

an evening briefing on the current situation in L'Aquila and the region of Abruzzo.

On Wednesday, April 29, a U.S. Embassy cultural officer along with Del Raso and Calvelli traveled to L'Aquila to meet with local government officials including Chief of Protezione Civile **Guido Bertolaso**, Minister of the Interior **Roberto Maroni** and Ambassador **Sergio Vento**. At the site, they announced a partnership between NIAF and the University of Miami in Florida, Sierra Nevada College in Nevada and Villanova University in Pennsylvania to offer full academic scholarships to the displaced students from the University of L'Aquila.



NIAF Board Secretary **John F. Calvelli** and President **Joseph V. Del Raso**, Esq. visit L'Aquila.



NIAF President **Joseph V. Del Raso**, Esq. presents a check for \$400,000 raised through the NIAF/Abruzzo Relief Fund to the Italian government.

NIAF urges you to help adopt a student from L'Aquila

The earthquake also altered the lives of 27,000 students at the University of L'Aquila who were displaced as their university lost buildings and had to close its doors. These students need help and NIAF is dedicated to providing an answer.

The Foundation is working with several universities to provide scholarships for students displaced by this terrible tragedy. To accommodate 125 students from University of L'Aquila for a full academic year in the U.S., NIAF's goal is to raise one million dollars. We hope you will respond to this urgent appeal and become a donor to NIAF's Adopt-a-Student Campaign for L'Aquila Students.

Every dollar you give helps NIAF meet the needs of the displaced students:

\$500 - Covers a student's cost of textbooks and supplies for one semester.

\$1,000 - Covers a student's travel to/from Italy for the

academic year.

\$2,500 - Provides for a student's meal plan for a semester.

\$5,000 - Gives one student housing in a residence hall for two semesters.

\$9,000 - Provides for all non-tuition expenses for one student for the academic year.

* Costs are estimated. Donations of any amount are accepted. All donations are tax deductible.

For more information about the NIAF's Adopt-a-Student Program, contact Serena Cantoni, Director of Education and Culture, at 202-939-3111 or serena@niaf.org.

Adopt-a-Student today by donating at www.niaf.org or send a check to: NIAF/Abruzzo Adopt a Student, 1860 19th Street NW, Washington, DC 20009



NIAF Chairman Emeritus **Frank J. Guarini** and actor **Danny Aiello** at a May 5 benefit dinner held at **Tutta Pasta** restaurant in Hoboken, N.J., to raise funds for Abruzzo relief.



NIAF Regional Vice President Jeffrey M. Capaccio, Esq., actor and director Roberto Benigni and Gianni Succi at a May 26 reception following Benigni's "Tutto Dante" show.

Foundation celebrates West Coast Gala

NIAF celebrated San Francisco's Italian American community at the NIAF West Coast Gala on May 27, 2009 at the Fairmont Hotel. The event was chaired by **Jeffrey M. Capaccio**, Esq., NIAF Regional Vice President for the Far West.

The gala honored philanthropists **John** and **Romana Bracco** in addition to computer software executives **Federico Faggin**, **Giacomo Marini**, and **Pierluigi Zappacosta**.

The evening featured both a live and silent auction, with items up for bid including a Snaidero USA Venus Kitchen, a chance for

eight people to dine with Italy's Consul General for San Francisco, a basketball autographed by the 2008 Men's Olympic Basketball Team, and many other items from Bentley, Ferrari, Logitech, Sony, The Fairmont Hotel, and more.

Prior to the gala, NIAF hosted a private wine and dessert reception on May 26 following the San Francisco performance of **Roberto Benigni's** one-man show, "Tutto Dante." Held at the Fairmont's penthouse, the event celebrated the Academy Award-winning actor and director's U.S. stage debut.



NIAF Board Members Gabriel A. Battista, Dr. John P. Rosa, Robert E. Carlucci, former board member Eva Franchi and board member Joseph M. Della Ratta pose with actor and honoree Paul Sorvino (center).

NIAF takes a bite out of the Big Apple

On May 19, NIAF paid tribute to the Greater New York Area's Italian American Community at the Ambassador's East Coast Gala. Hosted by its namesake, Italian Ambassador to the U.S. H.E. **Giovanni Castellaneta**, and his wife, Lila, the event was chaired by NIAF Board Member **Rocco B. Commisso**, chairman and CEO of Mediacom Communications Corp.

Honorees include **Andrew Dolce** of Dolce Hotels and Resorts, a unique global hospitality company specializing in delivering an exceptional corporate meetings experience; Dr. **James M. Orsini**, M.D., director of medical oncology at Clara Maass Medical Center; **Natale Ricciardi** of Pfizer Corporation, the world's largest research-based pharmaceutical company; and award-winning actor, director and author **Paul Sorvino**.

This exclusive event included a live auction featuring items such as an exclusive dinner for four at RAO's New York, with proceeds benefitting the NIAF/Abruzzo Relief Fund.

Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs gives policy address at U.S. Capitol

On May 7, 2009 the NIAF Public Policy Institute hosted a special policy address in the U.S. Capitol with the Honorable **Franco Frattini**, Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Minister Frattini, who holds a position equivalent to U.S. Secretary of State, addressed an intimate audience consisting of Members of Congress, government officials, and other Washington, D.C., notables. Minister Frattini's speech, "Italy in the Global Outlook," highlighted the Italian Republic's increasingly important role in the new global political climate and the vast opportunities for dialogue at the upcoming

G-8 Summit in L'Aquila in addition to touching on new global partnerships between U.S. and Italian companies.

Italian American Congressional Delegation co-chairmen **Bill Pascrell, Jr.** and **Patrick J. Tiberi** presented Minister Frattini with a U.S. House of Representatives Resolution recognizing the quick and efficient response of the Italian Government during the April earthquake. The resolution specifically mentioned the assistance of the National Italian American Foundation in raising funds for the re-development of the tragedy-stricken area.



NIAF Board President Joseph V. Del Raso, Esq., Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr., Congressman Patrick J. Tiberi and Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Franco Frattini.

NIAF welcomes new leadership

The National Italian American Foundation recently approved the appointment of new officers, in addition to welcoming four new members to the Board of Directors.

Jerry Colangelo will now lead the Foundation as Chairman of the Board, while four new Vice Chairmen have also been appointed: **Paul Chiapparone**, **Hon. Louis J. Freeh**, **Vincent Viola** and **Patricia de Stacy Harrison**. **Joseph V. Del Raso**, Esq., will serve as Board President and **Hon. Marie L. Garibaldi** and **Salvatore M. Salibello** will serve as Executive Vice Presidents while **Gabriel A. Battista** is the Foundation's new Treasurer. **John F. Calvelli** has assumed the role of Secretary



Ciongoli



Aspromonte



Catalfamo



Gioia

of the Board while **Arthur J. Furia**, Esq. is newly appointed General Counsel.

NIAF's Board of Directors recently welcomed four new members: **Kenneth J. Aspromonte**, Prof. **Paolo Catalfamo**, **Adam Ciongoli** and **Eric Gioia**.

Additionally, the board voted to extend Chairman Emeritus status to Dr. **A. Kenneth Ciongoli** posthumously and Board Emeritus to former NIAF President **Salvatore J. Zizza**.



Members in the News

NIAF Board Member **Rocco B. Commisso**, chairman and CEO of Mediacom Communications, received the National Cable & Telecommunications Association's (NCTA) Distinguished Vanguard Award for Leadership at the April 2009 National Cable Show in Washington, D.C. The Distinguished Vanguard Award recognizes individuals who symbolize the highest level of excellence in the cable industry.

Joe Fiorentino, a NIAF member from Lyons, Ill., came in first place at the NAGA Midwest grappling championship on March 15, in the expert heavyweight division. Fiorentino is currently ranked number one in the nation for direct division grappling.

Arthur J. Furia, Esq., NIAF's regional vice president for the Southeast, received the Italian Honor of Cavaliere Ufficiale from the Ambassador Marco Rocca, Miami's consul general. The Italian president bestows the award, which is among the highest honors given by the Italian Government. Furia received the

honor for his dedicated support of the Italian government in the United States.

In October, John Cabot University in Rome officially named its original campus in honor of NIAF Chairman Emeritus Congressman **Frank J. Guarini**. Guarini has served on the university's Board of Trustees since 1995. In 2005, Guarini funded the university's Guarini Institute for Public Affairs and in January 2008, he donated an additional one million dollars to the institution. The campus will bear his name in honor of his many works.

NIAF member **Luciano L'Abate** is the recipient of the 2009 American Psychological Association (APA) Award for Distinguished Professional Contributions to Applied Research. L'Abate will receive the honor during an awards ceremony at the 2009 APA Convention in Toronto, Ontario, in August.

NIAF Board Historian Hon. **Dominic R. Massaro** was re-elected to a third two-year term of office as president of the

American Society of the Italian Legions of Merit. Headquartered in New York City, the society consists of individuals residing in the United States on whom the Republic of Italy has conferred a degree of knighthood. It engages in charitable, chivalric and diplomatic activities to further ties between the United States and Italy.

Monsignor **Peter J. Vaghi**, a Catholic priest, former lawyer and founding member of NIAF, recently published his first book, "The Faith We Profess: A Catholic Guide to the Apostles' Creed." The paperback book is a summary of Catholic beliefs and examines the Apostles' Creed as both a repository of faith and an invitation to further examine the Catholic religion. Vaghi, who currently serves as pastor of The Church of the Little Flower in Bethesda, Md., dedicated the book to his mother, Agnes, a former NIAF Board Member, and his father, Joseph, a founding member of NIAF and prominent Washington, D.C., area architect.



Vaghi

NIAF Partners with Perillo Tours for trips to Italy

NIAF is set to launch an exciting new travel program with Perillo Tours and its sister company, ItalyVacations. Travelers will now have the option to sign up for all-inclusive, fully-escorted tours through select regions of Italy, or to build their own vacation around ItalyVacations' full travel and accommodations services. A portion of every booking using the special NIAF code will go directly to the Foundation.

Stay tuned for more information and details about this special NIAF partnership coming later in the 2009 travel season. Visit www.niaf.org/PerilloTours to see your travel options.

For information about an upcoming event, please contact the NIAF staff member or other contact whose name is provided. NIAF staff can be reached by calling the Foundation headquarters at 202-387-0600.

JUNE

NIAF Language Conference.
June 13, 2009
(Serena Cantoni)

NIAF Teacher of the Year Application Deadline
To learn more, visit
www.niaf.org/programs/teacheroftheyear/index.asp
June 26, 2009
(Serena Cantoni)

AUGUST

NIAF Fifth Annual Golf Tournament
Rockland Country Club/Sparkhill, N.Y.
August 10, 2009
(Johnny Strada)

OCTOBER

NIAF 7th Annual Sarazen Memorial Cup
Hopkinton Country Club/Hopkinton, Mass.
October 12, 2009, 10 a.m.
(Suzanne Delaney)
(978) 851-0200 or sdelaney@rmd-inc.net

NIAF 34th Anniversary Gala Convention Weekend
The Hilton Washington/Washington, D.C.
October 23-24, 2009

Save the date!

Join us for the nation's premier Italian American event!

NIAF 34th Anniversary Gala Convention Weekend

October 23-24, 2009

The Hilton Washington in Washington, D.C.

For more information and early registration,
visit www.niaf.org!

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