

About us

Christian and Franciscan roots

The Institute “San Francesco d’Assisi” in Vasto Marina (CH) was founded in 1965 by Father Alberto Mileno, a Priest from the Province of Abruzzo in the Frati Minori Cappuccini Order.

Following the path of San Francesco the Cappuccini Frairs for centuries have performed acts of charity in many different ways, which include helping people who have many different types of illnesses.

In the heart of tradition

Keeping with this tradition, Father Alberto Mileno founded a Medical, Psychological and Educational Institute of Abruzzo called “San Francesco d’Assisi” to host minors of both sex with medium and slight mental disabilities, with the aim of helping them recuperate in scholastic and social enviroments. He directed the Institute for 10 years until 1976, after this Father Fulgenzio Fantini became director. During this period the Institute became a “Functional Rehabilitation Center ” where all physical, mental or sensory impairments are treated with different treatment modalities: residential, semi-residential, outpatient, home care, extramural.

In 1998 the Foundation was recognised by Onlus and in 1999 it received the Quality Certification (Uni En Iso 9001).

Development of territorial services

Father Fulgenzio extended the services of “San Francesco” by opening other sites in Abruzzo and Molise, with head quarters in Vasto Marina.

In 1980 a new activity began in Gissi, which was summer camp for the head quarters. In 1982 it began the physiokinesitherapy activities, now in the new premises in Platone street. In 1984 a new Ambulatory Center and Family Home “Azzurra” was inaugurated; during the same year formation courses began in Gissi. In 1992 the Day Center of San Giacomo degli Schiavoni (CB) ” was inaugurated. In 1996 a Psychiatric Center was opened in Lebba, in 1997 in Lanciano; and during the same year, in collaboration with AIAS, a Day Center was founded in Sulmona. Also in 1997 in Vasto Marina headquarters the Nursing Home specialized in rehabilitation medicine began working. In 1998 in Ambulatory Center was inaugurated in Termoli. In 2000 two Psychiatric Rehabilitation Residential structures were opened, one in Lanciano and one in Vasto.

From 2002 to 2005 three structures were opened, two Day Centers, 2005 in Avezzano and 2002 in Vasto where they cater for autistic children, for children with development problems and severe mental handicap.

Mission and Vision

The Fondation aims at aiding the growth of their patients with a rehabilitation project that focuses on the person themselves,

with particular attention given to all humanization processes until they reach this objective in the best way possible, giving the patient the autonomy to integrate or reintegrate in every day life, with the possibility of finding a job. This aim because everybody has the right to maximise their potential in personal growth and community service.