



OTB AND OTB FOUNDATION AGAINST COVID-19

Breganze (Italy), April 14, 2021. Since the beginning of the pandemic, **OTB** group and **OTB Foundation** have worked tirelessly to support medical personnel, people affected by the virus and the general population with a wide range of concrete initiatives.

Many of these have seen the active involvement of OTB employees. The latest example is the high number of staff members who have volunteered to support the vaccination roll-out organised by the local public healthcare units. Similarly, they wholeheartedly took part in the initiative to collect basic necessities and second-hand clothing for families experiencing difficulties, projects set up by OTB Foundation in the early months of the emergency. Today, the Foundation confirmed the collaboration that began at the start of the pandemic with the ULSS 7 Pedemontana public healthcare unit to organise the new vaccination facility of Bassano Del Grappa (Vicenza) which will serve over 100,000 people.

Like other companies in the sector, OTB has made some of its own premises available as public anti-Covid vaccination centres and has drawn up a vaccination plan, on a voluntary basis, for its over 2,000 Italian employees.

In this difficult year, the group has ensured the fastest possible resumption of employee activities by adapting its facilities to comply with the new laws relating to the pandemic, for example for the re-opening of the company kindergarten. The 'Brave Garden' was one of the first to re-open in the Veneto region after the lockdown, having been fitted with specialised equipment such as thermal scanners and air purifiers, double lockers for the children, and increasing staff to further subdivide the classes and facilitate the children's return to school.

In 2020 and 2021, OTB Foundation, the group's no-profit organisation, devoted many of its initiatives to help the population cope with Covid-19, taking concrete measures to respond to the new needs created by the health, economic and social crisis. During the pandemic, the Foundation donated almost one million individual protection devices and specialised equipment to more than 100 hospitals, homes for the elderly and other structures throughout Italy. It financed the conversion of hospital wards into Covid areas, and paid the expenses incurred by people with asymptomatic Covid, quarantining away from home in hotels, helping to free up hospital beds. The Foundation also supplied food and pharmaceuticals to families facing serious financial difficulties, also supporting existing food banks and other facilities it is helping to open. Given the prolonged closure of schools, the Foundation donated thousands of tablets to educational establishments across the country to help guarantee access to distance learning to as many students as possible. It also dedicated the latest edition of its annual competition to no-profit organizations engaged in tackling new emergency needs created by the pandemic. The winners were the 'Spesa Sospesa' project, which helps families in difficulty access food and basic necessities, and the 'Job Clinic Online' project, a digital job-search tool for refugees – another category particularly hit by the pandemic. Finally, with the growing problems developing among young people as a result of social distancing, the Foundation continued to conduct its webinar-based programs to prevent gender violence (particularly against women), bullying and cyber-bullying, for thousands of students throughout Italy.

Renzo Rosso, President of OTB and OTB Foundation commented: "I take great pride in the timely response of OTB and OTB Foundation to the unexpected and devastating impact of the virus. We have shown that we are not just a solid and well managed group, but that we have a strong sense of responsibility at every level of our organisation and share values over and beyond business objectives."

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