



## MOBILITY PROJECT STUDY TRIP REPORT



### “VISITS TO LOCAL PROJECTS” ENGLAND & WALES – ITALY

- **Number of participants:** 4
- **Age of participants:** 53, 57, 62 and 67 years
- **Country of origin:** England & Wales (Manchester)
- **Date:** 11 to 16 November 2009



#### → Objectives of study visit:

To find out how the structure of the Saint Vincent de Paul Society operates in Italy locally and in various projects in the field. To visit the various activities set up in a number of towns in Italy. To find out about the inter-generational projects organised by Italian volunteers to care for the poorest people.

→ Activities you took part in: Visiting projects for support and educational assistance for disadvantaged children, and family projects; visit to a centre for the homeless, caring for 43 men and 12 women, and a meeting with the President of the Central Council of Brescia; visit and dinner in Mestre at a canteen providing 120 meals every day to men and women living on the streets; in Turin, a meeting with two officers of the “Volunteering Forum” organisation which works with excluded children and adolescents; visits to the Turin Central Council and several groups of volunteers; visit to a Red Cross centre for asylum seekers and refugees; participation in the solidarity week.

#### → What are the effects of this study trip on your work as volunteers?



The volunteers reported to Manchester Central Council about their study trip, with a presentation. Following several visits to Italy, they are very enthusiastic, and want to develop three new, separate initiatives in their local communities: forming a support group for the bereaved, drawing up a list of organisations locally who work with the needy, to combine forces, drawing inspiration from the Prisoners’ Literature Prize, created in 2001 by the SSVP in Italy.

→ Testimony...: “We were surprised by the level of poverty in Italy, and by the essential help that to be given to those most in need. The journey was a wonderful opportunity to link up with our fellow members in Italy, and see the similarities with our own organisation in England & Wales. Meetings with many volunteers throughout the trip gave the chance to discuss and exchange ideas about our respective work and projects.”