

## SUMMER 2011

The International Youth Festival 2011 took significant steps towards taking part in EXPO 2015. For the first time, we welcomed groups from South America: A folklore group from the University of Valdivia, Chile and the Colombian youth orchestra 'Batuta di Bogota', who performed with young musicians from the Bontempi Music School of Trento in a number of Italian towns. Their final concert was held in Rome, where they met the Pope at the Peoples of South America Meeting. Their concert programme included works by: Brahms, Tchaikovsky and Giuseppe Verdi as well as traditional South American music.

The 2011 Youth Festival was dedicated to the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Unification of Italy. We also strengthened our bonds with Russia on the occasion of the signing of the reciprocal intergovernmental agreement in 2011. We welcomed a delegation of young Russian and Italian students who were cycling along the route taken by the troops of General Suvorov on his Italian campaign against Napoleon Bonaparte. This occasion offered us the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of the legendary Russian general and also to reflect on the destruction that war brings.

As in previous years, you can see all the photos of this summer's activities in the photos section of 'Photos and Magazine', which, we feel sure, will interest all our many friends.

## SUMMER 2012

The United Nations have named 2012, The Year of Sustainable Energy, so the UN General Secretary Ban Ki Moon, has challenged us all to bring about a great transformation. We need a global revolution that will make clean energy available and accessible to everyone. This is an essential part of reducing the risks of climate change and poverty and for improving the general health of our planet, as well as assuring economic growth, peace and security.

Our Casa Montagna, which every year hosts over 2,000 young artists, performers and sports people from 40 nations of the world, will do its part to make sure the UN message becomes reality. Our natural, open air 'gym' in the upper Nure Valley, offers the ideal place to reflect on good deeds and to put them into practice. So, we would like to invite participants at the 2012 Youth Festival to contribute art, writing, photos, films and other projects on this very important theme. We believe that this will help us with our preparations for EXPO 2015, whose theme is: Feeding the Planet – Energy for Life.