

# ABOUT US

The non-profit association 'Friends of Father Pedro' (Amici di Padre Pedro onlus) began in Italy 2007 with the aim to support Father Pedro in his fight against poverty and injustice. Thanks to his relentless work, he has succeeded in giving dignity and hope to thousands of families and children in Madagascar.

Our charity is connected with the French association 'Les amis du Père Pedro' which was created in 1994.

We promote a number of different activities for awareness raising and fund-raising purposes, such as: conferences, documentary videos and photos, christmas cards, solidarity gifts, donations for special events, and many others!

**JOIN US AS A FRIEND  
OF FATHER PEDRO!**

**WE CAN END POVERTY  
TOGETHER.**



Members of the charity with Father Pedro in Rome

# WHAT YOU CAN DO

## Make a donation to Friends of Father Pedro

Amici di Padre Pedro onlus  
Banca Popolare Etica  
Via Parigi 17 - 00185 Rome, Italy

IBAN: IT41 C050 1803 2000 0000 0122 121  
Swift code: CCRTIT2T84A

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



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Father Pedro with his staff



# FRIENDS OF FATHER PEDRO



**FOR A WORLD  
WITHOUT POVERTY**



AMICI DI PADRE PEDRO ONLUS

# FATHER PEDRO

Father Pedro Pablo Opeka exemplifies a new type of missionary: not someone committed to converting and preaching, but someone fully dedicated to the poor, helping them to build their future.

Born to a family of Slovenian origin who emigrated to Argentina after World War II, as a boy he worked as a mason alongside his father. He was passionate about football and yearned to become a professional soccer player.

Father Pedro surrounded by children



But at 15, he dediced to enter the seminary of the Vincentian (Lazarist) fathers. In September 1975, he was ordained priest in Buenos Aires and shortly after began life as a missionary in Madagascar.

**In 1989**, he was sent to Antananarivo to head a seminary, but seeing the landfill from the hills of the city, he discovered people rummaging among garbage to find something to eat and sleeping in huts made of hemp propped between mountains of waste.

Father Pedro began talking to them, to convince them that they could leave that misery and abuse. This is how Akamasoa ("good friends" in the local language) started ...



From extreme poverty



to a life with dignity!

## AKAMASOA

Akamasoa is a wonderful **example of solidarity** towards the people from Madagascar. It began in 1989, when families living in the garbage dump listened to Father Pedro's appeal and decided to fight for a better life.

Thanks to his relentless work, the support of charities from all over the world, and generous donations, Akamasoa is today **a community of 17,000 people** on the edge of Antananarivo, where families who seemed condemned to a life of poverty can now receive medical care in a real hospital, send their children to school, live in a brick house, earn a living through a proper job.



Press conference in Rome

## 20 YEARS LATER

Each year, 30,000 people get assistance at Akamasoa and 9,000 children go to school. In 20 years, the shelter took care of over **250,000 people**.

This is the result of the continuous hard work from Father Pedro, who created **17 villages** in the capital and in other regions of Madagascar.

It is the achievement of those who took sides with the people who had been let down by society and left to live in rubbish heaps or in the streets, wearing rags, without hygiene, without instruction, counting only on their own strength and love.

## THERE IS STILL A LOT TO DO

- **increase number of brick houses** to provide accomodation for dispossessed families and single-mother households with many children;
- **construct new classrooms for primary, middle and high school** to offer education and future opportunities to children and young people;
- **extend the shelter** to ensure that all the needy can get treatment and care, in particular medicines, food, clothes, blankets.

