

## Hundreds of children have decorated the “Smile Tree”

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The snow did not stop the initiative of “*Ponte del Sorriso ONLUS*” that, in the morning of Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> December, gathered elementary school children in Monte Grappa Square to decorate the large fir tree.

Indeed, this year, the Christmas Tree in the heart of the city is dedicated to the new maternal paediatric hospital.

A tree for children, decorated by children, who, on Wednesday, filled the city centre with the enthusiasm that distinguishes them. In fact, the elementary schools that adhered to the project were about twenty and they had been working for months to create big silver stars to decorate the tree. Along with their teachers, the children arrived in the square and, thanks to the help of the firefighters, they started to decorate the tree.

In the square there was also Walter Bergamaschi, director of the Varese Hospital, who commented, “It’s a great initiative and this is a project that must stick in the minds and the hearts of the citizens. Next year, at the time when we decorate the tree, the work for the second part of the new pediatric hospital will already be started.”

Next to him, *councillor* Enrico Angelini, in charge of the promotion of the Territory, *councillor* Patrizia Tomassini, in charge of the education policies of the City of Varese and Emanuela Crivellaro, head of “*Il Ponte del Sorriso*”, “Every one can take part in this project and ‘adopt’ a whole room in the new hospital or just a brick. The important thing is not how much is given, but the taking part. *Buosi Pasticceria* has created *Il Ponte del Sorriso* chocolate candy, and buying just a piece of it means giving us a hand.”

A nice event, then, which, together with offering a merry morning to the city, wants to underline the commitment for such an important project. Many were the silver stars that gave a touch of colour to that morning, which finished in front a hot chocolate offered by the members of the *Alpini troops*.

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