

# From the NIAF Chairman



**D**uring times of hardship, we often find our greatest strength. Such has been the case with the recent April earthquake in Abruzzo, which left 300 dead and many more homeless.

In the days following this natural disaster, Italian Americans across the United States rallied to lend support to the victims and communities affected by the quake. Our numbers are worthy of pride — more than 1,830 people have contributed to the NIAF Abruzzo Relief Fund; NIAF officials are working with the Italian government to determine how the funds can best be spent. Additionally, NIAF's Adopt-A-Student Fund will help students of the University of L'Aquila, which closed its doors for repairs following the quake, find scholarships at American universities and provide them with room and board.

There is no typical contributor — they range from 96-year-old man in Philadelphia to Brandon Jennings, a basketball player from California now living in Rome who contributed \$50,000 to

NIAF's relief efforts. But all are united by a common factor: their love of Italy and their desire to help.

It is with compassion and concern for our shared future that we look to a new, modern era of relations between the United States and Italy. I take great pride in NIAF's role as a bridge between our two nations and hope you will share NIAF with your friends and family, join us at Foundation events and join in our excitement for the future.

This issue also features the inclusion of the new *NIAF News*, streamlined and conveniently packaged within *Ambassador* so that readers can find all their important NIAF information in one place. Each issue of *Ambassador* magazine will now feature this interior *NIAF News* section. We hope this allows us to better connect you to our many activities.

Jerry Colangelo, NIAF Chairman

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