



ITALY

VIA MARCO POLO 1

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TORTA SALATA □
1 SROGLIA □
1 MOZZARELLA □
1 BRACCOLO □
2 TORTELINI PANNA
AL CACCIUCCA □
1 PANNA □
1 BISCOTTATI □
1 LATTE □
1 CARTA VELLUM MINIO □
10 FEBBRAIO 2020
3 - 4 - 6 - 3 - 16 - 4
GIORNO LUNEDÌ
0981 e 10
CASSA ATL





Lorenzo folds his pyjamas.

Disability: is co-housing the way to independence?

- ▶ After the death of their parents, sometimes people with disabilities no longer have anyone to take care of them.
- ▶ Not fully self-sufficient, they are usually sent to assisted communities.
- ▶ Various third sector organizations have developed co-housing projects, where people with disabilities live together in small groups.
- ▶ Usually cohabiting involves sharing domestic chores as well as moments for social life and togetherness.
- ▶ Co-housing is a solution that cultivates independence, integration and an existence that is as all about normality.

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Matteo and Lorenzo at the local grocery shop.



Erica supervises a class at the school where she works.



The house keys belonging to Lorenzo, Erica and Matteo.



Matteo, Lorenzo and Erica.

It is the big question for parents whose children have disabilities: "What will happen when we're gone?" What becomes of people with autism or Down's syndrome once their parents die? Usually these individuals don't have problems living an integrated life during their school years, but after? What becomes of them? Usually there is only one real option for people with disabilities after their parents die and that is to move to an assisted community. In Italy for some years now, also thanks to the law n. 112 of June 2016 that explicitly refers to "living autonomy", various third sector organizations have been developing co-housing projects. Co-housing is a new approach that enables people who are not fully self-sufficient to live independent lives in small groups.

"On Sunday evenings, when I arrive at the apartment I see my friends. First I prepare the bed, after I make the dinner and prepare the breakfast for the morning," explains Lorenzo, who, together with Erica and Matteo, is part of a co-housing project in the province of Vincenza. Promoted by the Associazione Contro l'Esclusione as part of the project Chiavi di Casa (house keys), the initiative involves three people aged in their thirties who have disabilities. "We take turns to prepare meals, to wash up, shower and do the cleaning. On Tuesdays we go to the gym. Sometimes we invite friends round for dinner or colleagues for tea." They are currently sharing the apartment on alternate weeks but the idea of the project is to give them the means to experience co-housing full-time. In spite of their disabilities, thanks to early intervention educational programmes, the youngsters developed a desire for their own autonomy and independence from their families. "Sometimes Giulia, the outreach worker comes to see what we're doing," explains Lorenzo, "and sometimes she brings her black cat Gastone."



Lorenzo on his way to have a shower.



Matteo at the supermarket.



Lorenzo, Erica and Matteo share a group hug at the end of a cohousing week.



Lorenzo at the nursery where he works.



Matteo loads the dishwasher.



Matteo and Lorenzo at the supermarket.



Erica takes the bus to work.



Lorenzo and Matteo in the room they share.



Lorenzo checks the notice board at the nursery where he works.



Lorenzo and Matteo have dinner.



At the gym.



Erica waits for the bus to go to work.



Dinner time.



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