



Comitato  
Collaborazione  
Medica

BURUNDI ETIOPIA KENYA MALI SOMALIA SUD SUDAN ITALIA

CAMBIARE PARTECIPANDO



by **Marilena Bertini**  
President of CCM

## A Special Man

**Giuseppe Meo** left us on 28th January 2013 after meeting and helping so many lives here in Italy and there in Africa. His travel was intense, rich of emotions, actions, free from rules but guided by values.

**His activity in Africa** was continual, deep and grounded on respect. He has always acted in the belief he was responding to a right unjustly denied to the poorest, the right to health. Beside treatment he gave them attention, understanding and dignity. And he was always thanking them: for giving him the possibility to help them and for keeping alive his passion and his drive not to stop in front of difficulties despite weariness and routine habits.

For many he was a **master**. For all, both those who saw him every day and those who attended his lectures, he was a source of human, intellectual and spiritual enrichment. **In the many witnesses arrived at CCM**, it is common to find expressions like cooperation based on manhood, deep relationships and love for the others, life lived at the others' service, with immense modesty,

touching dedication and full coherence. Let's recall some **notes of his character**: his smile which has always been warning and encouragement for those who walked with him for a part of their path; his meaningful silences; his rare fits of anger, which though brief were followed by apologies for days; his serenity and his joy to share his path with others; his passion, irony, shyness; the stories he used to tell. And above all the love and respect with which he talked of his friends in South Sudan.

In his engagement, perseverance and bounty CCM finds values and inspiration: the drive to respect diversity, the fight to grant adequate health services to people living in the poorest areas of Africa. Dear Pino, the legacy you left us is great, vibrant and challenging. We are taking it, together with all the volunteer doctors who met you and who discovered Africa with you. CCM does not quit and, made strong by your guidance, it will go on in order to reach the goals we identified together and together we began to pursue.

*I hope I helped you feel the importance of the problems, I hope my testimony didn't lessen them but conveyed the awareness that the matter is momentous, much work has to be done but a way out is viable, if not for us for our children or most likely for our grandchildren. Even if the work is not yet near its end, as the Rabbi said "It's not for you to finish the work but you are not free to abstain from it".*

From the book "Sick Africa" by Giuseppe Meo.



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## [ MEMBERS ASSEMBLY ]

by **Marilena Bertini**  
President of CCM

# Volunteering and Professionalism

*"The ethics of international volunteering is an offer of hard and dangerous life... we are called to walk and risk something, ready to struggle and defeats. Those should be accepted with aloofness and modesty. We should not be exalted by surgical successes and not despair in front of defeats. Africa can give us an ideal full of dignity, something bigger than life we can fight for. I will tread this path only once: may my life have some meaning, even if unknown by many."* From the book **"Sick Africa"** by Giuseppe Meo.

With this abstract from Pino Meo's book I thought I can introduce a short synthesis of the Members assembly held on 2nd March, focused on volunteering and professionalism. Professional volunteering is perhaps the character which most defines CCM. CCM volunteers have always been professionals who offer their knowledge and expertise for rights too often denied. The choice to devote a part

of one's life to work as a volunteer or an international development worker in a project of international cooperation is not choosing a work like any other. This choice is perceived both by the one who makes it and by the general imagination as an ethical and moral decision **more than a technical and professional one**.

In a room full of volunteers, employees and sympathizers of CCM, the latest assembly meant to find again the spirit and the strength characterizing the association and to examine together the significance of being a CCM volunteer. The discussion has been fruitful, with chronicles of missions and workouts to define our deepest reasons. In short we found a slogan which identifies the qualities of CCM professional volunteer: **TO KNOW, TO KNOW HOW TO BE AND TO KNOW HOW TO DO AND HOW TO MAKE PEOPLE DO**.

TO KNOW how the place of the mission is, and which pathologies and technologies are there.

TO KNOW HOW TO BE and TO KNOW HOW TO DO describe the ability to cooperate with local people and identify critical points and possible solutions, TO KNOW HOW TO MAKE PEOPLE DO indicates the policy of training on the job and the need to transfer knowledge and expertise to local staff so that they can be independent in a short time.

The meeting was very productive both on a professional and on a personal level. The passion and the thirst for justice we breathed would have made Pino proud of his teaching. CCM will continue his mission knowing how important it is to be there and work for and with the others. **Thank you from all of us Mayodit, we'll continue on the same path we began together, the path which your gestures and your words made known to many.**

*Sick Africa BY Giuseppe Meo, published by Harmattan, can be purchased at CCM office, Via Ciriè 32/E, Turin*

by **Filippo Spagnuolo**  
Executive Director of CCM

## 2013... a difficult year

CCM is a dynamic association that in the last few years has been able to undergo deep renewal and endure inner and outer challenges by a world with rapidly changing needs. But how should we move in 2013? I think we can highlight some important points which will play a role in our decisions:

- The **economic crisis** makes fundraising for NGOs more and more difficult. On one side both public institutions and single individuals have less financial availability, on the other the economic problems of many Italian families reduce the feeling that the interventions of international cooperation are a priority.
- The **political situation in Italy**, characterized by uncertainty about fulfilling the pledge made to the international community.
- The **complexity of reality** which requires diffuse networks but at the same time demands clear and acknowledged identity and mission.
- **Innovation** and **learning ability** are

strongly requested from the organizations which must be able to evaluate results and recognize mistakes.

Practically, in 2013 CCM plans to increase its activities: beneficiaries will pass from 470,000 to over 540,000, whereas the spending for activities will go from 4 to 4.7 million euros.

In Italy such increase depends on the diffusion of the campaign Smiles of African Mothers, whereas in Africa the following facts are crucial:

- In Burundi we will start a pilot project in neonatology and we will intensify the activities in the European Commission project on violence.
- In Ethiopia we will begin a project in Bale and we will intensify our activities in Filtu area.
- In South Sudan we will increase our activities against pandemics and in favour of mothers and children health.

In 2013 we have to face several problems: CCM will have to proceed with its actions in

two Ethiopian regions and in South Sudan through the realization of new projects. Economically we must start corrective actions in order to reduce the use of resources, presently calculated at about 420,000 euros. These challenges may be overcome only if our NGO can complete the changes begun some years ago, as follows:

- **enhancing its being an association**, involving new members, finding local roots through new supporting groups, creating strategic alliances with partners sharing the same visions. This is particularly so this year when the association appointments are to be renewed.
- **Keeping the interventions at high standards**, supporting them through adequate fundraising and improving their assessment and evaluation.

The latest members assembly saw a very high participation of volunteers, members, friends and collaborators. If we succeed in taking with us the enthusiasm and the passion present that day we can win all the challenges!

## [ VOLUNTEERING IS... ]

by **Marcello Subrizi**  
Volunteer Doctor at CCM

### The testimony of Marcello Subrizi

# Putting Oneself to the Test

My experience as a professional volunteer began in 2010, only three years ago. Actually the idea of going on a mission to developing countries has always intrigued me, since when I first arrived at Cuneo hospital. Life events made me put away that wish, which in time became just a dream. Three years ago I was lucky to meet Pino Meo and his passionate enthusiasm; he introduced me to CCM and to its international development activities in Africa. I began to collaborate with CCM giving a lesson in the Course of Tropical and Infectious Diseases, the topic of my specialization. Then one day Pino announced he was soon leaving for a mission in South Sudan and I went with him.

So began my story as a professional volunteer. Now I'm leaving once a year, always for South Sudan, Tularei hospital. My activity in that structure consists of internal medicine consulta-

tions for outpatients and, in my latest mission, support to the laboratory.

If I had to explain the meaning of professional volunteering for me I would say it's **putting myself to the test**. At least it's been that way for me. When I decided to leave for my first mission I was somewhat afraid: I wondered if I could achieve what I was requested to do. The African context, so essential and poor, is completely different from the one I was accustomed to in my work. I chose to challenge myself, to test my skills and capacity on the field, joining professionalism and solidarity. My surprise at the first impact with the African reality was huge. I was welcomed with great sympathy by the staff of Tularei hospital. **I really felt at home**. It was an emotion difficult to describe in words, but I felt easy from the very first moment and my fears disappeared. The poverty and the essentiality of means, which so much

worried me, became a resource for me. They made my skills more solid and helped my capacities grow. Every mission was a challenge; understanding I can contribute to a project like the one undertaken by CCM makes me proud and confident.



Peter Taliente, MD CCM's volunteer.

by **Francesca Pieralli**  
CCM country coordinator  
for Kenya and Somalia

### The story of Francesca Pieralli

## An invaluable gain

Nugal Region in Puntland, Somalia, is inhabited by **650,000 people**, 15,000 of whom refugees from other conflict areas of the country and camped in temporary refugee camps. In the capital Garowe there is only one hospital: **Garowe General Hos-**



At Garowe General Hospital, Somalia

**pital (GGH)**. Here CCM has been engaged since 2010. The daily challenges that the hospital health staff has to face are manyfold: the hospital lacks funds to pay the staff and the structural costs and above all it lacks doctors and qualified nurses.

An analysis carried on by CCM together with the Health Coordination Committee of the GGH demonstrates that the shortage is particularly worrying in three fundamental departments where lifesaving interventions are more frequent: maternity, emergency and surgery. The improvement of clinical services and treatments may significantly contribute to better health for the people living in the Nugal region. To answer these needs CCM, with the project **"Support to the Health System Delivery in Somalia: Garowe Hospital"**,

wants to form a pool of volunteer specialized doctors available to perform quarterly missions in Puntland, to train the GGH health staff.

**The international experts** will observe and assist local doctors and nurses, guiding them to carry on protocols and procedures and supporting them in the choice of the best treatment. A close interaction between the international volunteer experts and the local health staff will also facilitate to monitor the application of guidelines and protocols and will assure the fast correction of mistakes in patients' care. Thanks to their experience, the volunteers will bring an invaluable gain to the project, contributing to improve the quality of services offered by the GGH and its efficiency.

## [ VOLUNTEERING IS... ]

by **Silvia Trentini**  
PR Manager

### Giorgio Olivero tells his story

## Not only successes, troubles too



Giorgio Olivero during a mission with Pino Meo in South Sudan

Giorgio Olivero is a CCM volunteer doctor who took part in several missions. In the light of his experiences it has been possible to converse with him about positive aspects and **possible difficulties** encountered during a mission. *“Not all missions are successful and attain the goals planned at the start”* says Giorgio, *“Our latest mission in Kenya met logistic and operational difficulties which decidedly limited our possibilities of action”*. At Sololo hospital Giorgio’s activity crashed with the limited number of patients admitted, due to the great distance from villages and also to economic and cultural barriers. The scanty clinical in

particular surgical activity and the frustration caused by the feeling of missing the point were made up for by “an important cultural enrichment, coming from the relationship with the population, not only at the hospital but also during visits to the villages and convivial gatherings with local people”, explains Dr Olivero. The importance of witnesses from the missions reporting positive and negative aspects of the activities confirm the value of volunteering: a precious contribution to bring medical assistance to local people but also to listen to their voices and opinions in case new considerations and strategies are needed.

by **Stefania Morri**  
Volunteer doctor for CCM,  
presently at Filtu, Ethiopia

### Stefania Morri’s viewpoint

## Hope in the Future

#### **The sky over Filtu**

*Something special happens to time at Filtu, I’m pretty sure. It’s as if it dilated. One week seems one month and one month lasts much much longer. And in this temporal distortion you’re completely sucked up. The hospital very well mirrors this sensation, you have the feeling to be suspended in a parallel dimension, where sheer peace crashes with the tragedies often hidden behind the wards’ walls. There are not the typical queues of people waiting at the door of the clinic, there is not the noise of children or of women cooking for the patients, all things you would expect in an African hospital. But you perceive the misery in the face of a girl whose leg had to be amputated because of a necrotizing fasciitis and who risked not waking up after the intervention but was stronger than Streptococcus; in the moaning of a refugee woman waiting for a colostomy and for some relative who can give her blood for transfusion; in the load of uncertainty about the future. But on the back-*



At Filtu during outreach activity

*ground you clearly have the feeling that something is moving. There is the daily activity of the operation theatre supported by CCM, the coming and going of obstetric nurses in the maternity ward; the cheerfulness and enthusiasm of the obstetric nurse Desalegn, new pal of adventures; the noise of workers building the Maternity Waiting Room;*

*the rising pediatrics ward; the laundry of Health Extension Workers attending training courses; the new water cisterns for the hospital; the rehabilitation program of Handicap International. Many bricks, many contributions from ours and other organizations which make us hope in a pinker future, or maybe blue like Filtu’s sky.*

## [ VOLUNTEERING IS... ]

by **Alice Fissore**  
Civilian duty at CCM

# Interview to Aldo Bordigoni Action for the others

Aldo Bordigoni, pediatrician with CCM for many years, tells us his personal experience as a volunteer doctor in Burundi, an experience begun almost by chance over thirty years ago.

### **How and when did you begin to feel the desire to work in Africa?**

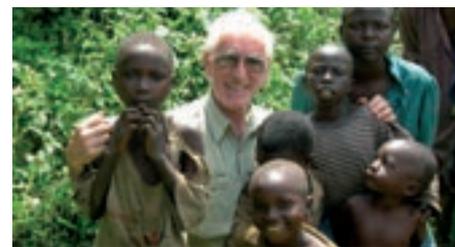
Since the 80s I have always gone on a mission to Africa once a year, usually for one month during Summer holidays. It all began almost by chance. I read an ad in the magazine "Medico d'Italia": an association was looking for a pediatrician for a mission to Africa. The ad arrived at the right moment: I had found a balance in my life, I had a job and wanted to do

something out of my family, do something for the others, the most in need. So began my new experience; for two or three years I took part in missions as a pediatrician with no connection with NGOs, just where it was most needed.

### **What is the attitude of your colleagues and of your family toward this passion of yours?**

I can say I have always been appreciated not only by my colleagues and family but also by the people living in my town and by local institutions. Since the first missions I have organized meetings to share my experiences and make people aware of the real essence

of Africa, so far from the distorted vision given by the media today. Surely the impact of television disheartened me. It has become difficult for me to report the reality of Africa. Despite that I still think there is still room for action. For all of us.



Aldo Bordigoni with some children he follows up

by **Sabina Tangerini**  
Manager for Education to  
World Citizenship

## Civilian duty at CCM Training and Active Citizenship

It's been ten years since when I did my civilian duty at CCM and many things have changed. Three things stroke me in the beautiful old location of CCM, an art-nouveau mansion by the hills: the maps of Sudan and Ethiopia hanging on the walls (for me still undistinguishable pieces in the African puzzle), the typical piedmontese silence in the office and the absence of anybody under 40. My first encounter with CCM was when I was interviewed for my civilian duty. I didn't do very well if I think about it, but it was the dawn of civilian duties (the second time in Italy, the first application for CCM) and we were only three to apply for four vacancies. The beginner's good luck...

That mansion by the hills soon became our second home. We used to remain in the office till late in the evening after everybody left; often we ended up locked inside. I remember I even spent one Saturday night with my friends in the room on the first floor in order to prepare the posters for the first CCM picture exhibition. Finally, among the posters just finished, cans of glue and scraps of cardboard, while somebody slept on the table, we began to discuss of utopias and failure of development plans (some

topics are evergreen!). In those months, though I didn't realize it, my friends and I, while discovering Rumbeck and Filu in the maps and learning how to use Power point, were taking part into a slow but progressive change of CCM. If you look back and compare the starting and the final point, you are always tempted to make up a nice story and explain the present as the result of a pre-ordained plan. Often it's a funny mix of circumstances and schizophrenic will to lead us where we are.

The introduction of civilian duty in 2003 has been the occasion for young people without medical background to enter CCM and schools seemed the most natural place where the ideas and skills of those young people could be useful. I have always thought, maybe selfishly and mistakenly, that the presence of a sensitizing mission was more a lucky circumstance which allowed me to have a role in CCM than a rational choice made by the organization thirty years before.

The 22 civilian volunteers working in these years participated in the life of CCM in various ways: developing the EAS sector, dealing with media and supporting the projects in Africa also thanks to two successful

projects of civilian duty abroad. Perhaps because of my history, today I cannot think of CCM without the civilian duty projects. Two of the youngest sectors of CCM, education to development and the group about health and migration, were born thanks to the drive of young people on civilian duty and to that curious mixture of good will and circumstances which allowed their development.

Thinking it over, ten years after the first project not all has really changed. I still happen to find myself, not as a volunteer but as an employee, musing upon utopias and failures of NGOs. Nowadays I share those reflections with Anna (civilian duty) and Franco (volunteer) while we perfect the details of role-playing games or share the stuff for the school meeting of the following day. Without Anna and Franco, without Laura, Chiara and all those who came before them we could have not reached the almost 400 kids we'll work with in 2013. To many, beside opening a possibility of training and active citizenship, Civilian Duty allowed to transform passion into work, as it happened to me. My wish is that the same privilege may reward the ones who now share my "night" wondering.

## [ SUPPORTING CCM ]

by **Alessandra Gerbo**  
Business Manager,  
CCM Fundraising

# To give a smile to African mothers and children Centro Gioco Educativo beside CCM

Centro Gioco Educativo is a group of “historical” shops in Turin and Piedmont. Memories of many adults of our region are bound to this name, which has worked since 1973 believing that playing is not only fun but an opportunity for development and intellectual growth for the child. Toys of Centro Gioco Educativo are characterized by quality and pedagogic contents, important aspects which want to favour the development of fantasy, creativity, self-confidence and emotional involvement. In the years Centro Gioco Educativo has grown, without yielding to fashions or market lures and today it counts about 15 shops in all Piedmont. A story which has many points in common with the one of Comitato di Collaborazione Medica, which was born 40 years ago in Turin and still carries on its mission for the right to health with seriousness and sobriety. Not by chance did Centro Gioco Educativo choose to endorse the campaign Smiles of African Mothers signing a three-years contract; in 2013 this will become a contribute aimed to grant treatment and vaccination to 150 children in Ethiopia and the delivery of 500 mosquito nets in South Sudan. “The encounter with CCM, explains **Gian-**

**carlo Rizzo**, one of the owners of Centro Gioco Educativo, happened by chance, but at the right time. We were looking for a clue, an idea to transform into a concrete action what we considered an ethic priority. We believe that helping who’s less lucky matches the spirit of our enterprise. In the past we have already done something of the kind but always as individuals and episodically. This time we have decided to accept the offer of CCM to build a long-lasting relationship leading to concrete results.”

The first fruit of the collaboration will be the initiative “**Giving a smile is easy**” beginning in March and lasting the whole Spring: all sale points of Centro Gioco Educativo will give customers postcards usable as greeting cards inviting to support the campaign first of all by donating 5 per thousand of income taxes. “The collaboration with Centro Gioco represents a new bond, says CCM Director **Filippo Spagnuolo**, linking the direct involvement of the firm with the will to involve customers too. An important choice allowing CCM and Smiles of African Mothers to reach many people and advertise the goals we want to achieve by 2015 for the right to health”. Filippo Spagnuolo con-



cludes with the hope that the collaboration be fruitful for both and may last a long time. “In 2013 there will be the possibility to plan more initiatives together and to address the shop-goers and not only them, exploiting the existing affinity and creating combined operations.”

To be updated about news, coming events and actions carried on in Africa you can visit the websites of CCM and of Centro Gioco Educativo (<http://www.centrogiocoeducativo.com/>) or subscribe to the respective newsletters.

by **Filippo Spagnuolo**  
Executive Director of CCM

## Life-changing inheritances

For CCM the year 2012 could have been definitely different under the economic viewpoint if two extraordinary facts hadn’t occurred which changed the results of fundraising.

In December 2012 the long negotiation connected to the heredity of Mr D’Ubaldo finally came to an end and after 4 years CCM could receive 1 million euros according to the choice of the benefactor.

**It is a very important amount of money** because it permits us to face the next 2 or 3 years with more tranquility, especially in a period like the one we are living in. The donation has been particularly important because it allowed us to embark on a deeply changing process at the end of

2008 and to empower CCM making it what it is today. It’s no exaggeration to say that without that inheritance the association would be completely different or perhaps wouldn’t exist at all.

In 2012 CCM also received 80,000 euros from Caterina and Vittorio Sartore. Part of the money has been immediately used to contribute to the **building of the Centre for Training, Research and Treatment in the community of Adi Shum Dhun in Tigray**. This will be the only teaching structure in the whole region and will serve the health workers of the clinics and health centres scattered in the territory. I have described those facts as exceptional but perhaps that’s not true, because already in

the past CCM donors used that way to support our projects, with less conspicuous but all the same very important inheritances. Starting from this consideration CCM decided to begin a discussion on legacies with its members, friends and supporters. It’s a delicate subject, which automatically triggers various kinds of exorcisms but reality prompts us to contemplate this option so fundamental for the development and survival of our association.

We will keep you informed on our next steps but in the meantime, on behalf of all CCM and of the people benefited by its projects in Italy and Africa, once again thank you, Mr D’Ubaldo and Mrs and Mr Sartore!

## [ FIVE PER THOUSAND TO CCM ]



*Dear friends and supporters,*

*With the approaching of the income tax declaration I want to thank all the ones who have supported us with the so-called 5 per thousand in the last years. I would have liked to thank each of you because every single contribute is very important. Unluckily as an organization we only receive the number of donors and the total amount of money. That's why I decided to thank you through the newsletter.*

*I want to thank the over 1,170 people who helped us with their income tax 5 per thousand in 2011 giving us 58,000 euros to support the projects for women and children health in Sub-Saharan Africa. Thanks to your support through the so-called 5 per thousand we could grant a safe childbirth to over 4,600 women and treatment to over 79.000 children providing health staff adequately trained and moving them around to the remotest villages.*

*These activities are crucial because they allow us to prevent severe diseases such as measles, diphtheria, tetanus and poliomyelitis through the vaccination of mothers and children, to admit to the hospital the women with complicated labour and to treat cases of malnutrition.*

*I also want to thank tax consultants, firms, stores and volunteers who every year help us deliver the information about this type of donation. In fact many people don't yet know that the choice of donating 5 per thousands of the income tax does not imply any extra cost and may be done by anybody who has a CUD even if in the absence of an income tax declaration.*

*I invite you to support us also this year through the 5 per thousand which will be used for the projects of the campaign Smiles of African Mothers. It's a small deed which doesn't cost anything but can restore the smile in many women and children. In the next page you'll find how to give your 5 per thousand to CCM.*

*As always you can call us by phone or visit us in via Ciriè 32/e, Turin.*

*Thanks a lot to all of you!*

**Marilena Bertini**  
President of CCM

## Where what when...

**2 april 2013**

**Torino, Circolo Amantes,  
Via Principe Amedeo**

Evening with the artists who dedicated their murals to the campaign Smiles of African Mothers and sale of their paintings in favour of CCM.

**18 may 2013**

**Torino, Villa Glicini,  
Valentino Park**

Day dedicated to the campaign Smiles of African Mothers with the testimonial Margherita Granbassi world and olympic foil champion who will entertain children, fencing fans and sport lovers.

**30 may 2013**

**Addis Abeba, Etiopia  
Centro Culturale Italiano**

Preview of the new section dedicated to Ethiopia of the exhibition Smiles of African Mothers which will be opened on 21 June 2013 in piazza Carlo Alberto in Turin. Shots were taken by Magnum photographer Bieke Depoorter in health centres supported by CCM in Somali region and Bale.



photo courtesy of Larry Towell/Magnum Photos

## Five per thousand... smiles of African mothers

Also this year it is possible to allocate the so-called 5 per thousand to CCM. A simple and costless way to support CCM projects for mothers and children health in Africa.

### How to do it?

- When you fill in the income tax form (730, CUD, modello unico) sign in the space **“sostegno al volontariato”** (support to volunteer associations) and write the CCM fiscal code **97504230018**
- You can do it even if you do not make any income tax declaration! In that case you just sign the form attached to CUD and add CCM fiscal code, put everything into an envelope writing “choice for the destination of 5 per thousand” and hand it over to the bank, the post office or a tax office.

### What is that?

So-called 5 per thousand is a small percentage of taxes, given up by the government in favour of associations with social purposes. It does not substitute the so-called 8 per thousand and it does not increase or decrease due taxes.

### Pass the word!

Help us advertise this message with your colleagues, friends and relatives. You may download information from our site **www.ccm-italia.org** or pass by our office to get flyers.

Our fiscal code **97504230018** your signature to give a smile to thousands of children and women in Africa.

## HOW YOU CAN SUPPORT US

Bank transfer to the checking account: COMITATO COLLABORAZIONE MEDICA specifying as the reason for payment: Campagna Sorrisi di madri africane

- **Bank Account Number: 1735 Swift/BIC Code: BCITITMX**  
**IBAN: IT82 0033 5901 6001 0000 0001 735**  
**CAB: 01600 ABI: 03359 CIN: 0**



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