



## **Chantal Consolini Thiébaud**

Inspired by Joseph Wresinski's words during the first World Day for Overcoming Poverty in 1987, "And you, young people, who are impatient for justice and for the truth, what are you going to do in your schools, in your universities and in your youth clubs?", Chantal became an ally in Besançon. Where she was studying geology at the time. The impact of her time as an ally and the training she received from other allies and Volunteer Corps members, leads her to become a Volunteer Corps herself member in 1995. During this time she discovered how ATD Fourth World is truly an international organization.

In Marseille and in Lille, France Chantal works with families and with local partners. All seeking to involve those in extreme poverty in the creation of neighbourhood projects where no one is left out. As a member of the Taporí international coordination team, then based in Switzerland she has contact with children throughout the world. Many do not wait for adults to let them build friendships or peace when both often seem impossible. For six years she runs ATD Fourth World People's University in the Paris region. At the same time, she participated in the international research on the Hidden Dimensions of Poverty. She discovers alongside Fourth World activists the challenge of being co-researchers equal with academics and professionals.

For just over a year, she has been a member of the regional coordination team for Europe. She is aware of the eagerness of ATD Fourth World members across Europe to meet and encourage each other in their work. Born in a small village in the eastern France, near the border with Switzerland Chantal grew up experiencing solidarity within rural communities. Her childhood also created a strong bond with nature. Chantal is married to Emmanuel and together they have two children, Celia and Alban. She says: "It is thanks to their support and that of my family, my father, my sisters and my brother that I make myself available to serve ATD Fourth World which has been my life for over 35 years. I join the new International Leadership Team with a mixture of enthusiasm and fear. I will try to live up to your trust and for that, I will need you."