

SJAF e-Magazine



ST JEANNE ANTIDE FOUNDATION

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THE IRENE PROJECT – one aspect of outreach work

by Maria Tagliaferro, Volunteer Social Support Worker

I bless the day when, a few years ago, I accepted to do voluntary work at the Foundation. Since then, I have never looked back. Last year, I changed my Volunteering role and joined the Foundation's IRENE Project team as a Volunteer Social Support worker with duties at the project's Dar Hosea – a drop-in centre for vulnerable women involved in street based prostitution.



An important aspect of the Irene Project is outreach work. Just before Christmas, the Irene Project started a new type of outreach at the Corradino Correctional Facility (CCF). In agreement with the CCF management, Project workers started holding creative crafts sessions with women inmates. In January this year, the project outreach team increased to 4 and the sessions have now become a regular feature of the project.

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When, just before last Christmas, I was invited to be part of this outreach team at CCF's Women's section, I agreed to go. Little did I think that it would develop in this way. It was a big challenge for me. I had never been in a prison before, but it turned out to be the most beautiful Christmas present that I could have received. I had the opportunity to love these our sisters who are waiting for someone to love them. I shared the joy that this visit was giving me with three of my friends who, like myself, are members of the Focolare Movement. My friends are very good at teaching crafts and they eagerly offered to accompany me. Now we are a team of 4 Volunteers who are in charge of running this outreach aspect of the Irene Project.

At first, understandably, the Foundation had to ask for the entry permission every time we planned a session at CCF's Women's Division. Today, we have become an accepted part of support opportunities for the women there. Seeing how keen and happy some of the women inmates are with the sessions, we are now expected every week on the agreed weekday and time. Each session, the number of women who take part increases. So does their enthusiasm and commitment.

After every creative crafts session, we leave CCF with our hearts brimming with the joy that only God's love for us can give us – with humility and much love, we increasingly become more open to share our love for others in very difficult life circumstances.

IRENE project

Staff and service users at Dar Hosea worked together to produce Easter Figolli



Mill-vuċi ta' mara li tuża s-servizzi ta' Dar Hosea

"Jiena bdejt nattendi Dar Hosea mis-26 ta' Mejju 2014. Fil-verità kont l-ewwel mara li bdejt immure hemm. Minn mindu mort l-ewwel darba, ħassejtni home. Daru bija u miegħi aktar mill-familjari tiegħi stess. Għenuni f'dak kollu li kelli bżonn inkluż ikel, għamara, ħwejjeg u mitt ħaġa oħra. Jien omm, single mother. Għalhekk ikolli bżonn ħafna għajnuna u dawn dejjem sibthom.

Għal min ma jafx, jien kelli problema li ma mara oħra bħali ma naqbilx. Jien veru mara sempliċi - eżempju ma nħobbx nidher, ma nagħmilx make up jew blowdrys u dik li n-nisa jgħiru għal xulxin ma kenitx tinżilli. Allura kont nevitahom. Imma f'Dar Hosea sibt ruħi ma nisa li ħassejtni komda ħafna magħom għax aċċettawni kif jien. U dik għenitni ħafna lili."



EEA Grants NGO Malta Programme

2009-2014

This project is part-financed by the EEA Grants.

Co-Financing Rate: 90% EEA Funding,
10% Beneficiary Funds





HSBC Malta plc and FORESTALS workers' Volunteering enables the Foundation to complete the refurbishment of a new Family Resource Centre ahead of time.

HSBC Malta Bank plc - Birżebbuġa branch workers: On the 10th and 18th of March, a team of bankers from the HSBC B'Bugia branch started the process of cleaning up the Foundation's Ċentru Enrichetta in Birżebbuġa. The team's voluntary work paved the way for the FORESTALS team to complete the clean-up.



FORESTALS workers: 8 workers from this company spent their annual 19 March CSR Day volunteering at Ċentru Enrichetta which is being opened in March at Birżebbuġa. This is the 3rd time that workers from this company volunteered their time and skills in aid of projects of the Foundation.



The volunteering contribution of both HSBC and FORESTALS is very much valued; it hastened the completion of the refurbishment phase of the new **Ċentru Enrichetta Family Resource Centre**.
Thank you corporate volunteers!

Rokna Poeżija

I WILL NOT APOLOGIZE.

I will not apologize,
For speaking the truth.
For saying these words that you don't want to hear,
For taking the blindfold off your eyes,
For making you see when you would rather not,
I will not apologize. I am not sorry.

I will not apologize,
For owning my body.
For loving it, even if you think it's unlovable,
For trusting it, even if you think it's broken,
For enjoying it, even if you think it's uncontrollable,
I will not apologize. I am not sorry.

I will not apologize,
For taking control.
For claiming my independence and being free,
For demanding the right to equal earning power,
For assuming that you too should be a parent to our children,
I will not apologize. I am not sorry.

I will not apologize,
For saying no.
For turning you down and walking away,
For choosing an outcome with me at the centre,
For defying the rules you laid down for me,
I will not apologize. I am not sorry.

I will not apologize,
For being a woman.
For challenging your rigid expectations of me,
For breaking the mould you have forced me into,
For being happier than you ever thought I could be,
I will not apologize. I am not sorry.

Elaine Compagno



Kaskati

f'kaskati furjuzi
u f'gholjiet hodur u kbar
isejjah qieghed sisi, fil-hemda bi hlewwa

fost ritmu w'damdim
u f'mewg wara l-iehor t'ilma safi w'car
go zifna ta' dwal inemmu
go ziffa li tmewweg il-fjuri fil-wied

u naf li qed isejjah, ghax
issa dir-ruh sfat tghajjat fis-skiet
tittajjar ma' ghub il-muntanji w l-gholjiet
fejn l-ilma haj jitferra'
u jinfethu blanzuni misthijin

gejja iz-zifna, iz-zifna tad-dwal
ghax wasal
tal-harifa l-habbar

tony macelli, 2002



Welcome to new staff member Godwin Darmanin

Mr Godwin Darmanin joined the Foundation as a Project Manager in early March. He is on a one year secondment from the public service. He is an expert on ICT and EU project management.

Welcome Godwin and thank you for joining our NGO!



News from SJAF

LEAP! Project of the Ministry for the Family and Social Solidarity



The Foundation is a stakeholder-member of two regional *LEAP!* Project networks. These are the *LEAP!* Region 1 (South Harbour) and Region 3 (South East) headed by Regional Development Agents Paul Pace and Denise M. Farrugia respectively. In Region 1, the Foundation runs the Ċentru Antida Family Resource Centre in Tarxien that services the psycho-social and non-formal educational needs of vulnerable families in Tarxien, Paola, Fgura and Żabbar. In Region 3, the Foundation runs the Ċentru Enrichetta Family Resource Centre in Birżebbuġa that is part-financed through an EEA NGO Fund for Malta grant managed by SOS Malta. Foundation staff represent the Foundation in stakeholder network meetings of both regions.

On the 24th March, a number of beneficiaries of Pillar 2 of the *LEAP!* Project and their host organisations made a tour of the NGOs and the Local Councils that are hosting Pillar 2 beneficiaries. Both the beneficiaries and their host organisation representatives learned more about available services and initiatives. The tour ended with an informal participatory evaluation held at the meeting hall of the Paola Local Council. The meeting was chaired by Mr Stephen Vella, *LEAP!* Project Leader from the Foundation for Social Welfare Services. Present as well was *LEAP!* Project Managers, the Region 1 Development Agent Mr Paul Pace, Region 1 Community Workers, Senior Social Mentors and Social Mentors.

KTIEB ĠDID!!

BDOTI FIL-MALTEMP – kif tieġu ħsieb qarib b'mard mentali



ARE YOU A FAMILY CAREGIVER OF A MENTALLY ILL FAMILY MEMBER? Then this book is for you.

Book one today.

18 CHAPTERS on different mental illnesses. Tips for caregivers and much more.

The book is the result of collaborative work between the St Jeanne Antide

Prezz Donazzjoni
€5

Il-Kwiekeb fid-Dlam Jixeghlu

vjaġġi ta' tama mterrqa minn
qrafa ta' persuni b'mard mentali

edituri
Connie Magro
Nora Macelli

OPENING DAR HOSEA of the IRENE Project



The drop in centre of the Irene Project – Dar Hosea – was officially opened on the 5th February. Foundation Governing Board members, Project Implementation Committee members, project team members, benefactors, and Sisters of Charity were present. Fr Arthur Vella sj – a member of the Project Implementation Committee - and Fr Martin Micallef, Director of the Dar tal-Providenza who was instrumental in making it possible for the Foundation to secure the use of the house, said mass. Dr Anna Vella, sexual health expert who chairs the Project Implementation Committee on a pro bono basis described the process leading to the launch of the project. She thanked the project team for their commitment and dedication. Sr Salvina thanked all Foundation staff involved in the project and thanked benefactors whose donations made the house refurbishment possible. The CEO thanked SoS Malta for the EEA NGO Fund for Malta grant that enabled the Irene project to become a reality.

The IRENE project was started in early 2014 with funding from the European Economic Area (EEA) NGO Fund for Malta managed by SOS Malta. The project offers *three levels* of support to women living the harsh reality of street-based prostitution.

1) Support services that meet basic human needs: The Foundation opened Dar Hosea drop-in centre to enable vulnerable women working in the streets to drop by daily for a shower, rest, a hot meal, laundry to wash their clothes, a supply of clothing when needed and someone to talk to without any strings attached. Dar Hosea has a very welcoming environment and a team of staff and volunteers who welcome women with much respect and love.

2) Social Work support, accompaniment and access to non-formal education opportunities: women are supported by social workers who advocate on their behalf, liaise with other service providers, accompany them to Court sessions and to hospital and encourage them to follow courses in areas the women are interested in. At Hosea House, different crafts are taught as well and many books are available on different topics.

3) Sexual health education and medical screening for STIs: At Hosea House, women can access medical screening for sexually transmitted infections (STIs). They can also learn more about sexual health issues from the medical specialist in this area who weekly volunteers her specialist medical services.

The project team members undertake outreach work to inform women about the project and its services. They visit prison on a weekly basis to talk to women there who have been involved in prostitution. This connection with the women is important since they know that, once they are released from prison, they have people who care for them and are ready to support them and welcome them to Dar Hosea whenever they wish. The team has also developed close collaborative relationships with other agencies such as the Probation and Parole Department, social work services, addiction services and others. These agencies refer women who need the services offered by the Irene Project.



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BAZAAR fi Triq Ħal-Tarxien b'risq il-Fondazzjoni

Miftuħ kull nhar ta' Tnejn u nhar ta' Erbgħa
mid-9:00 sa 12:00

Naċċettaw oġġetti biex jinbiegħu fil-Bazaar

DONATIONS

Your donation is truly appreciated. It enables us to sustain our services to vulnerable and poor individuals and families.

Donation to the St Jeanne Antide Foundation can be made as follows:

- **Cheque** issued to The St Jeanne Antide Foundation and posted to the Foundation: 51 Tarxien Road, Tarxien TXN 1092
- For **local bank transfers**: APS 2000 0681 886
HSBC 013175021001
BOV 4002003379-0
BANIF 00210404101
- If you are a Go/Vodafone/Redtouch subscriber you can donate by sending a **blank SMS** (SMS tariffs applicable):
€2.33 – 50617371 €4.66 – 50618095
€6.99 – 50618909 €11.65 – 50619217
You will receive a text message of thanks and acknowledgement
- For **bank transfers from overseas**: APS Bank, 146/147, Antoine De Paul Square, Paola PLA1260
Bank Code (Swift) APSBMTMT IBAN No: MT03 APSB 7708 0005 5047 2000 0681 886 (last 11 digits are the account number).

HOW YOU CAN HELP US - OTHER OPTIONS

- ✓ If you are getting married: make a donation instead of buying wedding souvenirs.
- ✓ If you are having a birthday party: ask friends to make a donation instead of buying a gift.
- ✓ If you are having a wedding anniversary celebration: convince your guests to make a donation instead of buying a gift.
- ✓ For funerals: you may wish to make a donation instead of buying flowers.
- ✓ Get Together: organise a spontaneous collection.
- ✓ You may wish to send us a monthly or annual donation, whatever the amount.
- ✓ You can encourage others to consider donating to the Foundation.
- ✓ Ask your employer for a matching scheme which will make your contribution go even further!
- ✓ Become a HELP-SJAF Champion and ask friends and family to make a donation.

CONTACT US: sjafngo@gmail.com

THANK YOU! WE PROMISE TO PRAY FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Foundation SERVICES

1. **The Antide Family Resource Centre** in the heart of Tarxien. Open from 7.30am to 5 pm daily in winter time (sometimes later as well).
2. **Social Work Service**: Includes:
 - **Social Work**: home-visits, outreach work, advocacy, referral, information, emotional support. Catchment areas: Tarxien, Paola, Fgura, Żabbar, Santa Lucia, Birżebbuġa.
 - **Emotional Freedom Service** for persons wanting to be free from their anger, fear or other emotional distress;
 - **SOAR advocacy and support group** for victims and survivors of domestic violence (soarmalta@gmail.com)
 - **Volunteer Handymen** in support of vulnerable and poor families.
 - **Learning Support Service** for vulnerable persons supported by Foundation Social Workers. Includes: *For Children*: weekly learning support for primary level students; *For adults*: non-formal learning opportunities such as self-esteem groups & literacy.
 - **Befriending Service** for lonely, home-bound elderly persons
 - **Counselling**;
 - Bazaar in Tarxien.
3. **LWIEN Service - caring for family carers**: support for family caregivers of persons with mental health problems. Includes family consultations, counselling, support groups, home-visits, social work.
4. **IRENE Project** in support of very vulnerable women involved in street prostitution. (Project financed for 18 months by the EEA NGO Malta Fund managed by SOS Malta) .
5. **(NEW) Ċentru Familji: Family Resource Centre in Birżebbuġa**. Starting first week of September. (Project financed for 12 months by the EEA NGO Malta Fund managed by SOS Malta)
6. **Volunteering Programme**: range of volunteering opportunities included supported volunteering for service users.
7. **Overseas Development Projects**: SJAF works with partners in developing countries to formulate anti-poverty projects. It has also arranged for public funding of such projects in Pakistan, Central African Republic, South Sudan and Malawi.
9. **Centring Prayer Group** for contemplative prayer practice.