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## NON-FORMAL FAMILY LEARNING SUPPORT initiative

**Much research indicates that there are many negative effects on children living in poverty and in chaotic families. Negative effects include impaired cognitive skills and limited success in schools. To this end, family literacy support is intentionally a key pillar that supports the range of support services to vulnerable families since informal and non-formal education are key tools for combating poverty and social exclusion.**

The **family learning support pillar** of the Foundation supports young learners who are already showing signs of educational failure to acquire literacy at basic skills level so that they will then continue on their journey together with their peers. It also offers non-formal learning support their parents and other adults.



### Kontenut

Non-Formal Family Learning Support Initiative	.....	pg. 1,2,3,4,5
Qam! - Fr Thomas Merton	.....	pg. 5
Press Release from SJAF Governing Board	.....	pg. 6
Literacy group for vulnerable young persons	.....	pg. 7
CSR initiative	.....	pg. 8
Women's Day gift bags donated by HSBC Workers	.....	pg. 9
SJAF Seminar on Managing Difficult Emotions	.....	pg. 9
Kind Krafts - A Soar Initiative	.....	pg. 10
Rokna Peožija	.....	pg. 11,12
Thank you note to Preluna	.....	pg. 13
Teaching handicrafts making to service users	.....	pg. 13
Current Groups at SJAF	.....	pg. 14
Avviżi	.....	pg. 14,15

The following is an account of the outcomes of this initiative achieved between May 2017 and February 2018.

#### Friday child-focused learning support throughout scholastic year:

24 Friday sessions	48 hours of child-centered learning support	24 different volunteers	35 different children supported*	760 Volunteering service hours
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(11 of the 35 children come from migrant families)

#### Adult non-formal Literacy:

12 adults	336 individual sessions	hours of service delivery
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#### Summer children's literacy support programme and Volunteers' contribution:

11 sessions	36 hours	37 children	4 Volunteer Tutors	117 hours of voluntary service
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#### Literacy course for parents:

12 parents from Paola Primary (Year 1); 12 sessions; 18 hours

#### Outputs achieved by the Volunteer Learning Support Tutors and the beneficiaries reached

##### Friday afternoon learning support from 4 to 6pm during the scholastic year

Project months	No. of Sessions	No. of Hours	No. of Volunteers	No. of children supported from vulnerable families	Total no. of Hours worked by Volunteers
April 2017	3	6	6	12	36
May 2017	4	8	6	11	48
June 2017	2	4	6	24	24
<b>Sub-totals 2017</b>	<b>9 sessions</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>108 hrs</b>
October 2017	2	4	24	24	96
November 2017	3	6	22	24	132
December 2017	2	4	24	27	96
<b>Sub-totals 2017</b>	<b>7 sessions</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>24 average</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>324 hrs</b>
January 2018	4	8	22	28	176
February 2018	4	8	19	28	152
<b>Sub-totals 2017</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>22 average</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>328</b>
<b>SUMMARY TOTALS for project period of 1 year</b>	<b>24 Friday sessions</b>	<b>48 hours of child-centered learning</b>	<b>24 different volunteers</b>	<b>35 Children supported*</b>	<b>760 Volunteering service hours</b>

\* Note: 11 of the 35 vulnerable children accessing learning support come from migrant families from Africa

## Adult Literacy

Adult Service User	Dates	Number of Sessions	Number of Hours
A	May 2017 – September 2017	20	30
B	May 2017 – September 2017	20	30
C	April 2017 – August 2017	22	40.5
	October 2017 – November 2017	5	8
D	November 2017 – February 2017	16	24
E	July 2017 – February 2018	30	35
F	April 2017 – February 2018	36	36
G	April 2017 – February 2018	28	28
H	April 2017 – February 2018	23	23
I	April 2017 – February 2018	44	44
J	April 2017 – February 2018	40	40
K	April 2017 – February 2018	46	46
L	January 2018 – February 2018	6	6
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<b>12 ADULTS</b>	<b>336 sessions</b>	<b>390.5 hours of service delivery</b>

### Summer Literacy Support Sessions held at Ċentru Enrichetta, Birżebbuġa – Volunteers' contribution

Months	No. of Sessions	No. of hours	No. of children benefitting	No. of Volunteers involved in Tutoring	Total no. of hours by volunteers
<b>July 2017</b>					
Monday Sessions	4	4.5	16	1	18
Tuesday Sessions	3	4.5	16	1	13.5
Wednesday Sessions	3	3	5	2	9
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>40.5</b>
<b>August 2017</b>					
Monday Sessions	3	4.5	16	1	13.5
Tuesday Sessions	4	4.5	16	1	18
Wednesday Sessions	4	3	5	2	12
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>Same 10 + 1</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Same 37</b>	<b>Same 4</b>	<b>43.5</b>
<b>September 2017</b>					
Monday Sessions	3	4.5	16	1	13.5
Tuesday Sessions	3	4.5	16	1	13.5
Wednesday Sessions	2	3	5	2	6
<b>Sub-totals</b>	<b>8 of 11 above</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>Same 37</b>	<b>Same 4</b>	<b>33</b>
<b>SUMMARY TOTALS</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>117</b>

## Literacy Course for Parents

Dates	Participants	No of participants	No. of Sessions	No. of hours
April 2017 – June 2017	Paola Primary School Year 1	12	12	18

### Volunteer training and support

Guidance is provided to Volunteer Learning Support Tutors each Friday before they start their one-on-one learning support with the child they are matched with. Approaches are discussed, resources shared, difficulties tackled as they arise. The person who runs learning support is an expert teacher-trainer and literacy teacher; she is also competent in teaching students with learning difficulties, including those on the autism spectrum.

### 2 PROFILES: Parents accessing Adult Literacy Support on a one-to-one basis

(names have been changed to protect confidentiality)

#### JOHN (16 years)

John is a nineteen year old youngster who attends the Youth.Inc Programme of Aġenzija Żgħażaġh. John's mother discussed her concerns about her son with her social worker. John is a young lad with a profile of ADHD and an IQ of 78. With such a profile, John fell within the bracket of intellectual disabilities. She was worried that he would not be able to find a job in the near future. The social worker, in turn, asked SJAF for help for John since the programme he was in did not provide English literacy support at his basic level.

We met John and he asked for support in English as he was doing well at school in Maltese and Maths but could not read and write anything in English. He was very willing to learn as he wanted to be able to keep on studying in order to eventually find a good job.

Due to the fact that John could only make it to sessions in B'Bugia at 5:30, it was difficult for SJAF to offer support sessions at that time. So it was decided that the social worker and myself would meet his Head of Programme so that between us we could find a solution.

After a very cordial meeting with the Head of Programme, it was decided that John would be able to attend a weekly session at SJAF once a week and the hours spent would be chalked up as part of his work placement. We started work in March 2017.

From then on John started to attend the sessions. He never missed a session and worked really hard.

After following a multi-sensory programme, John is today able to read and write in English. Currently we are working on his spelling as it needs to improve.

His work at Youth.Inc has also improved and he is finding the programme work easy now in comparison with the work done with the SJAF Teacher. He is also reading out loud in class and his confidence has since shot up.

He has now applied to follow a care worker course at St. Vincent de Paul Hospital and if accepted, he would become a care worker. The course is in English and he is feeling confident enough to follow it.

John is a typical example of 'where there is a will there is a way' and hopefully he will be able to follow his dream of becoming a care worker.

#### MARIA

Maria is a stay at home parent bringing up two young children. She wanted to study in order to obtain certification in order to find a good well paid job. After discussing her situation with personnel at

LEAP centre and her social worker at SJAF she was introduced to me by her social work in May 2017 so as to see if I could support her.

Maria was going to try and sit for the September session of the Jobsplus examination for candidates who wished to start a course in child-minding. This examination was being offered to candidates who had no 'O Levels'. The candidates were going to be examined in Maths, Maltese and English at MQRIC Level 3 standard.

She had finished her schooling in Form 5 but never sat for her O Levels. So now she needed to 'brush up' her knowledge of the Maltese and English languages and intensify her Maths knowledge.

So we agreed on a plan of action so that I could support her and prepare her for the said examination.

We agreed to meet for 2 hours a week, where she would work at home on the papers I give her in Maltese and English and she would work with me on her Maths.

We started from basic Maths and worked our way up to MQRIC Level 3 Maths. She worked very hard and her self-confidence grew when she saw her constant improvement.

Maria worked hard through May, June, July and August.

She sat for her examination in the three subject and managed to successfully get through. She obtained very high marks in Maltese and English and an average mark in Maths.

She then started to attend the child care course in October 2017 and to this day she is successfully following the course and obtaining excellent results.



THE MALTA COMMUNITY  
CHEST FUND  
FOUNDATION

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titled: **NON-FORMAL EDUCATION FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS**

## Qam!

*Fr Thomas Merton jikteb:*

*... Ir-Rizurrezzjoni mhijiex dutrina li nippruvaw nagħtu prova tagħha, jew problema li nargumentaw dwarha: Hija il-ħajja u l-azzjoni ta' Kristu nnifsu fina, permezz tal-Ispirtu Qaddis tiegħu, l-Ispirtu s-Santu...*

*Meta nitaqgħu tassew ma' Kristu din il-laqgħa teħles, tillibera, xi haġa fina, qawwa li ma konniex nafu li kellna, tama, ħajja mimlija, reżiljenza, ħila li nerġgħu nimmollaw lura meta nkunu ħsibna li għelbuna, ħila li nikbru u nitbiddlu, setgħa ta' trasformazzjoni kreattiva.*

*Il-ħajja ta' wara l-qawmien mhijiex faċli; hija wkoll ħajja fejn wieħed imut. Il-preżenza tal-qawmien f'ħajjitna tisser il-preżenza tas-Salib, għax ma nqumux ma' Kristu sakemm ma mmutux ukoll miegħu. Huwa permezz tass-Salib li nidhlu fil-proċessi dinamiċi ta' trasformazzjoni kreattiva, tal-qawmien u t-tiġdid, tal-imħabba.*

*Source: Bridges to Contemplative Living with Thomas Merton, "Lent and Holy Week" booklet, published by the Merton Institute. Maqluba għall-Malti minn t.m.*



## Removal of recognition of the status and rights of unborn children from the Laws of Malta

### Press Release by the Governing Board of the Foundation disseminated on the 5th of March

Subject: **We urgently and strongly protest against the current process of removal of recognition of the status and rights of unborn children from the Laws of Malta**; in connection with a protective clause in the existing Domestic Violence Act scheduled to be superseded without an adequate substitute in the proposed new Law of Bill No. 14 - Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Bill

#### Summary:

*We welcome long awaited and badly needed measures against domestic violence.*

*We demand the inclusion of a clause recognizing the status and rights of the unborn child in the new legislation since, currently, the only such clause in Maltese law is 481:l:3 that will be voided on the substitution of the current law by the new law.*

*We urge that this is needed even as an aspect of protection from domestic violence, since scientific research has determined that such violence on pregnant women harms the unborn child.*

1. WE STRONGLY WELCOME MEASURES AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE. We welcome many long-overdue measures that aim to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence and its devastating and sometimes deadly consequences in Malta on the lives of victims and survivors, on society, and on culture, including the status of women and the and the culture of impunity surrounding domestic violence that affects all genders and ages. We welcome the related measures of prevention; awareness-raising; education; training of professionals; preventive intervention and treatment programmes for perpetrators and for victims and survivors; affirmation and support of victims' rights; streamlining and rationalising of the present inadequate reporting, recording, forensic, legal, juridical, and psychological response procedures; shelters; and helplines. We realise the crucial importance of proactive risk assessment by police and social welfare services in cases of reported domestic violence; as well as consequential proactive action based on such risk assessment. We also welcome measures for the support of victims of sexual violence; the protection and support for child witnesses; victim compensation; and the improvement of safety and dignity in connection with visitation rights. We welcome the criminalisation of all physical or sexual violence and nonconsensual sexual activity, stalking, and psychological violence.

2. WE STRONGLY DEPLORE THE REMOVAL OF THE LEGAL RECOGNITION PROTECTION FOR THE UNBORN CHILD. None of the above anti-domestic-violence positions that we hold, however, justify in any way the exclusion of the recognition of the status and rights of the unborn child from Maltese legislation. *On the contrary*, we consider it self-evident that the unborn child is among the victims in cases of domestic violence on pregnant women. Yet the exclusion of the recognition and rights of the unborn child from Maltese legislation is exactly what is in process at present by the repeal of the existing Domestic Violence Act in favour of the proposed new Domestic Violence Act currently undergoing committee hearing [Bill No. 14 - Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Violence Bill]. The point at issue is the following protective clause in the existing 12-year old domestic violence act, scheduled to be superseded without an adequate substitute in the proposed new law.

481:l:3 Chapter 481 Domestic Violence act 28 February 2006 ... Part I. ...3: "domestic violence" means any act of violence, even if only verbal, perpetrated by a household member upon another household member and includes any omission which causes physical or moral harm to the other; "household member" includes: ... (ix) the child conceived but yet unborn of any one of the persons mentioned in paragraphs (i) to (viii), both inclusive;

This clause happens to be the *ONLY current clause* in current Laws of Malta that recognizes the existence of, and some rights for, the unborn child. There is a law against abortion but it does not recognize any rights of the unborn child. We protest against the removal of the clause 481:l:3 without a similar or stronger provision in the proposed new Domestic Violence Act. We are very concerned at the absence of a known rationale from this removal of our only legal protection for the unborn child. We are concerned to see that, whether deliberately or not, this may be part of hidden or unknown public measures paving the way for easier abortions in response to pressure from the Council of Europe and EU sources. We insist on a public discussion of this matter before it is too late.

3. UNBORN CHILDREN NEED PROTECTION FROM DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WHICH HARMS THE UNBORN CHILD. We demand the inclusion of a clause in the proposed new domestic Violence act that is equivalent to, or stronger, than 481:l:3 for the recognition and rights of the unborn child. This is required by the aims of the proposed new Domestic Violence Act themselves, because scientific research has established that domestic violence on pregnant women harms the unborn child, partly because the stress hormone cortisol is neurotoxic, and causes trauma symptoms later. References to two examples of such research are:

(a) Brittany K. Lannert, Antonia M. Garcia, Kathryn E. Smagur, Matthew M. Yalch, Alytia A. Levendosky, G. Anne Bogat, Joseph S. Lonstein. *Relational trauma in the context of intimate partner violence. Child Abuse & Neglect, 2014; 38 (12): 1966 DOI: 10.1016/j.chiabu.2014.10.002 (based on 182 women);*

(b) *Research at King's College, London in 2011 on 13,617 women, reported in King's College website under "Domestic violence in pregnancy linked to child behavioural problems."*

Lawyers have pointed out that "The Istanbul Convention [ratified by Malta] holds that it will not prejudice provisions of internal law under which more favourable rights are accorded. Therefore, adding to the list of protected persons under the definition of 'family unit'[481:l:3], 'the child conceived but yet unborn', is in perfect accord with the principles of the convention. [Source: *Unborn children left unprotected, Times of Malta, February 2, 2018, by lawyers Sarah Portelli and Ramon Bonett Sladden*]"

We therefore see every justification for our demand that far from removing the only legal recognition and protection of the unborn child in Malta without public discussion, the proposed new Act should include a strong clause recognizing the status and rights of the unborn child. In our opinion, many others who, like us, are biased towards the vulnerable members of our society, would feel the same if these facts were revealed.

Sr Salvina Bezzina,

ViceChair, Governing Board, St Jeanne Antide Foundation

On behalf of the Chair and the Governing Board

## Literacy group for vulnerable young persons



LILL-KURT SLATTERLY li ilu jgħallem il-kitba u qari tal-Malti lil żgħażaġh vulnerabbli mis-sena 2014. Kurt Slatterly hu għalliem tal-Malti żaġżuġh li ilu ħames snin jgħallem żaġżuġh vulnerabbli minn familji mgħejjuna mis-Social Workers tal-Fondazzjoni.

Kurt kien misluf lill-Fondazzjoni mid-Direttorat tal-Lifelong Learning tal-Ministeru tal-Edukazzjoni u Impieg. Il-grupp li għallem ma kienx wieħed mainstream. Kellu jadatta l-metodoloġija u r-riżorsi b'mod kreattiv sabiex jgħolli l-ispirtu tal-istudenti żgħażaġh bla ħiliet bażiċi waqt li jqawwilhom qalbhom biex jagħmlu mill-aħjar biex ikomplu l-vjaġġ edukattiv tagħhom minkejja ħafna ostakli u sitwazzjoni familjari prekarji.

Għalkemm il-kuntratt tiegħu mad-Direttorat spicċa, se jkompli ħidmietu b'mod volontarju għax ma xtaqx jabbandu-na l-istudenti li mxew passi kbar 'l quddiem.

Kurt ħadem b'qalb kbira u mogħdrija u għamel sagrificċji biex ħidmietu tkun kreattiva u effettiva. Qatt ma talab kumpens għat-trasport u ikel għall-istudenti. Minn jeddu għażel li jqatta' l-festi mhux ma' tal-familja imma ma' dawn l-istudenti biex joħroġhom u jagħtihom togħma ħelwa differenti milli minn dik li jduqu kuljum f'ħajjithom. Fost il-ħarġiet li Kurt organizza maż-żgħażaġh li għallem kien hemm dawn li ġejjin:

1. Mixja fil-kampanja l-**Baħrija**
2. Mixja fil-kampanja l-**Buskett**
3. Mixja max-xatt ta' **Wied il-Għajn u l-Park Nazzjonali tal-Familja**
4. **Ħarġa edukattiva f'Għar Dalam u Borġ in-Nadur**
5. **Ħarġa edukattiva Ħaġar Qim u l-Imnajdra**
6. **Ħarġa edukattiva Esplora**
7. **Ħarġa edukattiva it-tempji ta' Ħal Tarxien**
8. **Ħarġa edukattiv fil-Ġnien taċ-Ċinzi**
9. **Ħarġa edukattiva Malta National Aquarium**
10. **Għal erba' snin shaħ f'Ħamis ix-Xirka** ħadhom jaraw il-vari tal-Ġimgħa l-Kbira: marru **Bormla, il-Birgu, l-Isla, ir-Rabat, l-Imdina u l-Mosta** - f'dan iż-żmien ħa ħsieb li jeħodhom jaraw l-imwejjed tal-appostli, esebizzjonijiet bir-ross u l-melħ, il-foss tal-Birgu, eċċ.
11. **Ħarġa edukattiva ġewwa l-Belt Valletta** - żaru **l-Mużew tal-Arkeoloġija, il-Katidral u il-Barrakka ta' Fuq**
12. **Ħarġa edukattiva ġewwa Għawdex fi żmien il-Milied**
13. **Kunċerti u pantomimi**
14. **Ħarġa edukattiva ġewwa l-Imdina u r-Rabat** - marru l-mużew tal-Katidral, il-Grotta ta' San Pawl u x-xelters tar-Rabat

Aktar ma imxew 'l quddiem fil-kitba u l-qari, aktar maż-żgħażaġh kisbu kunfidenza u stima fihom innifishom. Innu-tajna lkoll li ħarġilhom il-karattri tagħhom. Tnejn mill-istudenti marru għall-ewwel darba il-Buskett u il-Kon-Katidral tal-Belt ma' Kurt. Dawn is-sodisfazzjonijiet huma imprezzabbli u diffiċli biex tiżen il-valur kbir tagħhom u ta' kif il-kwalità tal-ħajja taż-żagħżuġh tjiebet u iffjorixxiet.

### Grazzi KURT!!!

"Nixtieq niehu mument biex minn qalbi niringrazzja lil Kurt Slattery tad-dedikazzjoni fil-ħidma tiegħu mas-service users żgħażaġh tul dawn l-aħħar ħames snin. Bħala Social Worker, personalment, ilni naf l-istudenti biss għal dawn l-aħħar sentejn iżda verament kulhadd isemmi kemm Kurt ġab differenza f'ħajjithom kemm b'mod edukattiv u anki soċjali. Biss biss, li joħroġu mid-dar kull ġimgħa huwa diġà pass importanti ħafna, għas-sitwazzjoni li kienu fiha qabel. Kurt għin studenti jitgħallmu jafdaw persuna barranija għal ġid tagħhom stess. Nibqa' impressjonata kull darba li niltaqa' magħhom kemm juru fiduċja fih u rispett lejh. Il-kunfidenza tal-partecipanti tal-grupp tal-litterizmu rajtha dejjem tissaħħaħ. Żgur li element importanti ħafna huwa li bnew kunfidenza fihom niffishom permezz tat-titjib fil-qari u l-kitba bil-Malti. Nagħti eżempju ta' partecipant wieħed: fejn qabel kien ikollu bżonn ta' xi ħadd jakkumpanjah għall-qadi personali, issa sar jagħraf fejn hu kapaċi jasal waħdu u jekk iħoss li hu kapaċi jasal waħdu, sar imur waħdu. Żgur li Kurt kien sors ta' għajjnuna kbira għal dawn il-passi li għamel. Dan l-istess partecipant issa sar voluntier mal-Fondazzjoni u r-risposti li jwasslilna permezz ta' noti miktubin bil-Malti, huwa grazzi tat-tagħlim li ħa permezz ta' Kurt." - *Martha Dimech*



A huge THANK YOU to COMPUTIME Business Systems workers for their invaluable volunteering work on Saturday March 17 and Monday March 19 at Ċentru Antida. Apart from these 2 CSR days, 2 Computime workers spent 9 afternoons preparing the groundwork for their large team of colleagues before and after this 2-day volunteering event. As part of this initiative, COMPUTIME workers totally refurbished, including installation of lights and curtains, 3 rooms: a counselling room, an activity resource room and the office of the LWIEN Service. They also sorted donated resources and food items for quick use by social workers. Thank you COMPUTIME team and thank you COMPUTIME Directors for the meals you cooked for everyone!

Thanks is also due to HSBC Bank Malta plc for arranging this CSR event.





## WOMEN'S DAY gift bags for 58 service users by HSBC workers

To celebrate Women's Day, HSBC staff members, families and friends donated unused make up, everyday essentials and toiletries which were packaged into hand-made small bags. Around 400 bags were donated to 10 NGOs who support vulnerable women and teenaged girls.



***Thank you HSBC for your continuous support***

## SJAF SEMINAR on MANAGING DIFFICULT EMOTIONS for Immaculate Conception secondary school teaching staff

The Emotional Freedom Service of the St Jeanne Antide Foundation, on the 7th February, held a training seminar/workshop for the teaching staff and Head of School of the Immaculate Conception Secondary School of the St Jeanne Antide College. There was very interested participation by 42 teaching personnel. They learnt practical ways of releasing difficult emotions, and of relaxing. They practised also the art of being mindful non-judgmentally of their own internal dynamics, so as to be able to manage difficult emotions using special methods. The group also understood the origin of their difficult emotions in the tricks and half-truths generated by the ego or ordinary self in its attempt to meet its needs of security, affection and esteem, and control. The workshop also evoked an appreciation of the holy mystery that underlies our foundation as human beings. The ego was seen to be problematic as long as it believes that it is separate from that holy mystery. The workshop pointed towards contemplative practice as a way of permitting that ground of our being to be more and more in charge of our life.



## Kind Krafts – A SOAR Initiative

As I write this, I sit in an office that smells like a fusion of delicious scents. The same office walls that have heard the fearful disclosures of domestic violence survivors, and the desk that has caught tears of pain, shame and hope, stand silent in the aromatic stillness of the SOAR office. Lavender, Rose, Peppermint and Lemon hang in the air as if to remind me all week of the hopeful, skilful hands of the women that meet weekly to make hand-made soaps, bath bombs and sugar scrubs.

Kind Krafts is where women, all survivors of domestic violence, come together once a week to create a safe creative and healing space for themselves, their children and each other. Eagerly, they use social media to plan the week ahead, sharing pictures and ideas in their private online group. The children sort buttons and play and draw nearby, while the mothers share cake, coffees and the latest developments in their lives. Fingers thread beads, measure salts and sort petals for drying, while others apply their entrepreneurial skills to the marketing and pricing of the finished product.

The group is something positive to look forward to after a week of work, a week of keeping it all together alone, a week peppered with more court hearings and even continued psychological abuse. Survivors know that the violence does not end when the relationship is over, and this support network is a lifeline to many women who feel alone and afraid. The group encourages women to stand together and help each other build resiliency.

Each week, after the ritual of setting up the work area and unpacking our tools and equipment, we test new recipes and build more stock that then goes on to be sold. The proceeds go back towards buying new raw material and in this way the initiative sustains itself.

All the things being made by Kind Krafts can be found at [www.facebook.com/KindKraftsMalta](https://www.facebook.com/KindKraftsMalta)

Our next sale event will be during Colourfest, on 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> April, at Valletta Waterfront.



## Inter-Speċi

ħbiberiji bejn l-ispeċi  
jmissuli qalbi  
f'talba ta' stagħgib

rajt il-ġemel jilgħaq mogħża  
qattus jitrekken komdu ma' ħanzir  
ximpanzi dhuli jbus liċ-ċerv  
sahansitra serp jghix ġo gaġġa ma' far  
filwaqt li skojjattlu jilgħab loġħba  
tat-tfal ma' qattus

lil hinn mill-bijologija,  
hemm forsi tifla, arketip, tghammar ġewwa,  
u toħroġ  
fina lkoll?  
- hekk hu, forsi hekk hu

rajt kelb li qabeż qabza fil-mewġ  
u salva liċ-ċkejken ċerv ferut,  
l-orangutan enormi jiġbor bir-reqqa  
fellus li kien qed jegħreq fl-ilma  
u ħdan qattusa kellu kenn  
ghal flieles tal-wizz

lil hinn mill-predaturi u l-priża,  
hemm forsi Bodhisattva, qaddis tal-mogħdrija,  
li jirrifletti lilu nnifsu  
fina lkoll?  
- hekk hu, forsi hekk hu



il-Kristu Etern imnissel  
minn dak ta' bla isem -  
u xejn ma ġie magħmul ħlief bih  
ara! forom u duwalità jmutu  
ferħana jingħaqdu mas-sors  
u r-realtà terġa' tingħaqad  
magħha nnifisha.

*tony macelli*

deżi  
raġna  
poezija

**Kind** *by Lucienne Edwins*

a tribute to SOAR

They lifted me up,  
 With their strong, gentle hands,  
 I was battered, bruised, broken  
 inside,  
 Reeling with troubles hard to hide.

They lifted me up,  
 With their warm, friendly hands.

The one I trusted pushed me into a pit  
 of despair,  
 Anger, frustration, hate, fear,  
 A porcupine to those held dear,  
 Beaten, bleeding, bearing, blame  
 Sorrow, solitude, stress and shame,

Where could I go?  
 Who would understand?  
 No-one cared in this forgotten land.

Suddenly, like a rainbow in the sky,  
 Clouds lifted, SOARing by,  
 The light, so far, so hard to reach  
 Came shining, sparkling, me to teach

Welcoming ladies said to me  
 Come and have a cup of tea!

You've got this,  
 You're strong  
 You're beautiful  
 You're worth it!

Hmm, I snorted,  
 I'm old,  
 I'm tired,  
 I've had enough.  
 I feel like....

"STOP IT"

"Join the jewelley course!"

Jewellery?

I displayed my empty fingers,  
 My bare arms,  
 My cold neck,

"You'll love it,

Come along!"

"i'll be there!"

I'll be there?

And they were

There for *me!*

We made chains, patterns, earrings

Threaded beads, tied knots,

Talked,

Relaxed,

Laughed!

Yes, laughed!

I relaxed!

I laughed!

I had fun!

The ladies were there,

There for me!

And they're there for you

Kind women.

They lifted me up,

With their stron, gentle hands,

With sparks in their eye,

Kind women.

Survining like me,

Kind womenkind



thank  
you 

Our heartfelt thanks are extended to Mr Preca, General Manager of the Preluna Hotel for his generous sponsorship of the spa facilities for 15 SOAR members held on Saturday 15th March where our members were able to integrate and relax in this tranquil environment.

We would also like to thank The Body Shop for their generous donation of products which enhanced our members' over all well being.

What a perfect day!

### Teaching handicrafts making to service users

One of the groups being held at Ċentru Antida is the Crafts Group. This group meets every Friday morning and is run by 2 volunteers. The aim of this group is to teach basic knitting skills and techniques to service users of SJAF.



THE MALTA COMMUNITY  
CHEST FUND  
FOUNDATION







Find us on:  
**facebook®**

<https://www.facebook.com/SjafAntideCentre?fref=ts>



**BAZAAR** Tarxien u Birżebbuġa

**b'risq il-Fondazzjoni**

**Miftuħ kull nhar ta' Tnejn u nhar ta' Erbgħa - Tarxien**

**Kull nhar ta' Tlieta - Birżebbuġa**

**mid-9:00 sa 12:00**

#### 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](mailto:sjafngo@gmail.com)**

#### Foundation SERVICES

##### 1. Family Resource Centres:

- **Ċentru Antida** Family Resource Centre, 51, Tarxien Road, Tarxien. Open from 7.30am to 5 pm daily in winter time (sometimes later as well).; up to 1pm in summer Serves localities of Tarxien, Paola, Fgura and Santa Lucia. Social Work, community outreach, advocacy, referral, information, emotional support, support groups.

**Volunteering** opportunities, included inclusive volunteering for service users.

**Volunteer Handymen** in support of vulnerable and poor families.

**Learning Support** 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.

**Volunteer Befriending** for lonely, home-bound elderly persons **Counselling**;

**Bazaar** in Tarxien (recycling and fundraising).

- **Ċentru Enrichetta** Family Resource Centre, Triq San Tumas, Birżebbuġa. Open Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 8am to 2pm. Social Work service; Family Literacy Support Programme; MCCF service on Tuesdays from 8am to 11am. Tel No. 21652038—99960381.

**2. LWIEN Service – support for family carers** of persons with mental health problems. Includes family consultations, counselling, support groups, home-visits, social work.

**3. SOAR Service: advocacy and support** for victims and survivors of domestic violence. Includes workshops on dating and domestic violence for young persons. Tel No. 99927872 from 9:30am to 5pm.

Email: [soarmalta@gmail.com](mailto:soarmalta@gmail.com).

**4. Dar Esther** for vulnerable young pregnant women and young mothers: accommodation, educational programme, mentoring. Commissioned by The President's Trust.

**5. Emotional Freedom Service** for persons wanting to be free from their anger, fear or other emotional distress.

**6. 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.

**7. Centering Prayer Group** for contemplative prayer practice.

**NOTE Dar Hosea**: day centre for women involved in prostitution. This service has become autonomous and is now self-managed.

*All back issues of the SJAF Magazine and other publications are downloadable from:*

[www.antidemalta.org](http://www.antidemalta.org)