



SJAF Magazine

SJA FOUNDATION

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Minn tlajjar fit-toroq ta' Htal Kirkop, vandalizmu u mgieba mhux xierqa għal xogħol ta' tisbieħ fl-istess komunità - *youth work* fil-komunità

Inizjattiva oħra tal-Proġett Vinċi tal-Fondazzjoni

Minn ribeljoni lejn l-awtorità għal koperazzjoni ma' l-istess awtorità. Iva, din hija l-esperjenza ta' tnax-il żagħżuġ u żagħżuġha involuti fil-proġett Vinċi tal-Fondazzjoni.

Permezz tal-ħidma ta' dan il-proġett, dawn iż-żgħażaġh, b'mod informali, qegħdin jipparteċipaw bil-mod il-mod fl-iżvilupp tal-lokal tagħhom.

Qed jagħmlu dan billi qed jiġu esposti minna għal ħidma ta' tisbieħ ta' postijiet publiċi f'Hal Kirkop. Fit-tliet ġimgħat li għaddew, il-membri tal-grupp taż-żgħażaġh lestew il-kisi u t-tibjid taċ-Ċentru Soċjali u nbeda' l-kisi tal-ħitan ta' barra ta' l-istess bini. Ta' min jgħid ukoll li l-aġenda tax-xogħol ġiet maqbula f'diskussjoni formali madwar mejda bejn l-istess żgħażaġh u s-Sindku.

Sa mill-ewwel granet ta' ħidma ta' tisbiħ, bosta kienu dawk ir-residenti li avviciawna għax ma bdewx jifhmu x'kien qed jiġri. Meta spjegajnielhom kollox, bdew juru simpatija u jesprimu rispett lejn dawn iż-żgħażaġh li sa ftit żmien ilu kienu meqjusa bhala theddida għall-istess komunità. S'issa ħdimna kemmxejn u għadna u għad baqgħalna biex naslu fejn nixtiequ. Iżda nistgħu ngħidu b'responsabbiltà li l-għan ta' dan l-aspett tal-proġett qiegħed jintlaħaq b'suċċess sa mill-fażi inizjali tiegħu, mhux biss fuq livel ta' komunità fejn tidhol inkluzjoni soċjali iżda wkoll fuq livel personali fejn dawn iż-żgħażaġh ġew fdati, ix-xogħol tagħhom qiegħed jiġi dejjem aktar apprezzat u saru jemmnu aktar fihom infushom.

F'isem dawn iż-żgħażaġh jiena bhala l-Youth Worker tal-proġett, nixtieq nieħu din l-opportunità biex niringrazzja lill benefatturi ta' din l-inizjattiva talli għarfu s-siwi ta' ħidma ta' dan it-tip. Niringrazzjaw ukoll lill-Kunsill Lokali ta' Hal Kirkop tal-materjali li qed joffri sabiex il-biċċiet ta' xogħol li qed jipkjanaw iż-żgħażaġh jitwettqu b'mod effettiv u bla dewmien.

Josef Gauci.

SJAF Youth Worker ibbażat f'Hal Kirkop



Il-Proġett VINĊI - Community Work f'Hal Kirkop – mid-djarju ta' Community Outreach Worker

Nibda biex ngħid li nħossni xurtjata immens li ninsab nagħmel dan ix-xogħol ta' Community Outreach Worker. L-esperjenzi li kull ma jmur ikolli f'dan ir-rwol jgħinuni nikber immens. Inħossni kuntenta bil-kuraġġ li nrexxieli nagħmel sabiex inkompli naħdem f'din il-linja minkejja li sibt għadma iebsa.

Dan ix-xogħol jaf joffri sfidi kbar. Fil-bidu kont qtajt qalbi għall-aħħar, tant li kont ser nieqaf. Naħseb li issa tgħallimt naħfen dan il-kuraġġ kull meta jkolli bżonnu u jekk ma jkunx biżżejjed naf li dejjem se nsib nies ta' veru li jgħinuni. Sirt naf aktar nikkontrolla emozzjonijiet u reazzjonijiet mqanqla meta niltaqqa' għall-ewwel darba ma' familji vulnerabbli ġodda. Tgħallimt ngħin lil haddiehor sabiex jgħin lilu nnifsu aktar milli nħares lejn kif se nissuggerixxi soluzzjonijiet immedjati jien. Nipprova nanalizza sew il-komportament tiegħi wara li nkun tkellimt ma' min ikollu bżonn is-servizz tagħna. Nirrifletti dwar:

- l-imġieba u r-rispons li nieħu lura min dawk li jkolli kuntant magħhom;
- jekk jerġgħux ifittxuni drabi oħra;
- kemm jidhru komdi li jesprimu miegħi dak li jridu.

F'ħafna mill-każi li niltaqgħu magħhom nirrealizzaw li hemm kemm nuqqas ta' coping skills kemm ukoll stima baxxa. Tgħallimt inkun hemm sabiex ngħin lil dik il-persuna tinduna li hi persuna ta' valur u li għandha kapaċitajiet ukoll. Min naħa l-oħra però, hemm affarijiet li jgagħluni nħossni qed nagħzaq f'l-ilma; bħal meta nkunu ppjanajna sew attivitajiet issuggeriti mir-residenti stess u wara ħafna xogħol u entuzjażmu, jisfatta kollox fix-xejn minħabba nuqqas ta' attenzjoni li ma tkunx mistennija. Xi drabi nsibha diffiċli nagħti rendikont tax-xogħol li jkun għaddej għax rizultati mhux dejjem tarahom.

Sa mill-bidu, qatt ma ħassejtni iebsa nersaq, inkellem u ninroduċi ruħi man-nies li mmorra għandhom. Illum tgħallimt aktar nipprepara ruħi għal sitwazzjonijiet diversi u sorpriżi

Sirt naf nempatizza, ma niġġudikax u nieqaf nisma' aktar milli kont naf nagħmel qabel. Dawn il-ħiliet issa saru parti integrali mill-atitudni tiegħi fil-ħajja personali wkoll. Min-naħa l-oħra, xorta nħoss li għad fadalli ħafna x'nitgħallem f'dan ir-rigward. Il-karattru impulsiv tiegħi żgur li mhux dejjem hu ta' vantaġġ f'ċerti sitwazzjonijiet. Narani nieħu azzjoni malajr u tkun veru f'waqtha f'ċerti każi imma f'oħrajn għad fadalli ħafna taħriġ.

Bħalissa qed niltaqgħu ma' aktar żgħażaġh vulnerabbli. Dan huwa ta' sfida ġdida għalija. Qed nsir familjari ma' proċeduri u proċessi li għandhom x'jaqsmu mat-tranzizzjoni mid-dinja ta' l-iskola għal dik tax-xogħol. Proċessi li jwasslu għal imġieg. Proċessi u regolamenti li jintżaw minn entitajiet diversi għal servizzi diversi, bħal djar residenzjali tat-tfal, l-aġenzija Appoġġ, social workers, u ħafna aktar. Sirt aktar konxja ta' azzjonijiet li għandi nieħu qabel ma' nibda nagħxi f'ċerti sitwazzjonijiet, sabiex jien inkunu koperta minn qabel. Tgħallimt ħafna wkoll mis-sessions tat-taħriġ li jkollna l-Fondazzjoni. Dawn huma ta' bżonn kontinwu; inqasuhom bħaż-ż-zeit tal-mutur ta' ħidmietna.

Issa li għaddiet sena min mindu bdejna, tinħass aktar il-ħtieġa ta' aktar riżorsi umani. Aħna niltaqgħu ma' ħafna ħtiġijiet differenti min familji jew individwi differenti. Il-ħin u l-kapaċitajiet tagħna huma limitati u li ssib nies kwalifikati għal bżonnijiet li jinqalgħu mhuwiex dejjem faċli. Qed nirreferi għal bżonn li jkun hemm Homework Club għal tfal wara l-ħin ta' l-iskola u Literacy course għal persuni illitterati, basic skills u mmanigġjar ta' ħin u flus. Dawn huma servizzi bżonjużi, imma fl-istess ħin hemm il-probabbiltà kbira li ħafna min-nies li tant huma fil-bżonn ta' dan l-għarfien jispiċċaw ma jattendux.

Personalment inħoss li n-nies li naħdmu magħhom spicċaw draw is-sitwazzjonijiet mwiegħra li ilhom fihom; ħafna jgħidulek "issa li hemm hemm", jew "dan hu s-salib tiegħi" jew "issa drajt kif jien" jew "ma nista' nagħmel xejn; jekk nipprova nispiċċa b'aktar gwaj." Min-naħa l-oħra però, hemm il-fatt li dawn in-nies (ħafna drabi jkunu nisa u ommijiet) jiġu għandna sabiex jikkellmu fuq dak li jkunu għaddejjin minnu u jsemmu li jixtiequ li l-affarijiet jitjiebu.

Però, sadanittant, ma jkunux daqshekk motivati u lesti li jieħdu l-passi meħtieġa sabiex itejbu ftit il-kwalità tal-ħajja fil-familja. Dawn huma l-aktar mumententi fejn tidhol empatija u solidarjetà mal-persuni li jkollok quddiemek. Naraw faqar kbir, kemm finanzjarju, kemm edukattiv, kemm ukoll emozzjonali.

Is-solitudni u t-telqa huma realtà li tħossha f'dawn il-ġeneraturi. F'qalbhom huma jixtiequ jrabbu u jgħatu lil uliedhom l-aħjar possibbli. Imma jħossuhom maħnuqin bix-xibka ta' diffikultajiet li bejtu mas-snin. Dawn huma diffikultajiet li ħafna minnhom ġejjin ukoll minn trobbija dgħajfa u sajma minn trawwim li jqawwi u jsaħħaħ. Allura bilfors jinholqu dawn l-istejjer li jibqgħu jirrepetu ruħhom min ġenerazzjoni għall-oħra. Dawn huma sitwazzjonijiet li lili jgħinuni napprezza sa l-inqas ħaġa fil-ħajja personali tiegħi.

Niltaqgħu wkoll ma' nies b'mard mentali u fiziku, nies li jħossuhom tant weħidhom, nies li mhumieħ mifhuma minn dawk ta' madwarhom.

Xi ħaġa li dejjem tinkwetana hu l-preġudizzju li jinħass mill-kumplement tal-komunità lejn dawn il-familji. Is-sistema tal-housing li biha ngħataw dar bieb bieb ma' familji bħalhom b'ħafna problemi, f'roqgħa waħda, go raħal daqstant ċkejken kompliet tħawwad il-borma mqanqla. Nifhem li hi ferm aktar diffiċli li tiddiġerixxi borma f'daqqa waħda milli bukkun u dan hu li ġara lill-kumplement tal-komunità f'dan ir-raħal. Kultant ittik li tistaqsi: "X'homework isir qabel ma jiġu mogħtija tant appartamenti kollha f'daqqa?" M'hemm ħadd li studja sew il-konsegwenzi ta' policies li jpoħħu familji vulnerabbli bħal f'warehouse? Jien naħseb li l-policy makers setgħu ħasbu aktar f'dan ir-rigward. Illum nifhem aktar xi jridu jfissru il-politiċi bil-frazi 'kuxxenzja soċjali' imma ma nafx min minnhom mess ma' dawn it-tbatijiet regolament tant li xi darba jista' verament jgħamel differenza li tagħti soljev sinifikanti.

Claire Farrugia

(l-artiklu ta' Claire se jkompli fil-ħarġa li jmiss tal-Magazine)

NEWS UPDATE

Teams of the Reception Centre Services

Homework Support Service –

SJAF Learning Support Programme

The month of March has come and gone. The children we mentor and help with their studies were busy with their school exams. We were very pleased to hear that

many of our older children did quite well in their exams,

some reporting a pass mark for the first time. We had parents who proudly showed us their children's exam results; they all told us about the improvements achieved this term.

Three of our children will soon be sitting for their Junior Lyceum entrance exam; with their Tutors, they are making an extra effort.

Words are not enough to thank our Tutors for their sustained service provision, generosity and altruism. April, being Easter, means a break for the Homework Support Service, as all the children will be on their Easter holidays. Our last session will be on Thursday 2nd April, and we will resume work on Monday 20th April.

We are planning a team support meeting during the holidays.

Sister Rose has passed us details of a prospective service user. Hopefully, we will find a tutor to take charge as at the moment we have a full complement.

May the Blessings that the Risen Christ brings to humanity be with you all.

Jessie Spiteri.

Co-ordinator, Homework Support Service

Friendship Group

Kif tafu, xi membri tal-Kummissjoni Djakonija tal-parroċċa ta' Hal Balzan jingħaqdu ma' ħaddiema tas-St Jeanne Antide Foundation fiż-żjajjar ta' kull xahar lin-nisa detenuti fil-ħabs. L-ewwel viżta tiegħi lid-detenuti nisa tat-Taqsima A ma' Sr. Rose Rizzo, social worker, u mas-Sinjura Helen Sciberras.

Hassejt eċċitament kbir u dan kien mistenni, għaliex qatt f'ħajti ma kont żort lil xi ħadd f'din is-sitwazzjoni. In-nisa li kellimt, l-iżgħar waħda ta' 18-il sena, laqgħuna bi tbissima però ftit fetħu qalbhom magħna dwar is-sitwazzjoni li jinsabu fiha. Kif wieħed jista' jistenna, kollha kellhom xewqa komuni, dik li jasal il-jum meta jiskontaw is-sentenza u jerggħu jiksbu l-libertà.

Għamilnielhom ħafna kuraġġ u fakkarnihom li Alla dejjem ħabbhom u jibqa' jħobbhom. Heġġiġnihom jitolbu u jaħsbu wkoll fuq dak li jistgħu jagħmlu meta joħorġu minn hemm, l-improtanza li jgħixu ħajja sempliċi kemm jista' jkun u li jippruvaw bis-sħiħ biex jaħarbu minn dak li kien il-kagun li xellfu difrejhom mal-ġustizzja. Kollha kienu ħerqana li jibdlu ħajjithom biex ikunu jistgħu igawdu lill-familji tagħhom. Tnejn minn dawn in-nisa huma nanniet u jhossu ħafna t-turufnament min-neputijiet tagħhom.

Waħda minnhom daħlitni fil-kamra tagħha. Din kienet tidher li kellha l-kumditajiet meħtieġa, fis-sitwazzjoni li jinsabu. Waqt li konna qed inkellmuhom kienu qegħdin jagħmlu xi xogħol. Uħud minnhom urew li japprezzaw ħafna dan ix-xogħol għax jgħinhom iġħaddu ż-żmien billi jzommu ruħhom okkupati.

Is-sieġha taż-żjara tagħna malajr għaddiet. Hassejt li permezz ta' din iż-żjara kellna ċans naraw lil Kristu d'dawn in-nies ukoll. Kristu stess qal 'Kont il-ħabs u ġejtu żzuruni'.

Josephine Farrugia Randon.

Chairperson, Kummissjoni Djakonija Balzan

Voices of our Service Users

**Service User
Kirkop Resident**

26/3/09

This is my first time visiting
Your place, it feel full of
grace, I hope I will come many
time for all sorts of great
things. I will meet lots of
new friend and come and see
them again and again, I hope
I can bring something myself
in my own little way. I don't
know what shape or form
it will take or when it will
be. But this place just fill
me so much with an inner
peace, one day I might understand
and why, but for now it's
enough that I feel it.

This is my first time writing. Your place, it feels full of grace, I hope I will come many time for all sorts of great things. I will meet lots of new friends and come and see them again and again. I hope I can bring something myself in my own little way. I don't know what shape or form it will take or when it will be, but this place just fills me so much with an inner peace. One day I might understand and why, but for now its enough that I feel it.



**ST JEANNE ANTIDE FOUNDATION
VOLUNTEERING POLICY
Code of Practice for SJAF Volunteers**

All volunteers with the St Jeanne Antide Foundation are expected to act in accordance with this Code of Practice. This code protects and promotes the interests of service users and carers. It also supports volunteers themselves by explaining expected behaviour and boundaries to be maintained.

What is the Code? - The code of practice is a list of statements that describe standards of conduct and practice required of social care volunteers as they go about their daily social support work in the community.

STANDARD 1: *Protect the rights and promote the interests of service users and carers.*

This means that you are expected to:

1. Treat each person as an individual;
2. Respect an individual's views and wishes;
3. Support service users' rights to be in control of their lives and to be able to make informed choices;
4. Respect and maintain service users' dignity and privacy;
5. Promote equal opportunities;
6. Respect diversity.

STANDARD 2: *Establish and maintain trust and confidence.*

This means that you are expected to:

1. Be honest and trustworthy;
2. Communicate in an open, honest and straightforward manner;
3. Respect confidentiality;
4. Clearly explain the organisation's policy about confidentiality to service users and carers;
5. Be reliable and dependable;
6. Act in line with the organisation's policies and procedures;
7. Declare issues that might create conflicts of interest and make sure that they do not influence one's judgment or practice;
8. Adhere to the organisation's policy and procedures about accepting gifts and money from service users and carers;
9. Honour one's commitments, agreements and arrangements and, when it is not possible to do so, explaining why.

STANDARD 3: *Promote independence.*

This means that you are expected to:

1. Assist service users to understand and exercise their rights;
2. Help service users challenge and report dangerous, abusive, and discriminatory behaviour and practice;
3. Explain health and safety issues;
4. Help service users/carers to make complaints, comments or compliments.

STANDARD 4: *Respect the rights of service users while seeking to ensure that their behaviour does not harm themselves or other persons.*

This means that you are expected to:

1. Follow risk assessments that are in place;
2. Take necessary steps to minimise the risks of service users harming themselves or other persons;
3. Inform others of changes related to the health and safety of service users.

STANDARD 5: *Uphold public trust and confidence in social care services*

This means that you **SHALL NOT**:

1. Abuse, neglect or harm services users, carers or staff;
2. Exploit service users, carers or staff in any way ;
3. Abuse the trust of service users and carers or access you have to personal information about them or to their property;
4. Form inappropriate personal relationships with service users;
5. Discriminate or condone discrimination;
6. Put yourself or other people at unnecessary risk.

STANDARD 6: *Be accountable for the quality of the support you provide*

This means that you are expected to:

1. Inform your co-ordinator about any difficulties that may affect your ability to fulfill your roles and responsibilities as a volunteer;
2. Undertake relevant training to maintain and improve your knowledge and skills;
3. Be reliable and be ready to commit only to what you can deliver;
4. Inform your co-ordinator in good time if you cannot attend a meeting or service session;
5. Arrive 10 minutes before the agreed time;
6. Wear appropriate clothing for your activity;
7. Be enthusiastic;
8. Use appropriate language.

Lehen il-Muzbieh

nemnimli il-muzbieh, u qal:

- ja forma maħbuba tiegħi,
qis li tara,
u ara li tkun
imwaħhad għall-aħħar
u b'qalbek miftuha,
għalkemm moħħok jipprova
u ma jasalx

issirx farka jew frak,
issirx wieħed minn tnejn
izda wieħed minn wieħed,
ħa' jkollok ix-xorti
li tgħix barka li tfeġġ
meta ħajtek tintilef
għalija

hekk tfeġġlek din ħajti
u tnixxi mill-fond
ta' qiegħ dak il-vojt li
hu inti tassew -
li hu jien

ġismek għal ftit żmien
moħħok għal ftit żmien
u l-ispirtu tiegħek
għamilhom ċari, ħalli
minnhom jgħaddi d-dawl
li huwa jien

I-imħabba-dawl jiddi bid-dija
li taħslek u ġġibek
bħal tifla jew tifel
imnaddaf mill-biza', ħżunija
w bżulija fil-vojt

I-imħabba-dawl iġibek
ta' wara quddiem,
ta' taħt fuq u rasek l-isfel:
muzbiehek mhux tiegħek,
izda tiegħi,
u l-imħabba-dawl
li jdawwal il-madwar tal-muzbieh
huwa jien

għax minn dejjem hekk kien, hekk jien
anki t-toqol ta' ġebła jitbiddel aktar
milli nitbiddel jien

allura, jekk b'xofftok nitbissem irrid,
u b'qalbek inħobb
- ħallini
jekk b'qalbek u b'fommok
irrid ngħallem u nrodd
- ħallini
u jekk b'dirgħajk irrid naħdem għall-ġid
sakemm saħħtek tkun tiflaħ, u anki lilhinn
- ħallini

izda qis li ma torqodx
u ara li tisgħar
b'qalb miftuha beraħ -
għax inkella kif tisma'
l-ħoss ħiemed
li hu jien?

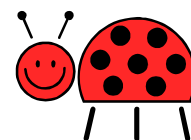
kif ġieli qalulkom
miż-żmien il-qadim
"Fir-renju tas-sema,
jkun xogħoli bl-unur,
u mhux xogħolok;
u kull ħaġa hemm fik
ħlief dak li nkun
sawwartu jien,
ma tiswa għal xejn¹



tony macelli 31-Mar-09

¹ Johannes Tauler (c. 1300–1361) kien teologu mistiku Germaniż: "In the kingdom of heaven it is His work that will be crowned, not yours. Anything in you that He has not wrought Himself will count for nothing."

Klabb NannaKola



Bħaż-żewġ klabbs ta' qabel li saru f'Hal Tarxien u f'Marsascula, dan il-Klabb NannaKola ta' Paola wasal fi tmiemu. Aħna nsiru familja waħda matul is-sessions tal-klabb u nieħdu ħsieb xulxin meta naraw li xi ħadd ikun nieqes għal xi raġuni. Il-membri tagħna bdew isemmgħu x'jista' jsir biex ma ninqatgħux minn xulxin. Ħadu gost ħafna bl-icebreakers li għamilna u bis-sincerità li nitkellmu biha matul is-sessjonijiet. Kollha stqarru li apprezzaw immens id-diskussjoni u t-tagħlim li dejjem joħroġ minnha.

Flimkien, qsamna ideat u għinna lil xulxin . Saħansitra stajna nesperjenzaw dan waqt il-krafts. Permezz tal-krafts, irrilassajna u tgħallimna metodi oħra ta' kif nistgħu nqattgħu ħin aktar kwalitattiv man-neputijiet. Kemm inkunu magħqudin meta naqsmu bejnietna l-affarijiet tal-krafts li xi membru ma jkollux biex ikun jista' jaħdem hu wkoll! Fil-karnival kellna t-tfal magħna u tgħidx x'ors għamlu bil-maskla tal-"bunny " li għamilna.

Tkellimna mal-Counsellor, is-Sinjura Vivienne Cassar dwar relazzjonijiet fil-familja, u tgħidx kemm dħalna fil-fond fid-diskussjoni, xhieda ta' kemm nemmnu fl-istituzzjoni ta' familja magħquda fl-imħabba u fir-rispett. L-istess għamilna ma' Sister Maria minn Dar l-Emigrant li kellmitna fuq religjonijiet u kulturi differenti li jolqtu lil xi membri tagħna wkoll. Ħadna ħafna tagħlim ukoll mis-Sinjorina Petra Mallia, Nutritionist, li fetħitilna għajnejna dwar kif għandna nżommu dieta bilanċjata billi nieklu ikel bil-qies bħalma tissugerixxi l-piramida ta' l-ikel. Kemm staqsejna u urejna interess, mhux biss għad-dieta tagħna iżda anke tan-neputijiet tagħna!!

Issa dan l-aħħar żorna wkoll id-Dar tal-Providenza' u sagħtejn taru bħal leħħa ta' berqa. Hemmhekk smajna quddies aċċelebrata minn Fr. Martin Micallef, u ta' dan niringrazzjawh minn qalbna. Wara għamilna xi riflessjonijiet fuq il-laqgħat li għamilna flimkien mill-bidu tal-kors sa llum ilgurnata.

Fraħna ħafna li kellna magħna il-prezenza ta' nannu ieħor fostna f'din il-ħarġa. Dawn il-laqgħat ta' Klabb NannaKola, kif jindika l-isem, m'humieq biss għan-nanna iżda wkoll għan-NannUkoll!!

Urieth Aquilina

Klabb NannaKola Co-Ordinator



Fil-karnival kellna lit-tfal magħna.



Nitgħallmu dwar il-Piramida ta' l-ikel.

Ms. Vivienne Cassar, il-Counsellor ta' SJAF ingħaqdet magħna wkoll.



Sister Maria tkellimna dwar żwiġijiet b'kulturi differenti.





Sayings of Light and Love

Dichos de Luz y Amor
by

St. John of the
Cross



Saint John of the Cross (San Juan de la Cruz) (24 June 1542 – 14 December 1591), born Juan de Yepes Alvarez, was a major figure of the Catholic Reformation, a Spanish mystic, and Carmelite friar and priest, born at Fontiveros, a small village near Ávila.

Saint John of the Cross was a reformer of the Carmelite Order and is considered, along with Saint Teresa of Ávila, as a founder of the Discalced Carmelites. He is also known for his writings. Both his poetry and his studies on the growth of the soul are considered the summit of mystical Spanish literature and one of the peaks of all Spanish literature. He was canonized as a saint in 1726 by Pope Benedict XIII. He is one of the thirty-three Doctors of the Church.

On the night of 3 to 4 December 1577, following his refusal to relocate after his superior's orders and allegedly because of his attempts to reform life within the Carmelite order, he was taken prisoner by his superiors, and jailed in Toledo, where he was kept under a brutal regimen that included public lashing before the community at least weekly, and severe isolation in a tiny stifling cell barely large enough for his body. He managed to escape nine months later, on 15 August 1578, by escaping through a small window in a room adjoining his cell. (He had managed to prise the cell door off its hinges earlier that day). In the meantime, he had composed a great part of his most famous poem *Spiritual Canticle* during this imprisonment; his harsh sufferings and spiritual endeavours are then reflected in all of his subsequent writings. The paper was passed to him by one of the friars guarding his cell.

Here are the first few of the 175 Sayings, from <http://www.ocd.or.at/ics/john/dichos.htm> a page maintained by the [Teresian Carmel in Austria](mailto:ocd@risc.uni-linz.ac.at), (ocd@risc.uni-linz.ac.at).

1. The Lord has always revealed to mortals the treasures of his wisdom and his spirit, but now that the face of evil bares itself more and more, so does the Lord bare his treasures more.
2. O Lord, my God, who will seek you with simple and pure love, and not find that you are all one can desire, for you show yourself first and go out to meet those who seek you?
3. Though the path is plain and smooth for people of good will, those who walk it will not travel far, and will do so only with difficulty if they do not have good feet, courage and tenacity of spirit.
4. It is better to be burdened and in company with the strong than to be unburdened and with the weak. When you are burdened you are close to God, your strength, who abides with the afflicted. When you are relieved of the burden you are close to yourself, your own weakness; for virtue and strength of soul grow and are confirmed in the trials of patience.
5. Whoever wants to stand alone without the support of a master and guide will be like the tree that stands alone in a field without a proprietor. No matter how much the tree bears, passers-by will pick the fruit before it ripens.

6. A tree that is cultivated and guarded through the care of its owner produces its fruit at the expected time.
7. The virtuous soul that is alone and without a master is like a lone burning coal; it will grow colder rather than hotter.
8. Those who fall alone remain alone in their fall, and they value their soul little since they entrust it to themselves alone.
9. If you do not fear falling alone, do you presume that you will rise up alone? Consider how much more can be accomplished by two together than by one alone.
10. Whoever falls while heavily laden will find it difficult to rise under the burden.
11. The blind person who falls will not be able to get up alone; the blind person who does get up alone will go off on the wrong road.
12. God desires the smallest degree of purity of conscience in you more than all the works you can perform.
13. God desires the least degree of obedience and submissiveness more than all those services you think of rendering him.
14. God values in you the inclination to dryness and suffering for love of him more than all the consolations, spiritual visions, and meditations you could possibly have.

15. Deny your desires and you will find what your heart longs for. For how do you know if any desire of yours is according to God?

16. O sweetest love of God, so little known, whoever has found this rich mine is at rest!

17. Since a double measure of bitterness must follow the doing of your own will, do not do it even though you remain in single bitterness.

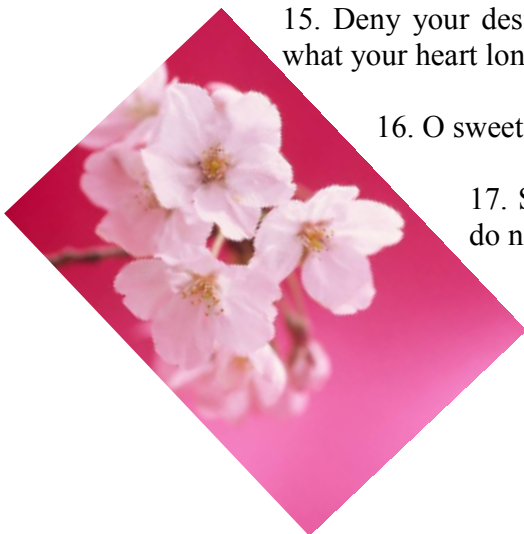
Prologue by John to his sayings

O my God and my delight, for your love I have also desired to give my soul to composing these sayings of light and love concerning you. Since, although I can express them in words, I do not have the works and virtues they imply (which is what pleases you, O my Lord, more than the words and wisdom they contain), may others, perhaps stirred by them, go forward in your service and love -- in which I am wanting...

Lord, you love discretion, you love light, you love love; these three you love above the other operations of the soul. Hence these will be sayings of discretion for the wayfarer, of light for the way, and of love in the wayfaring. ... Let us speak to the heart words bathed in sweetness and love that do indeed please you, removing obstacles and stumbling blocks from the paths of many souls who unknowingly trip and unconsciously walk in the path of error -- poor souls

who think they are right in what concerns the following of your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, in becoming like him, imitating his life, actions, and virtues, and the form of his nakedness and purity of spirit. Father of mercies, come to our aid, for without you, Lord, we can do nothing.

<http://www.oed.or.at/ics/john/dichos.htm>



"Sayings of Light and Love," and St. Teresa's writings, are [among] the most important mystical works in Spanish, and have deeply influenced later spiritual writers all around the world. Among these can be named T. S. Eliot, Thérèse de Lisieux, Edith Stein (Teresa Benedicta of the Cross), and Thomas Merton. John has also influenced philosophers (Jacques Maritain), theologians (Hans Urs von Balthasar), and pacifists (Dorothy Day, Daniel Berrigan, and Philip Berrigan). Pope John Paul II wrote his theological dissertation on the mystical theology of Saint John of the Cross. Saint John is also mentioned in Allen Ginsberg's groundbreaking poem Howl.

[Source: Wikipedia]

18. The soul that carries within itself the least appetite for worldly things bears more unseemliness and impurity in its journey to God than if it were troubled by all the hideous and annoying temptations and darknesses describable; for, so long as it does not consent to these temptations, a soul thus tried can approach God confidently, by doing the will of His Majesty, who proclaims: Come to me, all you who labor and are heavily burdened, and I will refresh you [Mt. 11:28].

19. The soul that in aridity and trial submits to the dictates of reason is more pleasing to God than one that does everything with consolation, yet fails in this submission.

20. God is more pleased by one work, however small, done secretly, without desire that it be known, than a thousand done with the desire that people know of them. Those who work for God with purest love not only care nothing about whether others see their works, but do not even seek that God himself know of them. Such persons would not cease to render God the same services, with the same joy and purity of love, even if God were never to know of these.

21. The pure and whole work done for God in a pure heart merits a whole kingdom for its owner.



Żewġ zghażaġh minn Hjal Kirkop, Redeemer Caruana u John Paul Cesare, bdew jaħdmu mal-Fondazzjoni sabiex jirristawraw bil-mod il-mod dar ċkejkna biswit il-binja prinċipali tas-Sorijiet tal-Karità li qed tintuża mill-Fondazzjoni. Hemm ħafna xogħol xi jsir. Bħalissa qed jaħdmu biex iġibu fuq il-fil waħda mill-kmamar ta' ġewwa. Grazi John Paul u Redeemer!

Our experience at St. Jeanne Antide Foundation...

Ruth Brincat & Kimberley Vella

4th Year B.A. (Hons.) Social Work Students

Community social work refers to the process in which social workers offer the necessary support to people within the community by forming links within that community. One of the aims of social work is to encourage people who require support to discover their own unacknowledged inner resources, further develop their potential, and explore possibilities of working towards making a better community for themselves to live in.

We both started our 400-hour social work practice placement on the 11th February 2009. We were very eager to embark on this new experience especially since our undergraduate degree course at the University does not expose us students to the practice of community social work. Hence, we were in for the challenge and ready to work!

From the very first day we felt glad that we had decided to complete our placement with the Foundation. The staff and all of the volunteers welcomed us and this made it easier for us to integrate within the SJAF system.

This placement is exposing us to various client groups and helping us to grow professionally. Our work consists in helping youths and adults from Tarxien and Hal Kirkop who are facing difficulties in their lives. Our role with different service users changes accordingly. In fact, we are working hard to help most of our service users to become empowered to be more independent and self-determined by acknowledging their strengths and decision-making abilities. We act as advocates on behalf of service users and put pressure on systems including schools and the Housing Authority in the best interest of those we help. Whenever needed, we also accompany service users to medical appointments especially where this involves the mental health system.

Everyday is a challenge and a new experience for us! We are very pleased that we have conducted our last practice placement at SJAF. Moreover, we would like to take the opportunity to thank all of you who supported us in any way throughout our work with the Foundation. Special thanks goes to Nora, our fieldwork teacher, Sister Rose, Miriam, and Community Outreach Workers Claire and Pauline who were of fundamental importance throughout our experience, each in their unique way.

May God Bless You All!



"At that time the disciples approached Jesus and said, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

He called a child over, placed it in their midst, and said, "Amen, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever receives one child such as this in my name receives me.

"Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea." Mt. 18, 1-5.

A WITNESSING FROM PAKISTAN ... alphabetism is a luxury

"The world is galloping towards progress. In the developed part of the world a child who doesn't know how to use the computer, is considered illiterate. In Pakistan literacy is still a luxury for many children. 3.3 million children (8.3% of all the children) are economically active. Child Labour remains a very sore wound in this country. Often child labour is caused by poverty. No parents would like their children to be the family's breadwinners. They all have dreams for a better future for their children. However, in poor families, the child soon learns that his/her only way of surviving is to find a menial job which secures his/her daily meals. This great need creates many abusers and these children seem to be destined for a life-long kind of slavery. The Christian community is doing a lot for these children. The aim is to 'redeem' them from their bondage. This requires energy and money.

We believe that every person, created in the image of God, has the right to live life with dignity — a right that is often denied. It's impressive to see how children who truly live a 'hand to mouth' reality are ready to share what they get with other children whose day didn't provide them with their daily meal. Close to our house, there is a skip which is considered to be a source of great wealth to the so-called, garbage children — my heart aches every time I see how these children have to degrade themselves to the point of seeking their daily bread from a foul smelling skip. Some time ago I came across a group of boys sitting besides the skip sharing a meal — a very hygienic place to enjoy a meal! I came to know that 3 boys had been lucky that day while it was an unlucky day for the fourth one. Without hoarding what they had earned that day, the 3 boys bought a meal consisting of the Pakistani bread and some lentils swimming in oil and gravy — for all of them. My throat went dry as I realized that though they grow up in a world that has little to offer them, the hardships they have to endure do not harden their hearts.

One of our priorities is to pay for the school fees of as many children as possible. We know that our contribution is just a drop in an ocean of needs. We wish we have more hands and a limitless bank account! But since we have neither, we strive to do what we can. We visit the families to see the reasons why children are not sent to school. The reason is a common one among many — economical problems.

We believe that the seed of goodness lies in the heart of all. May our presence in the world spur this seed to bloom in such a way that justice is done towards all and no one is left behind as the world moves towards horizons of endless opportunities."

Sr Natalie Abela



Note. Sr. Natalie is a Maltese Sister of Charity in the mission of Pakistan. She is responsible for the religious formation of the young ladies who enter the novitiate because they ask to enter our Congregation to be Sisters of Charity.



Aħbarijiet mill-Fondazzjoni

2 ta' Marzu: Tmien membri tal-Kummissjoni Djakonija tal-Parroċċa ta' Santa Luċija żaru l-Fondazzjoni biex isiru aktar familjari mas-servizzi li l-Fondazzjoni toffri lill-parroċċi tal-madwar. Kien preżenti wkoll il-Kappillan, Fr Ivan Scicluna. Ġie diskuss ukoll kif il-kollaborazzjoni tista' tikber permezz ta' riferimenti ta' każijiet u support group fuq is-*Self-Esteem*. Thejju il-minuti tal-laqgħa u ntbagħtu lill-Kappillan.



3 ta' Marzu: L-impjegati tal-Fondazzjoni u voluntieri li jżuri persuni fid-diffikultà kellhom konsulta mas-Sinjura Connie Magro mill-**Mental Health Association** li magħha l-Fondazzjoni hija affiljata. Il-konsulta professjonali kienet tirrigwarda l-każijiet ta' persuni b'mard mentali li l-Fondazzjoni qiegħda tgħin permezz tal-firxa ta' servizzi u inizjattivi. Permezz ta' dawn il-kunsulti, il-ħaddiema tal-Fondazzjoni jkunu jistgħu jirriflettu dwar il-metodu li qed jintuża u jekk dan huwiex effettiv u jinkiseb aktar għarfien għal ħidma aktar effettiva u professjonali.

6 ta' Marzu: Nora attendiet it-tnedija ta' riċerka dwar il-faqar u l-familja Maltija organizzata mill-**Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Familja (KNF)**. Ir-riċerka ikkommissjonata mill-KNF saret minn Dr Angela Abela u Rev. Dr Charles Tabone. Kopji tal-ktejjeb, għal min jixtieq jaqrah, jinsabu fil-linrerija tal-Fondazzjoni u għand Sr Rose. Kif tafu, il-Proġett VINĊI f'Hal Kirkop immexxi mill-Fondazzjoni huwa kkommissjonat mill-Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Familja.

11 ta' Marzu: Nora ipparteċipat f'laqgħa fil-Hotel Corinthia Marina organizzata mill-**Maltese Mentoring Society**. Għal-laqgħa kienu preżenti wkoll l-Youth Employment Advisers ta' l-**ETC**. Ġew diskussi l-iskemi godda ta' l-**ETC** u l-mentoring ta' żgħażaġħ bla xogħol, speċjalment il-kategorija ta' żgħażaġħ vulnerabli li jistgħu jibbenefikaw aktar mill-metodu ta' Social Mentoring. Kif tafu, il-Fondazzjoni toffri servizz ta' Mentoring għal-żgħażaġħ 'at rsk' (Aħn'Aħwa), inizjattiva li għadha qed tiżvolgi.

12 ta' Marzu: Nora, Kim u Ruth kellhom laqgħa uffiċjali maċ-Chairperson tal-Kummissjoni Djakonija ta' Haż-Żabbar, is-Sinjura Connie Abdilla. Inbdiet diskussjoni dwar kif il-Fondazzjoni u l-parroċċa ta' Haż-Żabbar jistgħu jaħdmu aktar mill-qrib. Id-diskussjoni se titkompla.

16 ta' Marzu: Sr Salvina Bezzina u Nora attendew riċeviment organizzat mill-**VOICES Foundation** ġewwa l-Hotel Radisson filgħaxija. Il-Fondazzjoni ingħatat donazzjoni ta' €1,500 mill-**VOICES**. Numru kbir ta' għaqdiet volontarji irċevew donazzjoni wkoll mid-dħul tal-kunċerti tal-**VOICES** li saru fl-2008.

25 ta' Marzu: Billi l-Arċipriet tal-**Parroċċa ta' Santa Liena, B'Kara** esprima ix-xewqa ma' Nora li jiġi organizzat Klabb NannaKola fil-parroċċa tiegħu, Urieth organizzat laqgħa biex tithejja t-triq. Ħadu sehem Urieth, Emma u Tony u Nora. Il-Klabb se jinbeda aktar tard din is-sena wara li jkunu ttieħdu l-passi ta' thejji kollha. L-Arċipriet interessat ukoll fl-għajnuna li l-Fondazzjoni tista' tagħti biex jinħoloq grupp ta' appoġġ/kors għal min jieħu ħsieb (Carers) persuna b'diżabilità, mard kroniku u mard mentali fil-familja.

26 ta' Marzu: Saret laqgħa mas-Sur Vince Tonna, Chairperson tal-Kummissjoni Djakonija ta' M'Scala dwar il-kors fuq is-*Self-Esteem* li l-Fondazzjoni intalbet torganizza f'Wied il-Għajn. Dan il-kors se jitmexxa minn Astrid Camilleri u se jinbeda wara l-Għid. Se jkunu mistiedna persuni vulnerabbli mgħejjuna mill-Kummissjoni Djakonija u minn xi nanniet li ħadu sehem fil-Klabb NannaKola ta' Wied il-Għajn li esprimew xewqa kbira li jattendu għal kors bħal dan meta żaru l-Fondazzjoni ftit ilu.

26 ta' Marzu: Intemm il-grupp tas-*Self-Esteem f'Hal Tarxien*. Grazzi Astrid tal-kontribut siewi tiegħek! Dan kien ir-raba' grupp miftuħ għal persuni riferuti mis-servizz ta' Social Work u Counselling tal-Fondazzjoni. Proset Sr Rose u Andreana ta' kemm tħabirku biex jiġi offrut dak ix-xi ħaġa *extra* u valida ħafna lill-persuni li ngħinu!

26 ta' Marzu: Kim u Ruth ħadmu biex organizzaw laqgħa ta' taħriġ u riflessjoni għall-ħaddiema tal-Fondazzjoni dwar **metodi u prattiċi li jevitaw burnout** u jassiguraw stat mentali aktar ħieles u qawwi. Mexxa l-laqgħa Dr Tony Macelli, membru tal-Governing Board.

27 ta' Marzu: 10 ħaddiema tal-Fondazzjoni attendew il-Konferenza Nazzjonali organizzata mill-**Mental Health Association (MHA)** fis-sala Robert Samut Hall, il-Furjara bit-tema ta' **Mental Illness in the Family – our hidden secret**. Il-Fondazzjoni għenet fl-organizzazzjoni tal-konferenza billi issa parti mill-Kumitat Eżekuttiv tal-MHA. Nora mexxiet wieħed mill-Workshops bl-isem Children's feelings u Urieth għamlitha ta' rapporteur għal dan il-Workshop. Il-powerpoint presentations tal-kelliema se jitqiegħdu dalwaqt fuq il-website tal-MHA.

28 ta' Marzu: Fis-sessjoni tas-Sibt tas-Seminar għal rappreżentanti tal-Kummijonijiet Djakonija tal-parroċċi Maltin organizzata mill-**Caritas Malta**, Nora tat preċentazzjoni dwar *Ħidma soċjo-edukattiva u pastorali ma' persuni bi problemi ta' saħħa mentali u qrabathom fil-komunità*. Id-diskussjoni li segwiet kienet imqanqla u rilevanti ħafna. Nora iffukat fuq il-mod prattiku li is-St Jeanne Antide Foundation qiegħda tghin u tħobb persuni b'mard mentali kroniku.

30 ta' Marzu: Intemm il-Klabb Nannakola f'**Raħal Ġdid** (araw l-artiklu ta' Urieth f'pagna oħra ta' din il-ħarġa. Grazzi Emma, Tony, Claire u Urieth. Claire, mill-Proġett Vinci f'Hal Kirkop, ħadmet id f'id ma' Emma u Tony sabiex titgħallem il-proċess kollu ta' kif jiġi organizzat u jitmexxa Klabb Nannakola. L-idea hi li hi u Pauline jibdedu dan il-Klabb f'Hal Kirkop ukoll.

Marzu: Il-Bank APS ta' donazzjoni ta' €3,000 lill-Fondazzjoni sabiex tkun tista' timpjega part-time social worker għal qasir żmien. Kif tafu, is-Servizz ta' Social Work u Counselling huwa offrut lill-parroċċi ġirien.

Marzu kollu: Kimberley Vella u Ruth Brincat, żewġ studenti tar-raba' sena tal-B.A. (Hons) Social Work baqgħu għaddejjin bil-prattika tagħhom ta' Social Work mal-Fondazzjoni. Mal-Fieldwork Teacher tagħhom mill-Fondazzjoni u weħidhom ukoll, attendew għan numru ta' laqgħat mal-multidisciplinary teams ta' psikjatri fiddenti ġewwa l-isptar Monte Carmeli sabiex ikomplu jaħdmu mill-qrib ma' professjonisti f'dan il-qasam involuti fil-kura medika ta' persuni mgħejjuna mill-Fondazzjoni. Permezz ta' din il-ħidma, jinkiseb għarfien aktar ċar dwar id-dijanjozi proprja tal-persuna b'mard mentali ħalli jingħata appoġġ aktar konkret u xieraq fil-komunità mill-Fondazzjoni. Dr Marceline Naudi mid-Dipartiment tas-Social Work and Social Policy fl-Università ta' Malta żaret il-Fondazzjoni fit-23 ta' Marzu għat-tieni laqgħa ta' evalwazzjoni tal-prattika ta' Kim u Ruth.

Aħbarijiet minn gruppi oħra kollaboraturi tas-Sorijiet tal-Karità

Grupp Hbieb Ta' Giovanna Antida

PARADISE BAY HOTEL

U le, dan mhux xi riklam! Biex tkunu tafu, għall-ewwel darba, il-Hbieb tal-Missjoni (Manuel u Doris Seguna), u xi membri mill-Fondazzjoni, ingħaqadna flimkien għal retreat ta' week-end f' din il-lukanda. Għan-nofs ta' nhar tas-sibt, ingħaqdu magħna grupp ta' sorijiet tal-karità, li baqgħu magħna sa wara l-ikel.



Jessie Spiteri, bl-għajjnuna ta' binha Mark, u ta' xi hbieb oħra, hejjew ktejjeb għall-okkażjoni, bil-programm komplut bil-vespri, it-talb ta' sbieħ il-jum, bil-quddiesa tal-Ħadd.

Anki l-persuni li attendew l-irtir hemm imniżżla. Prosit tassew!

X' taħseb? Bdejna bil-kafe u l-cake. B'introduzzjoni minn Sr Teresa, infetaħ l-irtir. Sr Rosaria u Sr Pauline għamlulna power point fuq l-ittri ta' San Pawl lill-Filippin. Din Sr Rosaria tatna tagħrif fond u wiesgħa ta' dawn l-ittri. X'meravilja !



Wara kelna ħin ta' riflessjoni personali. Kullĥadd sab post għalih waħdu, jew fis-sala jew fil-kamra tiegħu. Ergajna ltqajna u nqsamna f'ħames gruppi, kull grupp b'zewg mistoqsijiet differenti fuqhiex jaħdem. Dak li ħareġ minn kull-grupp, ġie ipprezentat b'sentenza waħda fl-assemblea.

Bit-talb tal-vespri flimkien, parti minnhom kantati, wasalna sal-ħin taċ-ċena (u x'ċena). Bil-libertà kollha, min ried, wara ċ-ċena, tlajna fis-sala għar-rużarju, li minnflok il-posti tassoltu, kellna ħames ħsibijiet fuq il-passjoni, preparati minn Jessie Spiteri.

Wara raqda twila jew qasira (għax kien hemm min qal li ma' raqadx minħabba l-inħir), bdejna bit-talb ta' sbieħ il-jum, u inżilna għall-kolazzjon. Wasal Fr Rene, li beda biex staqsa kienx hemm min qara l-ittra tal-Madre, u x' laqgħatna minnha. Bla dubju ta' xejn, Fr Rene l-ittra għasarha u tagħna il-meraq. Tant jinteressawħ dawn l-ittri tal-Madre li għamel referenza anke għall l-ittra ta' qabel din. Fl-aħħar wieġeb għal xi domandi li sarulu. Pawsa żgħira, u iċċelebrajna l-quddiesa sabieħa, bil-kant ul-kitarra. Reġa' sar ħin l-ikel. Lill-father stedinnieh jibqa' jiekol magħna, però ma setax għax kellu fejn imur.

Fil-ħin ta' rilassament ta' wara l'ikel kien hemm min mar jgħamel mixja, imma kien riħ qawwi u kiesaħ iċaqċaqlek l-għadam bħall ċuqlajta. Kien hemm min mar għall-irdoss fil-kamra. Ippakkjajna, tlajna għall-aħħar darba fis-sala għall-evalwazzjoni. U kif bdejna , spicċajna, bil-kafe u l-cake.

Għad li skond l-evalwazzjoni inħass li għad hemm lok għal xi titjib fl-irtir, Pero dan kien irtir suċċess, kemm spiritwalment u kif ukoll fiżikament.
NOTA. Rani l-manager tal-lukanda u staqsieni " Għalli jista jkun, il-membri tal-irtir mhux sejr in lura d-dar bil-guħ, hux !??"

Daniel Grech



Is-Sitwazzjoni u r-Regolamentazzjoni tal-gambling outlets u l-effetti tagħhom fuq il-komunità

diskussjoni fil-Kumitat Parlamentari dwar l-Affarijiet Soċjali Marzu 2009

“...il-gambling outlets qed ikissru aktar familji mill-Casinos, għaliex huma hielsa minn regolamentazzjoni rigida, jifftu għal ħin twil, u qed jinfetħu ħafna u qrib il-komunità...”

“...għalkemm l-għaqda tagħna hija waħda anonima, in-numru ta’ żgħażaġh u nisa li qed ifittxu s-servizzi tal-gambling anonymous qiegħed kull ma’ jmur jizdied u dan heġġigna sabiex insemkaw il-vuċi tagħna...”

“...min jilgħab jibda bi fttit ċenteżmi u jispiċċa jilgħab l-eluf...jtitlifu kolloxx...dawn il-persuni jispiċċaw jiġru wara flushom u r-riskju li jaqgħu fil-vizzju malajr huwa għoli ħafna...”

“...f’dawn il-gambling outlets rajna tfal fil-pushchairs, ommijiet jilgħabu sakemm it-tfal ikunu l-iskola u minn Novembru li għadda sa Jannar iltqajt ma’ tliet familji li kellhom ibiegħu darhom...”

Quddiem dawn ir-realtajiet, il-Kumitat dwar l-Affarijiet Soċjali ltaqa’ aktar minn darba mas-Sur Joe Chetcuti u s-Sur John Zammit, professjonisti tal-Caritas li ilhom jaħdmu ma’ persuni u familjari vittmi tal-vizzju tal-logħob u użura; persuni oħra li huma xhieda anonimi li garrbu l-vizzju tal-logħob; is-Sur Michael Cassar, Assistent Kummissarju tal-Pulizija; is-Sur Godwin Warr Direttur Ġenerali tad-Divizzjoni tal-Kummerċ u s-Sur Nick Xuereb u s-Sur Michael Gonzi, Chairman tal-Lotteries and Gaming Authority u acting CEO rispettivament.

Instema’ li l-vizzju tal-logħob qed ikollu effetti negattivi fuq il-familja u fuq min jilgħab. Inghad li omm b’kundizzjoni ta’ compulsive gambling kienet miexja fi triq u wara li rnexxiela tevita li ma tidholx u tilgħab f’żewġ gambling outlets, din spiċċat iltaqgħet ma’ outlet ieħor u waqgħet għat-tentazzjoni tal-vizzju. Kellha tkun it-tifla tagħha ta’ 15-il sena li ħarġitha minn dan il-outlet sabiex ma tilgħabx il-flus kollha tal-benefiċċji soċjali, b’konsegwenza li din il-familja kellha tgħaddi b’100 Ewro x-xahar kollhu. Xhud anonimu spjega kif il-faqar li qed iġġib din id-dipendenza fuq il-logħob huwa mohbi minħabba l-istigma. Min-naħa l-oħra, teżisti relazzjoni qawwija bejn l-użura u d-dipendenza tal-logħob u 70% ta’ dawk il-persuni li jaqgħu vittmi tal-użura huma dipendenti fuq il-logħob.

Is-Sur Godwin Warr spjega kif id-Divizzjoni tal-Kummerċ ma ħarġet l-ebda liċenzja għal gambling outlets u teknikament il-leġislazzjoni preżenti ma tippermettix din l-attività fl-ebda liċenzja li toħroġ din id-Divizzjoni. Huwa qal li mhix ir-responsabilità tad-Divizzjoni li tagħmel spezzjonijiet f’dawn il-outlets sabiex tistabbilixxi jekk humiex konformi mal-liċenzja tad-Divizzjoni. Meta mistoqsi jekk familji li qed jesperjenzaw il-ftuħ ta’ gambling outlets fit-triq tagħhom għandhomx id-dritt ikunu jafu x’tip ta’ liċenzja dawn suppost għandhom, is-Sur Warr qal li d-Divizzjoni toħroġ lista tal-liċenzji darba fis-sena u kull min irid jista’ jsaqsi lid-Divizzjoni għal

din it-tip ta’ informazzjoni. Din l-informazzjoni tingħata bla problemi għax hija pubblika.

Is-Sur Michael Cassar esprima li għalkemm il-pulizija ma tantx tidhol fuq il-kwistjoni ta’ irregolaritajiet ta’ liċenzji, huwa stqarr li legalment il-pulizija huma responsabbli li jissorveljaw il-liċenzji tal-operat tal-outlets. Huwa qal li tinħass nuqqas ta’ leġislazzjoni ċara li tiddistingwi l-magni tal-logħob tal-gambling minn dawk tal-amusement. Fil-preżent il-leġislazzjonijiet f’dan il-qasam ma jgħinix fix-xogħol tal-pulizija, tant li saħansitra l-konfiska ta’ dawn il-magni jista’ jfisser abbuż ta’ poter mill-pulizija. Filwaqt li spjega li l-kaxxi tal-gambling huma illegali, is-Sur Cassar tkellem fuq kif il-magni tal-logħob ‘amusement’ isarrfu l-flus f’punti u allura jista’ jingħad li dawn qed jintużaw għal skop ta’ gambling. L-Assistent Kummissarju qal ukoll li huma dawn l-amusement machines li l-aktar qed joħolqu problemi u fejn numru kbir minnhom jinsabu f’dawn il-gaming outlets. Però hija diffiċli għall-pulizija li tiġbor provi li jirrikonoxxu dawn l-amusement machines bħala gambling machines. Sabiex magna tkun tissejjaħ amusement, din irid ikun fiha element ta’ kapacità u mhux ta’ gambling. Huwa rrefera għal sentenza tal-Qorti fejn ġew deskritti l-ispeċifikazzjonijiet ta’ dawn il-magni tal-logħob. L-interpretazzjoni tal-liġi hija essenzjali f’dawn iċ-ċirkustanzi u sabiex jiġu rregolarizzati madwar 13-il gambling outlets fil-pajjiż. Is-Sur Cassar qal li l-magni tal-logħob għandhom jiġu rreġistrati u liċenzjati sabiex il-pulizija jkunu jafu sa fejn għandhom jaslu.

Is-Sur Nick Xuereb u s-Sur Michael Gonzi spjegaw ir-rwol tal-Lotteries and Gaming Authority u kif il-liġi trid tipproteġi lil min jilgħab u lill-persuni taħt l-età. L-Awtorità għandha dmir ukoll li tara li ma jsirx ħasil ta’ flus. F’dan il-qafas u l-fatt li l-gambling outlets qed ifaqqsu fil-lokalitajiet, kemm il-Board u l-eżekuttiv tal-Awtorità qed jaħdmu ma’ l-istakeholders kollha sabiex dawn l-outlets ikunu prijorità. Huma urew il-preokkupazzjoni tagħhom u spjegaw kif qed titfassal regolamentazzjoni fl-immedjat u fit-tul. Is-Sur Xuereb irrefera għal stqarrija ċara tal-Ministru Tonio Fenech fejn qal li min għandu gambling outlet illum, ma jfissirx li dan neċessarjament ser jibqa’ miftuħ. Fi fttit xhur li ilhom imwaqqfa, kemm il-Board u l-Eżekuttiv tal-Awtorità, hejjew pjan li ser jiġi pprezentat lill-Ministru fi żmien qasir. Filwaqt li wrew kif l-Awtorità tiegħu ħsieb ir-regolamentazzjoni tal-Casinos, Bingo Halls, Maltco Lotteries u r-Remote Internet Gaming, huma stqarrew ukoll li ħadd minn dawn il-gambling outlets ma għandu liċenzja maħruġa mill-istess Awtorità. Tul il-laqgħa, ir-rappreżentanti tal-Lotteries and Gaming Authority stiednu lir-rappreżentanti tal-Caritas għal aktar kollaborazzjoni flimkien.

Il-Membri tal-Kumitat staqsew diversi mistoqsijiet lill-mistednin preżenti u fuq l-informazzjoni mogħtija rriżulta li kemm-il darba dawn l-outlets qed japplikaw għall-liċenzja kummerċjali mingħand id-Divizzjoni tal-Kummerċ u jagħmlu użu mill-amusement machines, dawn l-outlets għandhom jitqiesu li qed jagħmlu attivitajiet illegali. Dan għaliex kull outlet li tagħmel użu minn amusement machines, bil-liġi kif inhi fil-preżent, trid liċenzja mingħand il-Lotteries and Gaming Authority.

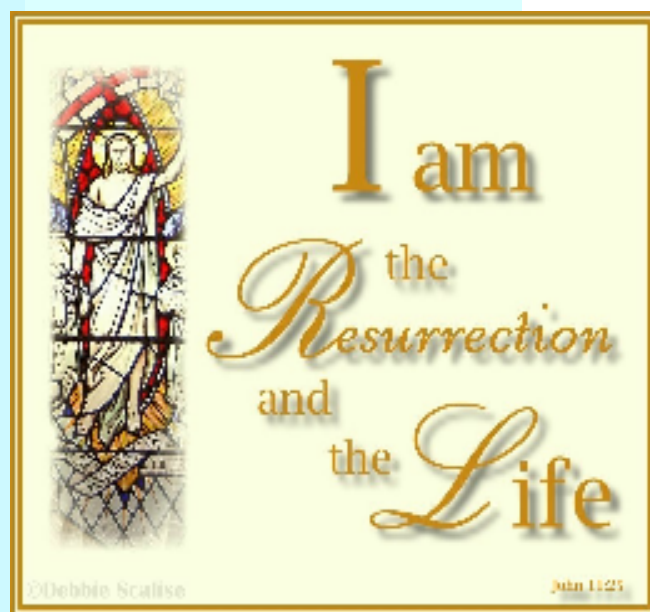
Il-Membri tal-Kumitat u l-mistednin preżenti komplew jiddiskutu fid-dettall u qablu li jista' jagħti l-każ ukoll li hawn min qed japplika ma' l-Awtorità tal-Ippjanar għal ħanut liċenzjat *class 9 (entertainment)* jew *internet café* mall-Awtorità tat-Turizmu u juża dan il-permess għal skop biex ikollu *gambling outlet*. Tul id-diskussjoni ħareġ ċar li din il-prattika hija illegali.

Fid-dawl ta' dan kollhu, l-Onor Edwin Vassallo, President tal-Kumitat dwar l-Affarijiet Soċjali, bi qbil mal-Membri preżenti rakkomanda 10 proposti sabiex ir-rappreżentanti tal-*Lotteries and Gaming Authority* u l-Gvern jikkunsidrawhom bis-serjetà:

1. Fejn jeżistu ħwienet li mhux qegħdin konformi mal-liċenzja u li effettivament saru *gambling outlets*, dawn għandhom jitqiesu bħala attività illegali u jingħalqu immedjatament sakemm tiġi ċċarata s-sitwazzjoni;
2. L-età ta' min jidhol jilgħab f'dawn *l-outlets* u ta' min jista' jakkumpanjhom għandha tkun minn 25 sena 'l fuq u għal ebda raġuni ma għandhom jithallew tfal jidhlu f'dawn *l-outlets*;
3. Jiġi limitat in-numru ta' dawn *l-outlets* fil-komunità u stipulata d-distanza ta' kemm dawn għandhom ikunu l-bogħod minn skejjel, knejjes u ċentri ta' tfal u zgħażaġħ. Irridu li t-tfal jitlejgħu f'ambjent ħieles mid-dipendenza tal-logħob;
4. Hekk kif isir fil-preżent fid-Divizjoni tal-Kummerċ, il-*Lotteries and Gaming Authority* għandha tibda tippublika lista ta' liċenzji maħruġa;
5. Aktar programmi ta' edukazzjoni u prevenzjoni, possibilmment iffinanzjati mill-qliġħ ta' din l-attività kummerċjali. Bil-liġi għandu jkun mitlub - bħalma jiġri fil-każ tas-sigaretti - sabiex f'post prominenti fid-dahla tal-*outlets* ikun hemm il-kliem 'il-logħob joqtlok';
6. Monitaraġġ, sorveljanza u *audit* regolari mill-awtoritajiet konċernati, u leġislazzjoni li tneħħi d-differenzi ta' *gambling* u *amusement* bejn il-magni tal-logħob, flimkien mal-irreġistrar u liċenzjament ta' dawn il-magni;
7. Regolamentazzjoni fuq ir-riklami tal-logħob, partikolarment fuq it-televiżjoni fejn tfal jistgħu jaraw dawn ir-riklami;

8. Limitazzjoni rigida fil-ħinijiet tal-ftuħ tal-*outlets* ;
9. Dawn ir-regolamenti flimkien ma' oħrajn għandhom ikunu maħsuba sabiex inaqqsu l-vijabilità finanzjarja ta' dawn *l-outlets* u dawn l-istess regolamenti għandhom ikunu ppublikati kemm fil-leġislazzjoni tal-*Lotteries and Gaming Authority* kif ukoll tad-Divizjoni tal-Kummerċ. Dan sabiex il-liċenzji maħruġa jkollha l-istess obbligazzjonijiet bil-liġi u titnaqqas il-probabilità li individwu japplika għal liċenzja mingħand awtorità bil-ħsieb li jevita l-obbligazzjonijiet legali;
10. Il-pulizija u l-*Lotteries and Gaming Authority* għandhom jaħdmu aktar flimkien sabiex jirresponsabilizzaw il-każini fil-komunità. Dawn il-każini jridu jagħrfu d-dmir soċjali li għandhom u jaraw li kull min jiffrekwenta l-każin ma jkunx f'riskju ta' dawn il-vizzji.

Mehuda mill-Istqarrija għall-Istampa tad-Dipartiment ta' l-Infommazzjoni (DOI) – 12.03.2009



Happy Easter

Ċentru Antida

Winter Opening Hours:	Monday	8:00 to 12:30	13:30 to 19:00
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	Wednesday	8:00 to 12:30	13:30 to 19:00
	Thursday	8:00 to 12:30	13:30 to 17:00
	Friday	8:00 to 12:30	13:30 to 19:00

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