

Ċentru Antida – family support service hub and its satellite Ċentru Enrichetta, Birżebbuġa

Ċentru Antida is the main family service hub of the St Jeanne Antide Foundation. It is based in Tarxien and has been operating daily since late 2006. Both centres work closely with community-based organisations bringing SJAF in touch with the needs of families in difficulty.

The Centres accept referrals from families, relatives and friends of families in difficulty as well as from other service agencies across sectors.

Ċentru Antida and Ċentru Enrichetta, have increasingly become known to residents from five localities with a population of around 50,000. The localities are Tarxien, Paola, Fgura, Żabbar and Birżebbuġa.

People drop by at both centres to talk to someone, to access the range of available family supports such as social worker counselling support, group-based learning activities, mental health consultations support groups, emotional freedom work, to become a volunteer or else to donate furniture and other household items for families needing them. Family caregivers of mentally ill

persons from across Malta are increasingly seeking support at these Centres.

The opening hours of Ċentru Antida are daily from 8.00 am to 5.00 pm in winter time and from 7.30 am to 2.30 pm between mid-July and mid-September. The Centre is often open at 7 am and has longer opening hours on those weekdays where a regular service is offered beyond closing time. Ċentru Enrichetta is open on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 8:00am and 2:00pm. Reception work at Ċentru Antida is fulfilled by a group of dedicated volunteers who share a roster.

Anyone coming to the centres is welcomed, offered tea and immediately seen by a professional worker.

Linked to Ċentru Antida and Ċentru Enrichetta are two adjacent Bazaars that are fully managed by volunteers; they serve as a means of providing low cost or free good quality clothes to service users and a place to which lonely persons turn to for a chat. Families aware of the bazaars regularly visit them to either donate knick knacks, books, toys and unused clothes and to make purchases. All premises are generously provided by the Sisters of Charity of St Jeanne Antide.

Aims of the Family Support Hub and its satellite centre:

≈ To provide a base for a range of community-based individual and group-based support opportunities radiating outwards to a number of communities.

≈ To create a welcoming hub and satellite service sites for vulnerable families from the localities of Hal Tarxien, Paola, Fgura, Haż-Żabbar and Birżebbuġa through which they can access information, support services, volunteering opportunities, links to other service providers, advocacy and non-formal education opportunities.

≈ To combat poverty and social exclusion by creatively, sensitively and flexibly responding to identified needs of local communities.

≈ To engage in processes whereby vulnerable individuals and families who feel marginalised and excluded due to complex life-challenges are enabled to gain in self-understanding, self-compassion and self-confidence while seeking to provide them with the skills and resources required to meet these challenges and to become resilient.

≈ To provide a range of volunteering opportunities for community members, service users and others outside the service catchment areas.

