

NEWSLETTER

HIGHLIGHTS FROM YMCA MALTA FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2022



January 2023 - Issue 64

CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Every year Christmas is a very busy time of the year all of our teams as we organised different events for people in the community as well as numerous activities for the people residing at our shelters, often made possible thanks to the support and donations of various entities and individuals.

Ikla Tal-Hbieb – Many vulnerable individuals and families battling poverty and homelessness got together at St Dominic Church for our joyful Christmas lunch 'Ikla Tal-Hbieb' organised with YWCA. For the 11th consecutive year, we instilled a sense of hope during the festive season thanks to the support and donations of food and gifts for the participants.



Kunċert Tama – our yearly concert to bring hope and joy during this time of year was coupled with a Christmas play 'L-Inkwadru Tal-Madonna' which was brought to life by the talented actors of Mixta Drama!

Kids Party – Over 35 children were given a smile during our kids' party thanks to the festive atmosphere created by our dedicated volunteers and the presents they received thanks to all those who donated!



VIDEO JOURNALISM TRAINING

Five of our staff members recently participated in a 'Video Journalism Hands-On Micro Class' by Bongu Editor Michael Kaden. From January, we will continue to invest in upskilling our team to have the opportunity to learn basic production skills so we can continue reporting the work that YMCA does. This training is co-funded by the 'Investing in Skills' scheme part-financed by the European Social Fund.



'A UNIQUE CHRISTMAS GIFT'



For the past 12 months, around 15 young people attended weekly workshops that created a safe and inclusive environment where they were given tools and support to use various drama methods to learn different ways of expressing themselves and showcasing their lived experiences. Around 80 people came to see their talented work during the final musical 'A Unique Christmas Gift'. This project was funded through the Freedom to live community grant scheme by the Ministry for Inclusion, Social Wellbeing, and Voluntary Organisations.



CHRISTMAS CELLO CONCERT

The Cello Academy with Is-Swieqi Local Council, the children's orchestra, soloists and special guest Rita Pace organised a Christmas Concert to raise funds for our services, and seized the opportunity to bring numerous gifts for our children living at our shelters! A big thank you for making this Christmas special!



SHARING STORIES & EXPERIENCES



Our team joined the 'Fishbowl' event organised by JRS Malta where migrants and those working in the sector were invited to share stories and experiences, 20 years after the first major disembarkation of migrants in Malta. The event offered a space where one could gain many insights into the realities of migration as well as the struggles, and hopes that comes with it.

YMCA's representative Christian Okyere Inkum shared his personal experience and discussed the need for governments to consider migrants and immigrants as an essential Human Resource to the economic development of Malta due to the unambiguous significant contribution to economic growth. Their contribution is not a secret but glaring in the most contributing sectors like construction, manufacturing, hospitality and sanitation.

THANK YOU ST ALOYSIUS



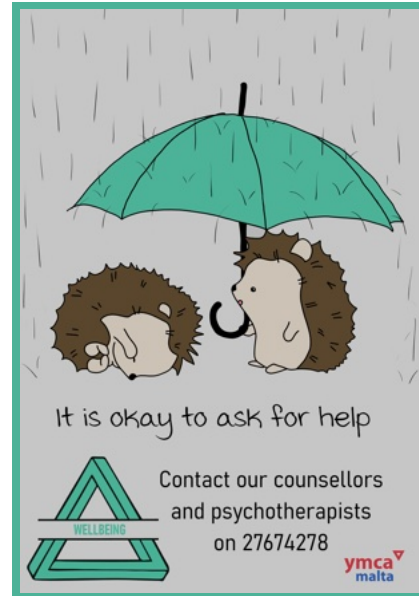
Supporting almost 200 people including 75 families requires distributing many bags of food a day, making it hard to keep up with the demand. St Aloysius College's dedicated students, teachers, and staff coordinated a food drive this Christmas to help us tackle poverty and homelessness. These young children opened their hands and their hearts for those less fortunate in life, and their support really goes a long way!

YOUR WELLBEING MATTERS



Feeling like you could use a friend, or anyone to just listen or chat with? Our volunteers are happy to be there for you for a friendly conversation on our 24/7 line.

Our counsellors & psychotherapists offer free-of-charge sessions for those who are in need of more professional support.



A big THANK YOU to all of our readers and supporters!

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