

Highlights

October 2024 - Issue 86

€2 Million Investment in YMCA Malta Residences



A funding agreement this month between YMCA Malta and the Ministry for

Social Policy amounts to the largest financial accord ever between these two bodies. It will ensure that YMCA Malta can maintain its current residences in operation, as well as open a fourth residence—*'Dar Simon Soler'*. YMCA Malta will ultimately offer **60** beds daily.

At a ceremony commemorating this event, CEO Anthony Camilleri emphasised that the care provided for those experiencing homelessness extends beyond physical shelter to long-term, psychosocial support. Hear Anthony speak below.

Interview with CEO

LIVE: YMCA Malta TV Appearances

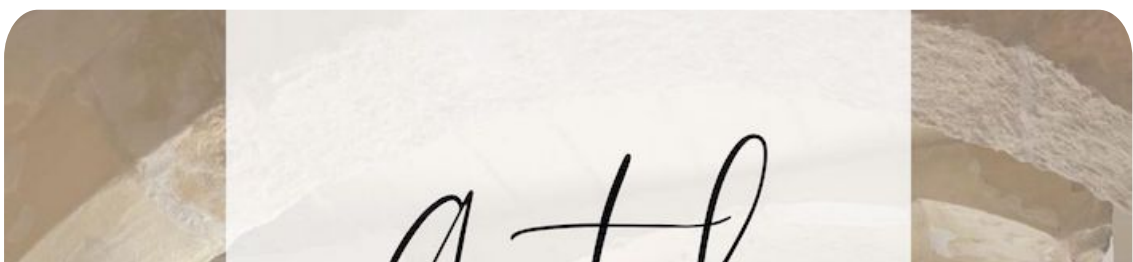
This month we appeared twice on LIVE TV: CEO Anthony Camilleri appeared on NET LiVE with Roderick Agius. YMCA Malta Social Support Worker Louise Pace was hosted on TVAM. These TV appearances (in Maltese) discussed the work YMCA Malta carries out, as well as recent trends in homelessness that we garner from our first-hand experience working in the field. Interact with the buttons below to access these interviews.

TVAM

NET LIVE

Antik Vintage & Charity Shop Opens, Volunteers Needed!

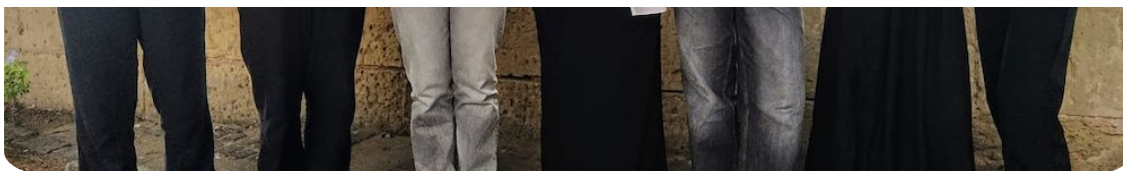
We have opened a second shop in the heart of Valletta. Antik Vintage & Charity Shop offers everything from chic to sassy, *quality-controlled*, second-hand clothing full of attitude and prêt-à-porter. Every purchase made helps support our mission.





But we need students, volunteers and community contributors to help us make this project roll! Not only will you gain hands-on experience in retail and customer service, but you'll also be part of a fabulous team making a real difference in the community. Hit the button below to get involved.





Volunteer in Antik

SOLIDARITY with YMCA Lebanon



Our colleagues at YMCA Lebanon are doing all they can to provide for the approximately **1.4 million** internally displaced people (IDPs) in that country; every day **hundreds of thousands of human beings** there are struggling to access clean water, health services—including mental health care, chronic medications, hygiene facilities/supplies.

There are an estimated 1,114 shelters for these IDPs and **935** were already at full capacity by this October 31. Lebanon is under bombardment as you read this. Thousands have already been killed and many, many more thousands have been injured.

YMCA Malta Chairperson Jean Paul Mifsud, who is also a member of the YMCA Europe Executive Committee, reported LIVE from Lebanon this month expressing the solidarity YMCA Malta irrevocably shows towards YMCA Lebanon. We also applaud the Maltese Government for its contribution of **21,400 USD** to YMCA Lebanon to continue its unmissable work in that embattled place.

YMCA Movement Strengthening Committee

With unprecedented challenges facing European solidarity as background context, YMCA Europe Movement Strengthening Committee visited *Dar Niki Cassar* and *Y Communal Home*, two of our shelters providing beds to individuals, families and children experiencing homelessness.



Where can we plug the gaps in our network and services to make the YMCA movement in Europe ironclad? Understanding the opportunities and challenges we face in the field, builds the foundation for all future work of the movement. This is how we grow stronger.

'A New Economic Model?'—Anti-Poverty Conference

Does Malta need 'A New Economic Model?' This conference explored the possibility of creating a viable economic alternative focussing on people's wellbeing rather than simply on increasing the national GDP.

Local NGOs were invited to speak, with YMCA Malta leading a discourse on the homeless left behind in the fallout of our current economic system; we spoke on behalf of those whom we are trying to help get back on their feet every day.

We explained to conference attendees that our services for homeless/roofless individuals services are accessed principally by young, mostly male adults, **many of them in employment**. People come to us to be able to have a shower, use a washing machine, and access the internet—all essential services otherwise unaffordable to them.





Outreach: STC & Global College Malta

This month we reached out at educational institutions, offering our expertise upon invitation. Working hands-on, directly with youth helps us better get a pulse on what they want, and how we can continue to refine our youth-led services to best serve them.

At STC we held workshops on our Youth Empowerment Programme, touching on the history of our organisation, and encouraging young people to take ownership of their own local communities.



At Global College Malta we shared our knowledge on the importance of self-

care and mental health, giving a group of students aged between 20-35 a description of the Psychotherapeutic Services we offer, and encouraging those who may feel the effects of culture shock, homesickness, financial hardship and loneliness to reach out to our team.

Halloweeeeeeen! Pumpkin Carving & Kids Party with Residents



This year we hosted two events for Halloween: Pumpkin Carving at our Youth Centre in Żabbar, and a Kids Party for the young residents at our DNC homeless shelter. Activities like these give kids a good time—both those better off in our society, as well as those who otherwise would not so readily be able to celebrate this fun and freaky holiday.

Aġenzija Żgħażaġh & APS Bank provided all materials for our Pumpkin Carving event, and Tal Lira, SOTTO Pinsa Romana Valletta, Maypole sponsored our Kids Party.

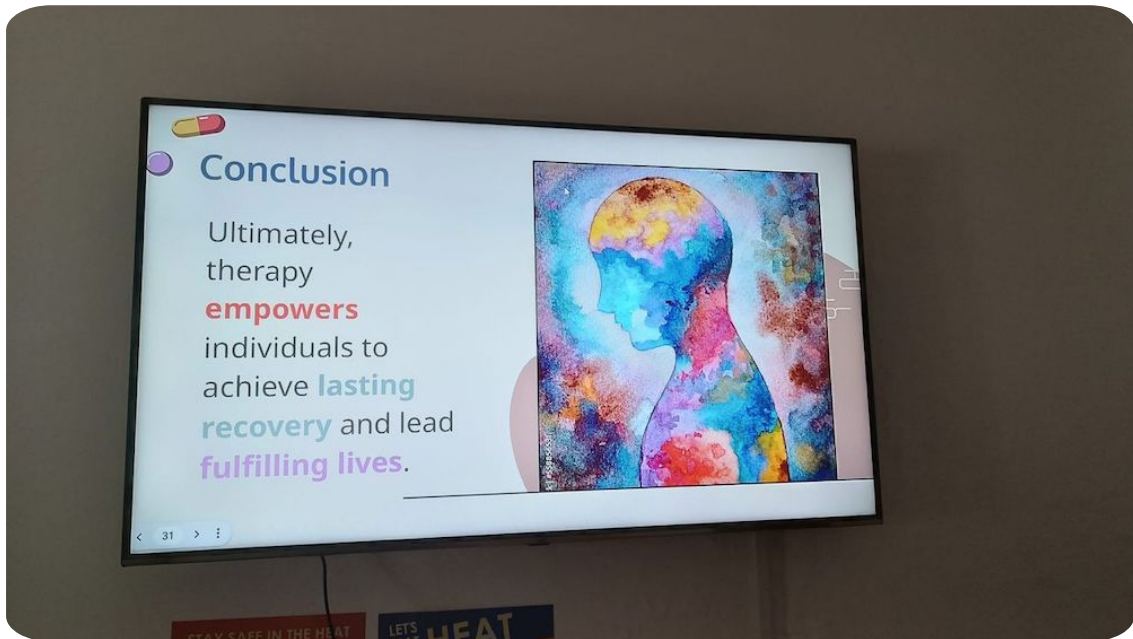
MCAST Freshers Week

We were invited to present a booth at networking event MCAST Freshers Week. We spoke to hundreds of students about the services we offer and collected over 35 new sign-ups for this newsletter you are reading. We also flaunted our awesome merch—pens, tote bags, stickers.



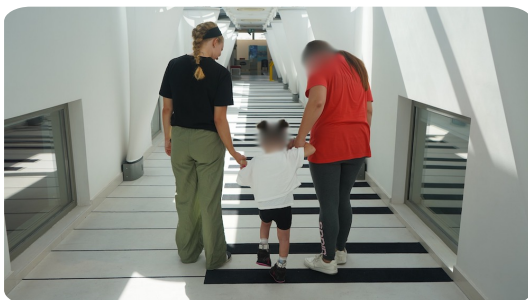
Youth Leadership Academy Workshop with Residents

An initiative as part of YMCA Europe's 'Leadership Academy: Youth Impacts' saw us carry out a workshop with our shelter residents. Topics included counselling, psychotherapy & group therapy as tools for self-growth and healing. The overarching goal of this initiative is to empower attendees to break out of the cycle of poverty and homelessness.



Esplora Malta for Homeless Kids

Our youngest residents living in our shelters—including little Nina here—had an absolute blast at Esplora. We do our outmost to ensure that children & young people experiencing homelessness have equal opportunities like everyone else.



International Day of Care & Support

We live in an ageing world; the WHO estimates that between 2015 and 2050 the percentage of those over 60 years will almost double from 12% to 22%. Who is going to look after these people while the pursuit of a decent standard of living already leaves the vast majority of us chronically pressed for time and energy?

We need strong, gap-proof care and support systems in place NOW to handle today's challenges—as well as the enormous ones waiting for us around the corner. That is why YMCA Malta celebrated and raised the alarm for International Day of Care and Support, an awareness-raising campaign by the United Nations and the International Labour Organisation.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF CARE AND SUPPORT

29 OCTOBER 2024

Thank you/Grazzi ħafna

AX

Together with YMCA Europe, we presented a token of appreciation to AX Hotels

for their continued support in the spheres of disadvantaged and invisible communities.



HSBC

Many thanks for the donation of 100 reusable take-away cups to our Drop-In Centre; these will assist service users as well as reduce our environmental footprint.





Me Direct

Many thanks to the staff at Me Direct who donated blankets to our cause; just in time for us to pass on to those who will pass the colder months without shelter.



Needs Support Programme

The support of the following organisations is ongoing in our [Needs Support Programme](#):

- Hartons
- Victory Kitchen
- Malta Food bank
- The Alfred Mizzi Foundation
- TTBL Limited
- Panku Streetfood
- ST Media Company Limited
- Maypole

An enormous thank you to these organisations. Your philanthropy is much appreciated.

If you or an organisation you work for would like to contribute to the Needs Support Programme and help us gather food and other essentials for our programmes, please do not hesitate to contact us.



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