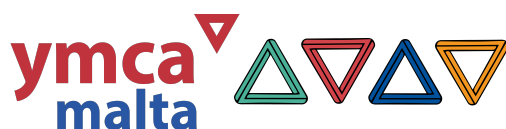




OUTREACH PREVENTION RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITY AFTERCARE



Highlights

November 2024 - Issue 86

CHRISTMAS AS ONE: Ikla tal-Ħbieb



Our very special Ikla tal-Ħbieb Christmas Lunch will be hosted at the Dominican Friary in Valletta on Sunday 22nd December.

There is no reason why anybody should be left out this Christmas because they may not be able to afford all the trimmings! We will take care of this for you. If yourself or someone you know would like to join our feast, you are more than welcome. Reservation is not required, simply show up and the door will be open to you.

If you are not joining us, you may still donate to our food and beverage purchases by sending a blank SMS to 5061 8088.

In Loving Memory: Eurosports Road Races

This year, the annual Eurosport BSJ Fleur-de-Lys Road Races will be held in aid of YMCA Malta, and celebrate its 30th year! It will also honour the memory of Jake Vella--A 15-year-old Maltese youth who had a rare medical condition called ROHHAD; Rapid-onset Obesity with Hypothalamic dysfunction, Hypoventilation, and Autonomic Dysregulation. Despite leading a healthy lifestyle, this condition hinders those diagnosed from being able to lose weight. Jake passed away in August this year.

Road Races athletes can choose between a 5 or 10 km run, or a 5km walk. The Running Races will be open to everyone over the age of 16 and over on the day of the race, whilst the Walk is open to everyone. Come get active and celebrate fitness with us!

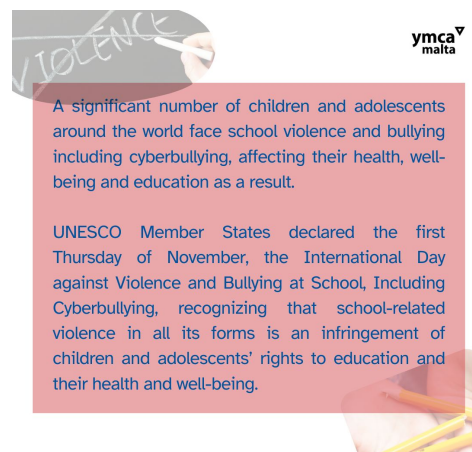


International Day Against Violence & Bullying at School

We celebrated International Day Against Violence and Bullying at School, including Cyberbullying--a UNESCO initiative urging greater awareness of the threat bullying poses to the rights to safety, well-being and a decent education.

You've heard it many times before, but **BULLYING IS NOT OKAY**

It is up to the bravest among us to stand up to the tyrants: if you see anyone being bullied--in person or online--don't just sit there, say something!

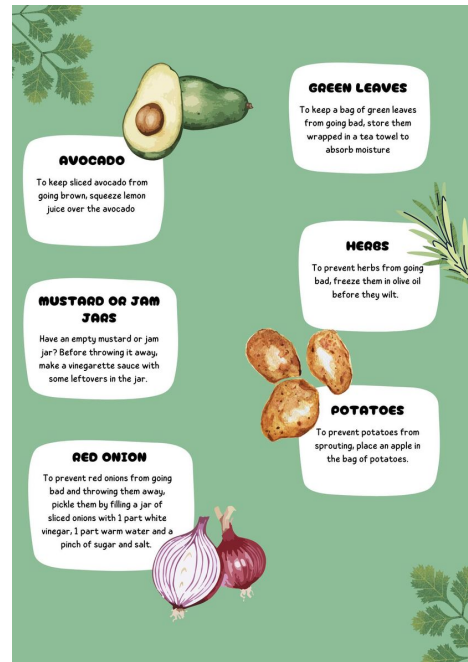


A significant number of children and adolescents around the world face school violence and bullying including cyberbullying, affecting their health, well-being and education as a result.

UNESCO Member States declared the first Thursday of November, the International Day against Violence and Bullying at School, Including Cyberbullying, recognizing that school-related violence in all its forms is an infringement of children and adolescents' rights to education and their health and well-being.

Don't Throw it Out! European Week for Waste Reduction

We raised awareness on food security and super simple ways to help people living in poverty during this year's European Week for Waste Reduction. Our talented Tania created illuminating infographics as part of a campaign to educate people how to keep food fresher for longer, and avoid wasting the planet's precious resources.



In the Neighbourhood: Festa Servizi





This month we got the opportunity to present at Festa Servizzi. Presented by the Foundation for Social Welfare Services in Żabbar, this educational event brought many organisations working for the wellbeing of Żabbar residents together in one place. Community residents got the unique opportunity to speak with a significant cross-section of those servicing their locality.

We loved reaching out to locals eager to connect with us. Strong local communities are the backbone of a healthy nation and we are proud to be among those invited to help foster grassroots solidarity and face-to-face accountability.

Europe's Next Gen: YMCA Academy

25 young leaders from 15 different countries—including Malta—came together in Belgium for an intensive five-day training focused on non-formal education, and developing skills as trainers and youth workers in diverse, intercultural settings.

We are actively seeking our next young leaders to join next year's YMCA Europe Leadership Academy so if you are interested, get in touch!





From the East, with LOVE: General Secretaries in Moldova



Hosted by YMCA Moldova, YMCA's National General Secretaries from across Europe gathered in Chisinau to continue shaping the vision and strategy for the YMCA movement across our continent.

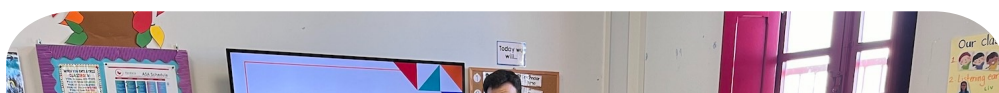
Despite headwinds in their country's democratic process, we are immensely inspired by the resolute work our colleagues in Moldova are doing. Their commitment to providing immediate relief and assistance to disadvantaged members of their community stands as a powerful testament to the global mission of the YMCA Movement. Bravo Moldova, we are with you!

'What is Home'? Ask the Children

We presented a Homelessness Awareness workshop at Verdala International School as part of our Detached Youth Work Programme. We led a discourse on the real meaning of 'home' as part of the broader thematic of what it really means to be without one.

Experimenting with different role plays and imagination exercises, we helped spark illumination on the reality of homeless/rooflessness for these young people; creating child-friendly discussions on an otherwise brutal subject matter.

We were also very lucky to be presented with donations by the same students as part of our ongoing NSP drive. A huge thank you to the parents of these students for teaching their children the merit of generosity.





Little Hands, Big Hearts: Kid's Art Auction

This heartwarming fundraising initiative was made possible thanks to Magic Steps Gozo. Their talented tiny artists created outstanding pieces that showcased their gifts, and which were subsequently auctioned off to raise funds for our cause. Thank you to the staff, management and parents of Magic Steps.



Thank you/Grazzi ħafna

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.

Christmas Love & Joy to You All!

Before we sign off for this year, we want to show our gratitude to you for your readership, attention and support throughout 2024.

We are all heading into a new horizon in a few short weeks; we here at YMCA Malta wish you all the joy, happiness and prosperity for this Holy Season and a peaceful transition to next year. God bless you always and stay well.





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