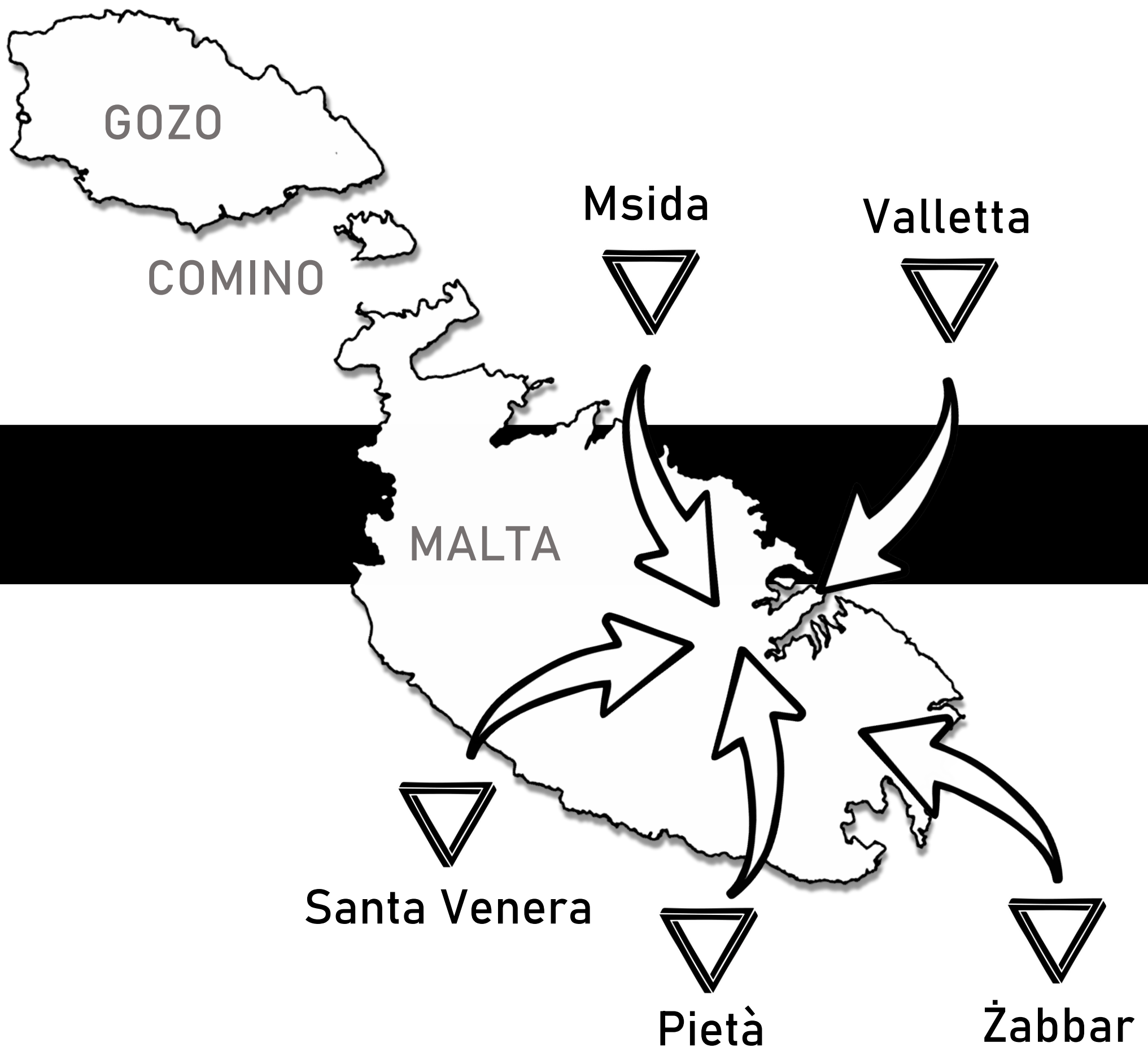


ANNUAL REPORT 2020



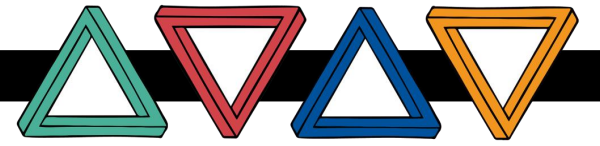
FOREWARD

Every year, we stop and discern upon the work YMCA Malta has carried out in the previous year. 'Discernment' is a crucial internal process as it serves as an opportunity to look back and evaluate the ongoing services, the short-term projects, and the strategic plans to continue our fight for social justice.

2020 marked the ending of a 5-year strategic plan that operated and guided the YMCA movement in Malta between 2016 and 2020. This strategic plan gave direction to implement the large-scale operations carefully. It directed the course of action towards several improvements and necessary changes required for the development of our organisation, a process based on intertwined values of consolidation, change, professionalism, and long-term sustainability.

This annual report casts an overview of the work carried out over the past year while also marking the end process of the now consolidated pillars in our services to the community. At the beginning of 2020, over 50 members of YMCA Malta were presented with the evaluation of what this long process has achieved, and the final touches to be able to end this plan successfully. During the same meeting, 'Towards 2025' was presented, proposed and voted for by all members. Another exciting 5-year strategy plan awaits the YMCA movement to keep engaging the community, create safe spaces for youths, provide equal access to education, housing and employment, fight injustices, alleviate the risks of poverty, and support those who need it the most.





Once again, this annual report also serves as a means to express our gratitude towards those who provided financial support, such as companies, private enterprises, government agencies and ministries, individuals that provided us with monetary and other types of donations from which our service-users benefitted. 2020 was a year of hardships and financial struggles that were brought on us by the COVID-19 pandemic. Several fundraising events were initially postponed and thereafter cancelled.

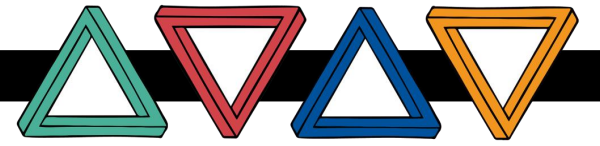


However, the support we found from the team itself, especially the front-liners, kept us truly going without withering, growing stronger as a movement that is alive. After all, being a movement for young people, hope, possibilities, and belief in change never ceased. Whilst we continue to stand by youth empowerment, and for youth empowerment, I remind you of the youthful spirit within us all.

Anthony Camilleri, YMCA Malta CEO & NGS

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ABOUT YMCA MALTA

YMCA is a worldwide youth organisation with more than 64 beneficiaries in 120 different countries. It was founded in England in 1844 during the Industrial Revolution to assist young people in developing a healthy body, mind, and spirit on the foundations of Christian principles. In fact, this is why the YMCAs all over the world have the symbol of the triangle, which symbolises that a healthy body and mind lead to a healthy spirit.

It is well known that the British YMCA was also present in Malta specifically geared to serve the military forces stationed in Malta during the war. However, this activity stopped when Malta became independent in 1964. The Maltese YMCA movement started its work in 1976. The early days of YMCA Malta were concentrated around a small coffee bar (the Imperial Cafe in Valletta) which also doubled as a meeting point for young people. Up until 1988, the main activities consisted of organising rock concerts, visiting patients in hospital, Christmas parties for children and conducting street patrols to assist young people with addictions off the street. The latter led to good cooperation and relationship with the police, who were appreciative of this work.

The National Council was established in 1989 to improve and consolidate on the previous work and explore new areas of operations. The EAY, the Scottish YMCA and the Swiss parish of Wil provided the initial funding. In the beginning, four YMCAs were formed in Malta whereby international youth exchanges, English language courses, literacy programmes, suicide helpline, canoeing, first aid courses, street theatre, tensing, counselling and providing homeless shelters were the first community work carried out by the Maltese YMCA.

The People, Friday, March 27, 1998 13

IT'S FUN TO STAY AT THE YMCA

The YMCA Internet Cafe in, Merchant Street, Valletta continues to offer a limitless number of activities ranging from youth exchanges, counselling and internet courses to theatre nights, job-finding and leadership training.

The cafe is the first on the island, opening its doors in July 1996. The cafe also serves as the YMCA Youth Centre in which a lot of activities take place. The activities of the centre include Live Music nights, a film club, art exhibitions, a billiard table with leagues and an annual marathon. And of course, five computers to surf the Internet, chat with people from all over the world, send and receive e-mail and also print anything you wish.

There's also a bar serving coffee and other hot drinks, soft drinks, juices, beers and also delicious sandwiches and other various snacks.

Following are some of the activities the YMCA has on offer.

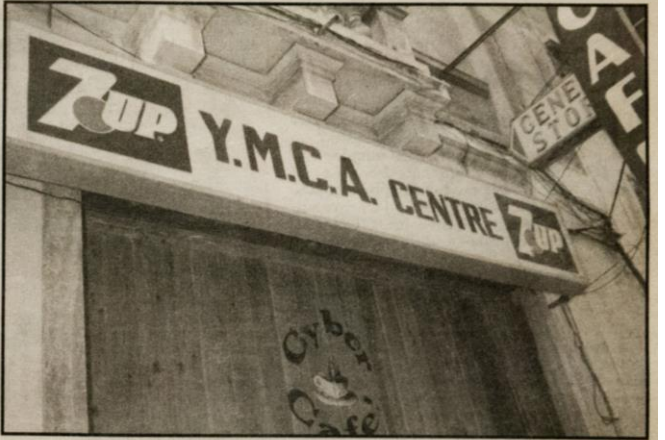
Homework help for kids and teenagers
This program is aimed at kids and teenagers. For those attending school teacher shall be available between 3.00 p.m. and 6.00 p.m. every day from Monday to Friday, ready to help them with problems with their homework. Also, a good alternative education program will be going on for kids who do not go to school. This program will use computers, art, excursions and creative methods as medium for their educational process. The course is open to members and non-members and is free.

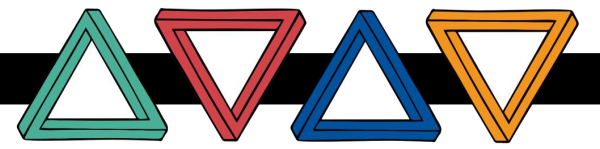
Creating with Junk
Hold! This course is open for anybody interested in using their creativity with very little at hand. Actually the main aim of the course is to guide you in how to create objects for your home, office, or for your entertainment with materials you usually throw away in the dustbin. The course costs Lm10 including the YMCA Valletta annual membership of Lm5.

Art Lessons
This course is open for anybody who is interested to enter the world of Art. It will be held twice a week from April 1 onwards. Each session will be 1 and a half hours long. During the course you will use water and poster colours. The course will involve learning how to paint faces and bodies, explore page design and balancing and also indulge in doing basic handicrafts. The course costs Lm10 including the YMCA membership for a year.

Course in how to produce comic strips
An innovative course with the aim of learning about the production of comics and eventually publishing a comic booklet. The course will start with the use of comic strips throughout the world. Through workshops, the course will involve experimenting the techniques, story, characters, colouring and layout of comic strips. The course will be taking place once a week and the workshops will be 1 and a half hours long. The fee is Lm10 including YMCA membership.

English language for beginners
This is a basic English language course for people who want to learn what is one of the most important languages in the world today. The course is open to those over 16 years of age and the groups will be kept small to ensure that students are given individual attention. The price of the course is Lm10, including YMCA membership.



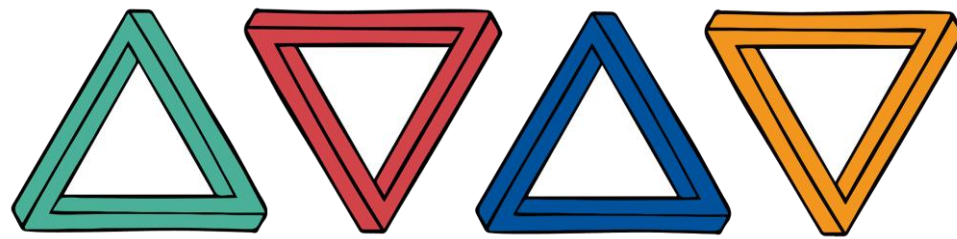


In 1997, YMCA Malta received the 'Għarfien Nazzjonali - Żgħażaġħ fis-Socjeta' Award by Hon. Not. Joe Cilia Permanent Secretary for Young People, Culture and Art.

In 2018, YMCA Malta won the Team of the Year Award presented by Hon. Dr Helena Dalli within the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Equality. Within the same year, YMCA Malta was also awarded First-Runner Up in the EPALE Awards 2018 by the Hon. Evarist Bartolo Minister for Education and Employment.



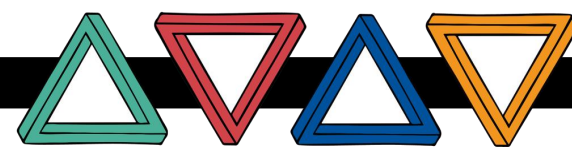
As a nonprofit and voluntary organization, YMCA keeps striving to promote a vision of a more just society while supporting the positive development of youths as a preventive measure and offering a spectrum of social work services to individuals who are underprivileged or socially disadvantaged. The specialisation in this regard is the support, assistance, and reintegration of the homeless in Malta. Amongst several activities designed to foster the spiritual, intellectual, social and physical wellbeing of the community, YMCA takes an active part in cultural, environmental, artistic, musical, audio-visual and forms of activities.



YMCA'S ACTIONS DURING COVID-19

2020 was a challenging year for everyone. The lives of many people have been turned upside down. Despite many efforts, many people lost their livelihoods and even their homes. Despite everything going online, children missed out on their education and all the positive experiences related to schooling. Many parents became teachers, and many of our community members lost their loved ones. Everyone had to make many sacrifices and adapt to a new life while not knowing what to expect, or when things would go back to 'normal'.

Seeing the impact the global pandemic was having on the local community, YMCA Malta immediately jumped into action to do its part to mitigate and alleviate the negative repercussions. For this reason, YMCA Malta has launched several projects and initiatives to assist those who required support, and to ease the impact of COVID-19.



Throughout the whole world YMCAs acted to alleviate COVID-19 pandemic. 'Resilience' has been YMCAs' watchword in facing hardships, and 'Reimagination' in going forward stronger, better and more focused. COVID-19 work ranged from supporting the communities, to rallying around one another as National YMCAs, to global advocacy, to rethinking our purpose and practices.

Between April and September 2020, YMCA Europe conducted a survey across 41 YMCA National Movements and 75 Local YMCAs in Europe, Asia, Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, which revealed how income levels dramatically went down, programmes were reduced, staff positions and salaries were decreased, and external partnerships put on hold. 20% of the National Movements and 20% of the local YMCAs had lost over 75% of their income. 50% of the National Movements expressed their fear that the National Movement would not survive if the crisis continues.

A process of 'resilience' by the World YMCA, bringing together the 'Big 6'; the world's leading youth empowerment organisations, including the YMCA, continued to show a global voice in the COVID-19 response. In April 2021, Dr Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, the WHO Executive Director, in a recorded message for the Leaders Talks, thanked YMCA for supporting the communities around the globe, especially in its efforts concerning COVID-19.



The process of 'Reimagination' brought findings that will shape the World YMCA's collective vision of its future, in the form of its 'North Star' as it approaches its 200th Anniversary in 2044. The reimagination, coupled with the recovery based on resilience, started in 2020 and will be at the core of World YMCA's next strategy for the period between 2022-2026, to be approved at the World Council in Aarhus, Denmark, in July 2022. YMCA Malta National General Secretary and Chief Executive Officer, Anthony Camilleri, has been appointed as a representative on the 'North Star' Committee.

In the following section a brief report on actions carried out locally by YMCA Malta during COVID-19 outbreak is recorded:

a. AT HOME TOGETHER

On 6th May 2020 YMCA Malta launched the 'At Home Together', a weekly series of online webinars published on social media which tackled various subjects such as boredom, time management, relationships, or home space organization, which were all subjects directly related to COVID-19. YMCA would like to thank various professionals that joined these online discussions that aimed at engaging the community during the first phase of partial lockdown with interesting topics.

'Fighting Boredom' brought online a discussion between Gabriele Bertone (YMCA Malta's Youth Empowerment Coordinator), Matthew Bartolo (Counsellor and Psychotherapist specializing in sex and relationships and Founding Partner of Willingness), Danica Falzon (ex-YMCA Key-Worker, Trainee Health Psychologists, Partner and Health Clinic Manager of Willingness), and Nicola Falzon (ex-YMCA Key-Worker, Psychology Officer, Partner and Sex Clinic Manager of Willingness).

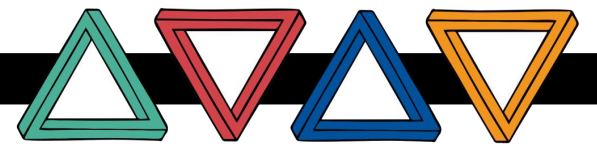


'Fostering Relationships' was another online webinar discussion between Anthony Camilleri (YMCA Malta's Chief Executive Officer, National General Secretary) and also Psychotherapists focusing on couples and relationships; Anita Portelli (Counsellor and Psychotherapist at Rituals Malta) and Shirley Galea Riana (Psychotherapist at Listenin to You).



'Time Management' was the third webinar which was brought by Dorianne Rotin (YMCA Malta's Counsellor and Wellbeing Programme Coordinator), Joel Farrugia (volunteer at YMCA's Youth Empowerment Programme), and also Leszek Soltysik (expert in Development of Business Strategy and Risk Management).





'Home Space Organisation' was also carefully chosen as a topic considering that the public was also now spending more time inside their homes. This was a discussion facilitated between Anthony Camilleri (YMCA's Chief Executive Officer, National General Secretary and Psychotherapist), Iwona Soltysik (YMCA's Social Business Coordinator) and Sarah Xiberras (YMCA's Head of Home at 'Dar Niki Cassar').



'Parenting and Conflict Resolution' discussion online webinar was facilitated by Dorothy Scicluna (YMCA Malta's Administration Officer and also a mother of one), Julian Holland (YMCA Malta's Fundraising Officer and father of three) and Demaris Agius (a mother of two).



'Sharing Narratives' was the last webinar in the series 'At Home Together', and it was conducted by Gwen Viard (YMCA Malta's Youth Facility Officer), Sharon Cusens (Spring International Productions, Founder), Asha Thea (Psychotherapist) and Sarah Doublesin (Psychotherapist).

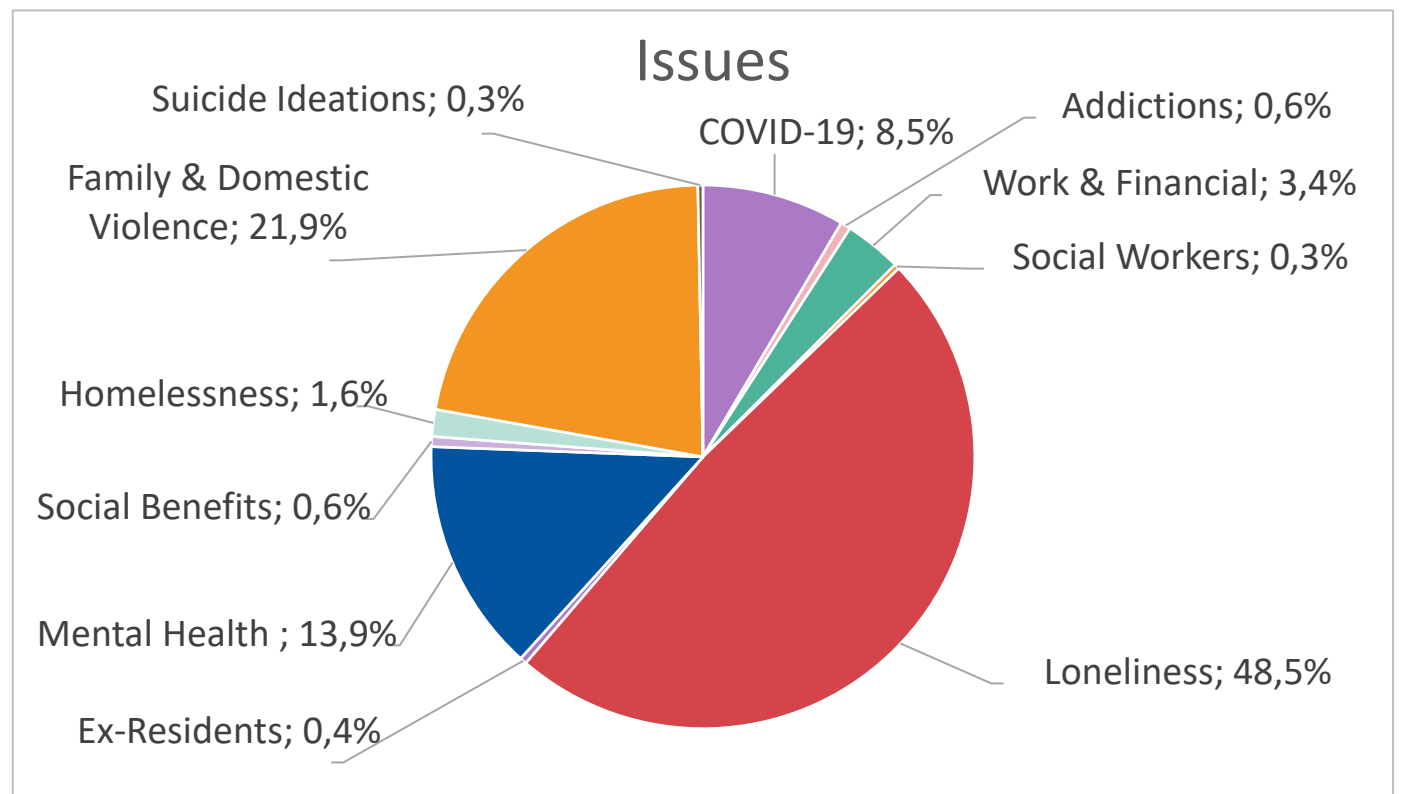


In this final webinar, YMCA Malta and Spring International Productions launched a Facebook Group - E-Motion Channel which connects individuals in the community in their sharing of successful stories amidst the difficulties that COVID-19 brought in the personal lives of many.

b. LONELINESS RESPONSE LINE

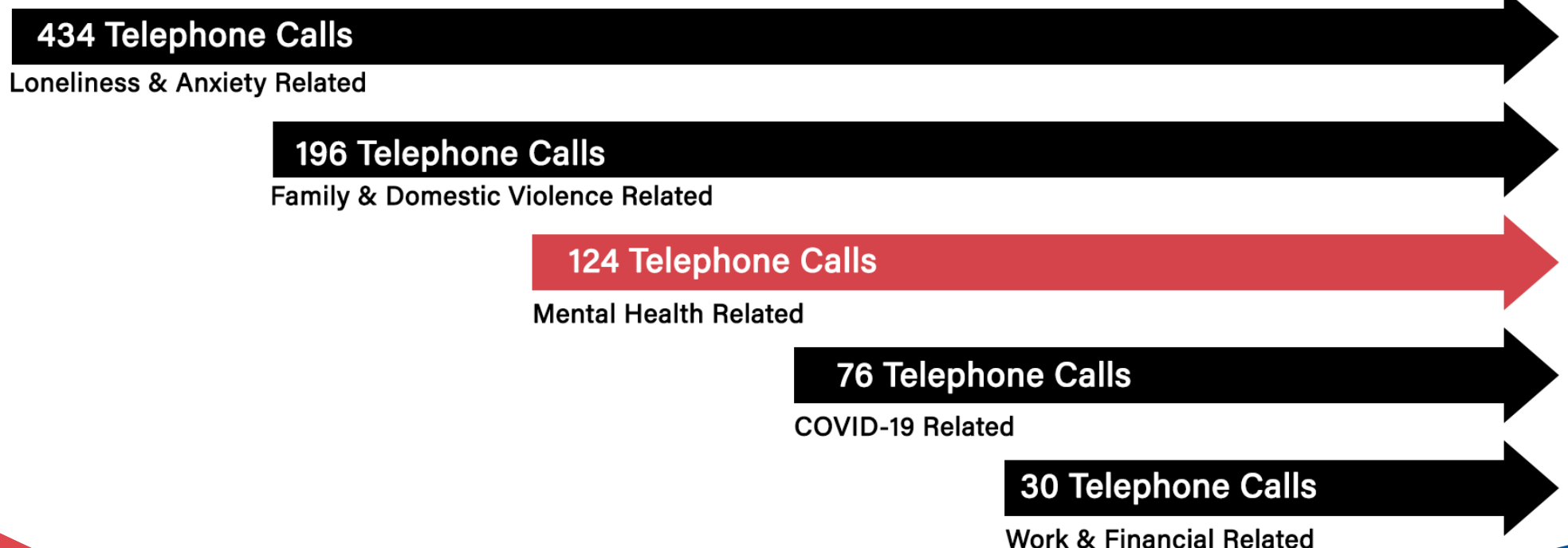
The 'Loneliness Response Line' (LRL) was launched on 23 March 2020 as a direct response to the loneliness and solitude symptoms that arose from the social alienation due to the social prevention measures imposed by the local authorities to prevent or at least slow down the infection rate.

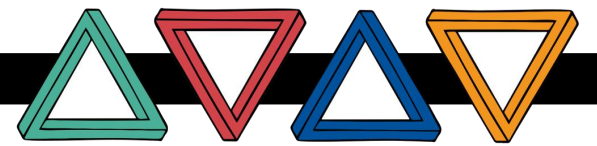
The aim of this helpline was and still is for YMCA Malta's support team to offer support calls to those who needed assistance in these difficult times.



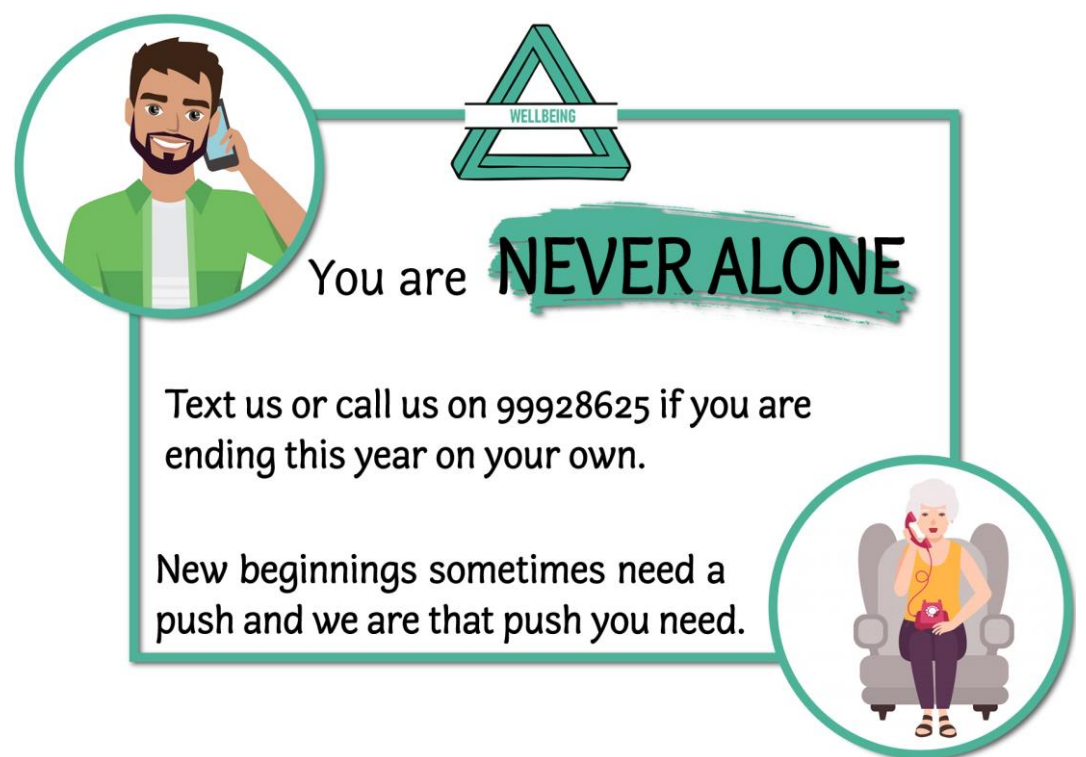
When necessary, the persons who called the support line were referred to YMCA Malta's psychotherapeutic services' counsellors & psychotherapists. Between March and December 2020, YMCA Malta intervened on 903 calls on the LRL.

LRL 2020: 903 Telephone Calls





Through the LRL at the end of 2020 beginning of 2021, YMCA Malta launched the 'Never Alone Campaign' whereby 32 elderly houses were contacted and their service-users made aware of the LRL with the message that *'they are not alone'*. This initiative supported those elderly people that had no support and/or families to be with them through the festive season so as to not end the year on their own. Throughout such a festive period another 30 telephone interventions were carried out to support those elderly that felt they were on their own.



d. NEVER AN EMPTY PLATE

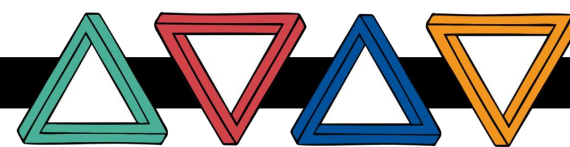
YMCA Malta does not only provide temporary accommodation to those who are homeless. We offer a holistic service to our residents and those who live in their own homes and experience poverty. This means that, apart from individualised care programmes, YMCA Malta provides food, toiletries, and household goods to our service-users through the "Needs Support Programme" (NSP), which was also an initiative that started in 2020.

During this campaign that was also part of YMCA Malta's actions during COVID-19, several companies, organisations, schools, and churches encourage their employees, students, congregations and so forth to donate food items, toiletries, or household goods to the NSP during a particular month. The items collected were re-distributed to those in need, both living in YMCA's residential facility, and community.



In line with the values promoted within YMCA's residential programme, the NSP is based on individualisation. Although many benefit from raw ingredients to cook with, other situations may require the provision of ready meals. New parents may require nappies for their babies. Detergents and toiletries may be deemed equally important. In our experience, some people living in poverty often lack the means to cook food, which will also be factored into items provided. The NSP was phased initially by numerous calls and home visits to individuals and families that may be at risk of homelessness. After assessment of their needs and how YMCA could support them, NSP was born. This also included providing food donations to a number of ex-residents, individuals and families that were struggling. The NSP service was amplified during COVID-19 pandemic to prevent people from becoming homeless. The YMCA Residential team coordinated and arranged delivery for over 125 donations of food, detergents and home supplies. These donations helped to remain stocked with 3 food stores all year, helping also our residents to save money during the pandemic.

e. PLATFORM AGAINST HOMELESSNESS



In a bid to eradicate homelessness and tackle the struggles that service users encounter, YMCA Malta created and chairs the Platform Against Homelessness. This Platform brought together 22 different NGOs and stakeholders in 2020, including the Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, the Family and Children's Rights, the Ministry for Social Accommodation, Public Health Services, Mount Carmel Hospital, Archdiocese of Malta, and Social Care Standards Authority Malta. Through this Platform, YMCA Malta, in 2020, liaised and brought together various government entities and organisations to bring about change where needed.

Also from a ground of prevention work, YMCA carried out several lectures at the University of Malta and carried out an awareness agreement with Campus FM for 2021 to carry out several radio talks on the work we do.

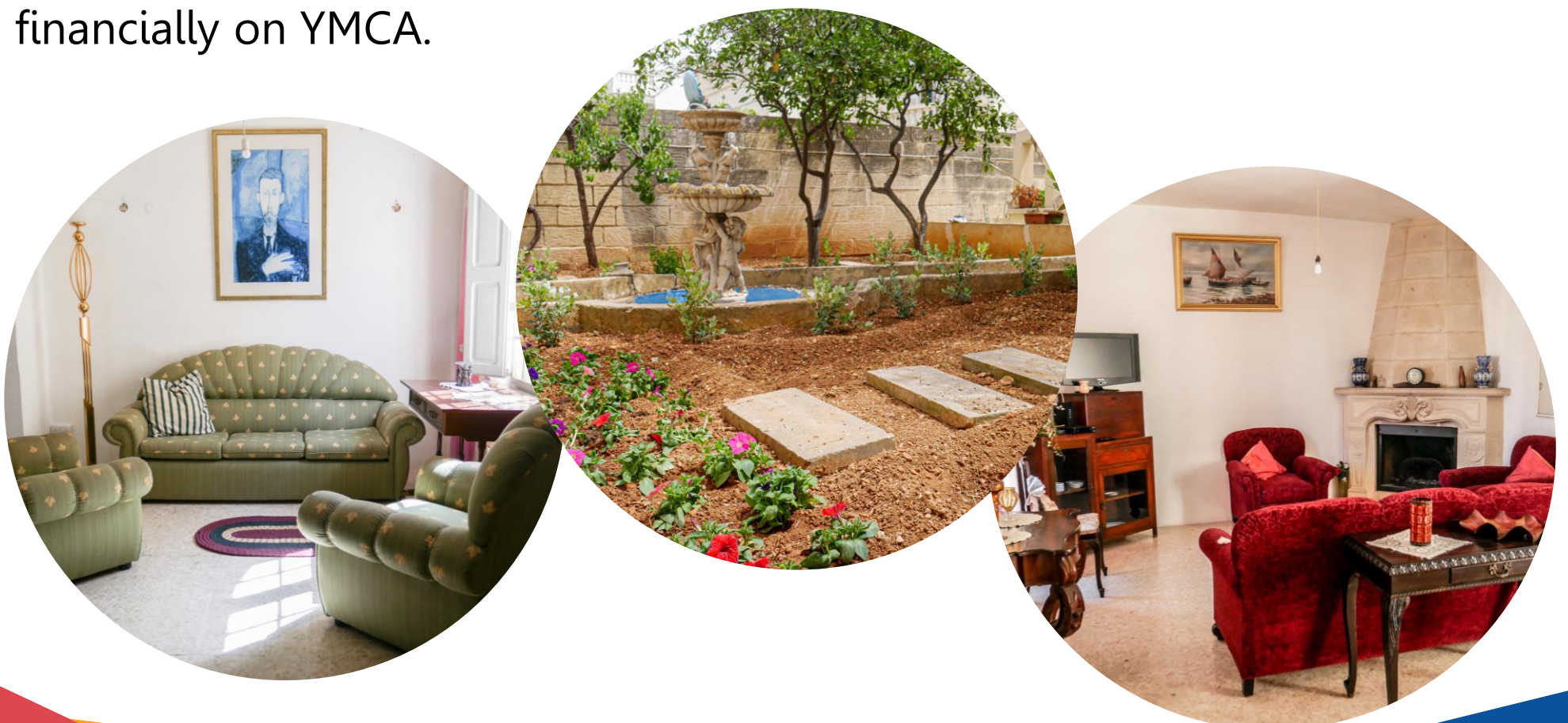


f. Y COMMUNAL HOME

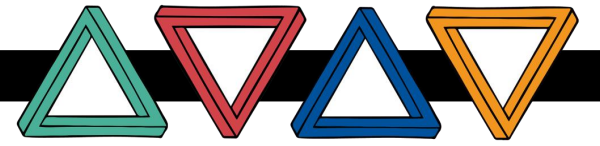
When COVID-19 hit the Maltese islands, YMCA Malta felt the need to be proactive and open its second semi-independent shelter providing 'Program Kisbet Serġan'. The purpose of this new shelter was and still is so that families that were directly hit with financial difficulties, renting problems, and loss of employment could be hosted, and thus, avoid situations of families ending up roofless.

At the Y Communal Home (YCH) in Msida, YMCA Malta provides communal accommodation to individuals and families in a bid to reduce loneliness, encourage independent living, and eradicate homelessness. This house caters for up to 14 individuals living semi-independently whilst benefiting from constant support from the residential team. Throughout 2020, YMCA Malta gave 2,751 bed nights to families and children through this new accommodation service. Unlike, 'Dar Niki Cassar' this house is a semi-independent living whereby the families live on their own without 24-hour surveillance of staff and/or volunteers. 'Program Kisbet Serġan' then still provides them with daily routine visits, individual support by their assigned support worker, care-plan and psychological support.

The property now operating as YCH was, in 2019, operating as a Youth Hostel that gave 955 bed nights during the last quarter of 2019. However due to COVID-19 this operation had to stop, which also had its impact financially on YMCA.



g. THE MALTESE YMCA PRAYER DURING HARDSHIP



YMCA Europe asked YMCA Malta to open its Annual General Assembly in 2020 by sharing the good practices carried out by YMCA Malta in response to COVID-19 - the same practices which are showcased in this first part of this Annual Report. YMCA Malta also launched the Maltese YMCA prayer during hardships:

At times like COVID-19
when hope & vision are lost,
we thank you for the YMCA.
We pray that our vision restores HOPE.

to unite us all in God's Love...

While across the world we work
when trouble & injustice is sought,
we thank you for the YMCA.
For development of spirit, body, mind is brought.

to unite us all in God's Love...

When we look around and watch
when the young walk away and many die,
we thank you for the YMCA.
For vision and faith here are amplified.

to unite us all in God's love.

We pray...
We pray...
for all the YMCAs
across the world we pray.

Amen.

h. LET THE SUNSHINE IN...

'Let the Sunshine In...' was a series of another 7 webinars organised by YMCA Malta in collaboration with Listenin to You. During these webinars, several qualified and accredited professionals discussed various topics related to mental health and wellbeing.

1. *The Stages of Life*: Anthony Camilleri - Psychotherapist, Shirley Galea Riani - Psychotherapist, & Alexandra Xuereb - Psychotherapist.



2. *Guilt Tripping - An Attempt at Control*: Shirley Galea Riani - Psychotherapist, & William Hayman - Counsellor.



3. *The IVF Journey - Walking it Together*: Dorianne Rotin - Counsellor, & Johanna Rizzo - FSWS Social Worker.



4. *A Couple of Individuals*: Anita Portelli - Counsellor and Psychotherapist, & Alexandra Xuereb - Psychotherapist



5. *The Pursuit of our own Happiness*: Shirley Galea Riani, & Xanthe' Schembri - both Psychotherapists.

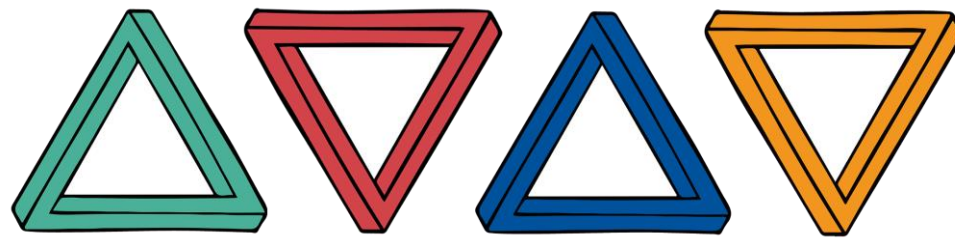


6. *Understanding Eating Disorders & Loving Yourself in the Process*: Anita Portelli - Counsellor and Psychotherapist, & Isabel Jakobson - Psychotherapist



7. *The Worrying Mind - Anxiety in Children*: Dorianne Rotin - Counsellor, & Joseph Pellicano - Caritas Malta.





PROGRAMMES

YMCA Malta strives every year to provide targeted and individualised services, and we are able to provide such assistance through four main and inter-related programmes, that is, the Residential Services, the Youth Empowerment Programme, the Wellbeing Programme (as service-giving programmes), and the Social Business Programme (as a fund generating programme).

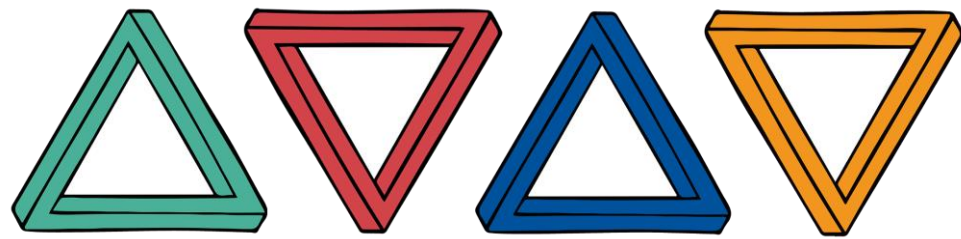
Through the Residential Services, YMCA Malta provides residential accommodation to 48 individuals and families, including children who experience homelessness, at 'Dar Niki Cassar' and 'Y Communal Home'. Having said that though, YMCA Malta does not only provide residential accommodation, but it also provides an individualised care programme, provides both residential and community service-users with donations of food, clothing, and furniture, seeks funding opportunities to support homeless individuals to benefit from psychosocial educational projects, and additionally collaborates with national and international stakeholders and agencies on matters relating to 'homelessness' and rooflessness'.

PROGRAMMES

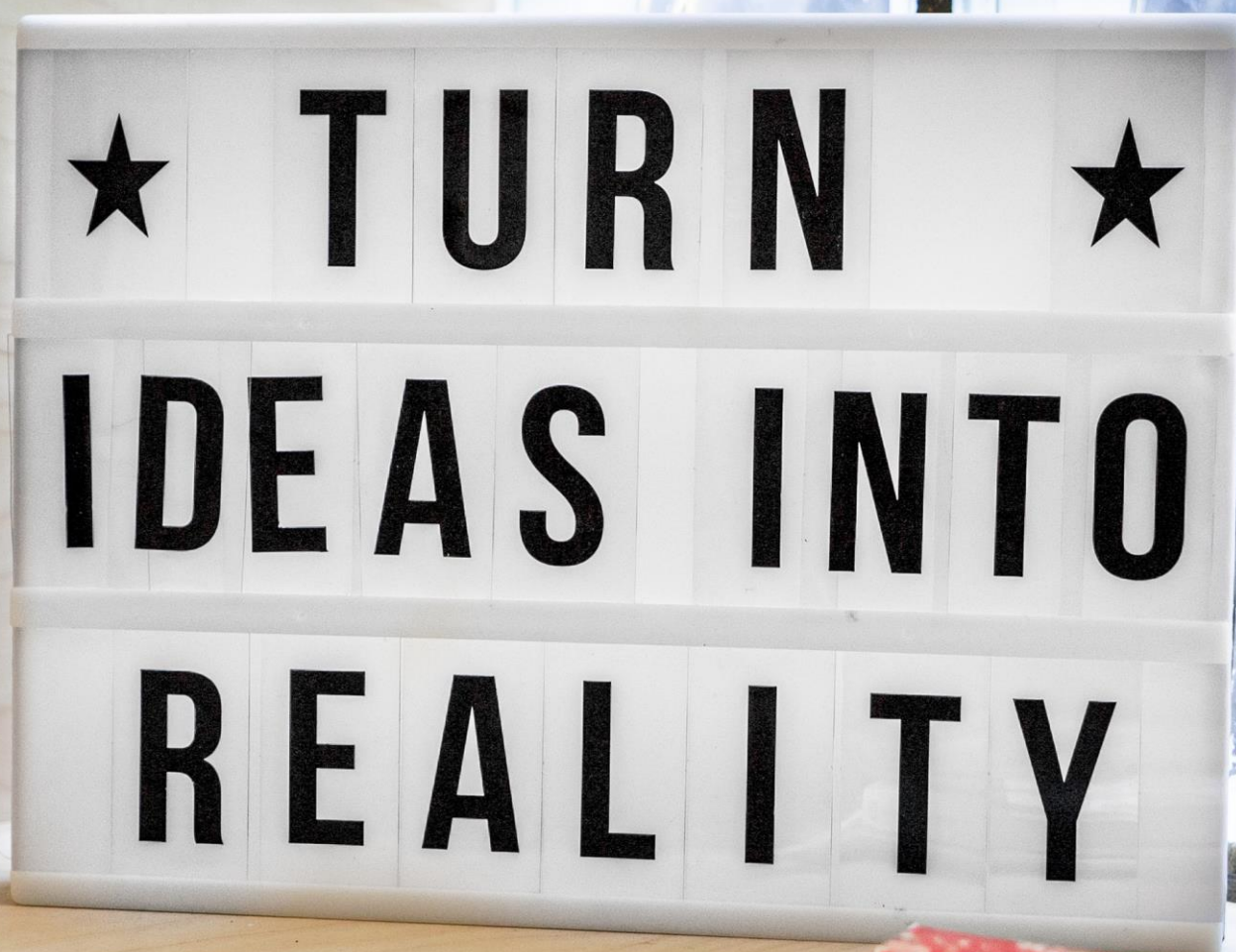
As part of its work, YMCA Malta crosses paths with many youths who wish to actively participate in our projects, develop their skills further, or learn new skills and tools, and/or wish to create their own projects. YMCA Malta provides these opportunities, many more to underprivileged and socially disadvantaged youths, through the Youth Empowerment Programme which is a youth-led youth work programme. Here, the youths are supported, in a safe environment, through one or more of the pillars within YEP: Education, Outreach, Research, Prevention and Sustainability.

The wellbeing of our service-users is important for YMCA Malta, and thus wellbeing is at the heart of all the projects and activities, and therefore we created the Wellbeing Programme as one of the main focus areas. Thanks to the Wellbeing Programme, YMCA Malta provides free and professional understanding and intervention in response to emotional and behavioural needs of services-users through the provision of individual and group counselling and psychotherapy sessions as part of an integrated, preventative and intervention service.

To be able to provide its different services, programmes and initiatives, YMCA Malta relies on collaborations with private enterprises and organisations, and fundraising activities which are coordinated by the Social Business Programme (SBP). Furthermore, through SPB, YMCA Malta measures and monitors changes to specific dimensions of human wellbeing that do not hinder financial stability and cohesion and integrates social entrepreneurship and sustainability.



OVERVIEW OF YMCA'S SERVICES AND PROJECTS IN 2020

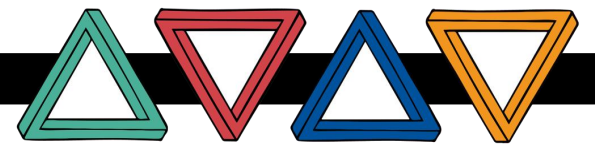


a. A TRIBUTE TO VOLUNTEERING

'A Tribute to Volunteering' was born in 2019 as an idea and was carried out as a main project, coordinated by the Youth Empowerment Programme and financed through the Small Initiatives Fund, a fund managed by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector. The aim of this project was to promote volunteering as an integral aspect of community life and highlight the importance and impact which voluntary work has.

YMCA Malta, embarked on a twofold objective process to research and showcase the work carried out in the past 30 years by all those people who chose to offer their time to be actively involved in the various activities done by the YMCA in Malta, specifically during the last decades 1990 - 2020. These activities included those carried out on the various new branches that were set-up in the 1990's and each specialising area, namely the running of a homeless shelter, providing leadership training, canoeing activities, leisure activities, social services to the community, providing First Aid training, manning of a suicide telephone line, youth activities; as well as events organised from the 2000's onwards, such as the Valletta Street Festivals, Awareness Campaigns, Fundraising Events, Conferences and Workshops.

Besides that, 'A Tribute to Volunteering' contributed to stronger collaborations between voluntary organisations, and served as a springboard for YMCA Malta and other organisations to reflect on the changes that happened during the last couple of decades in the world of voluntary work. Throughout this project a group of current YMCA volunteers undertook the initial task of research, carrying out interviews with key-people at YMCA such as volunteers, ex-board members, and staff members, on the activities carried out in the past years. All material gathered such as video-interviews, photos, and other audio and visual documentation was categorised and digitized, and made available for the public on YMCA's website - YMCA History Walk section.



The YMCA History Walk section presents these activities in a timely format with a brief description accompanying each activity. This page will continue to develop over the years with past and future activities as an online digital archive. The funded project came to an end with an online panel discussion with representatives from the Malta Humanist Association, Moviment Graffiti, Right to Smile, and YMCA. This discussion dwelled on topics such as the fundamental contributions to volunteering and civil societies; challenges faced by volunteers; and effective ways of how non-governmental organisations can collaborate together for the betterment of society.

1998

- 2- Venue Music Marathon
- Art Week
- Creating with Junk
- Infant Joy Arts Festival 1998
- YMCA Silent March
- YMCA Valletta Festival - 2nd Edition

1999

- Infant Joy Arts Festival 1999
- CB Radio Marathon
- Free Mumia Abu-Jamal Arts Festival
- YMCA Valletta Festival - 3rd Edition
- Żminijiet Hodor

2000

- The Gathering' Free Music Festival
- Earth Day Celebration
- Festażgħażaġh

Art Week

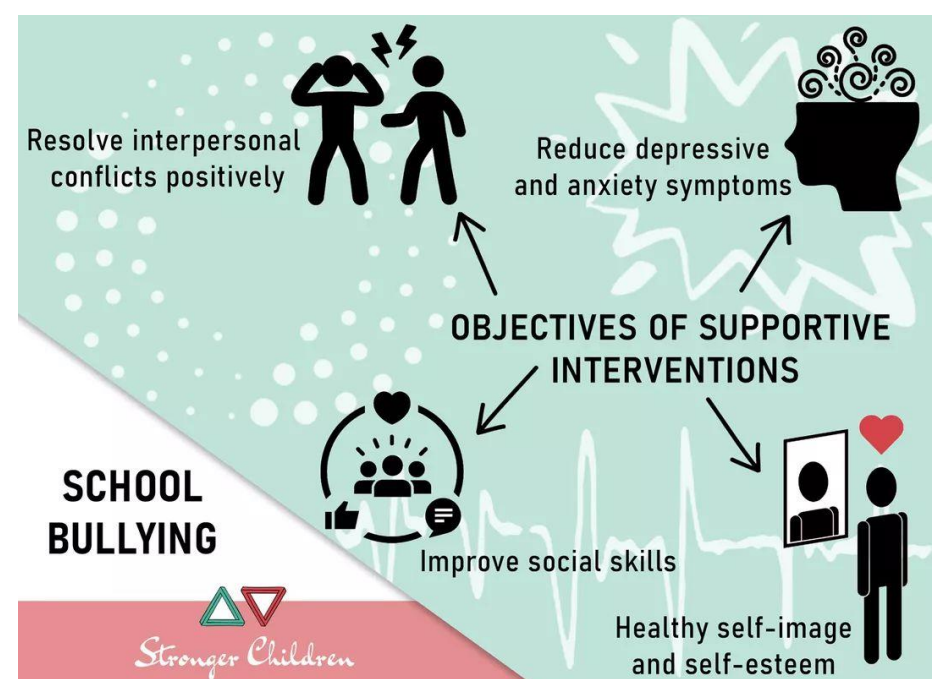
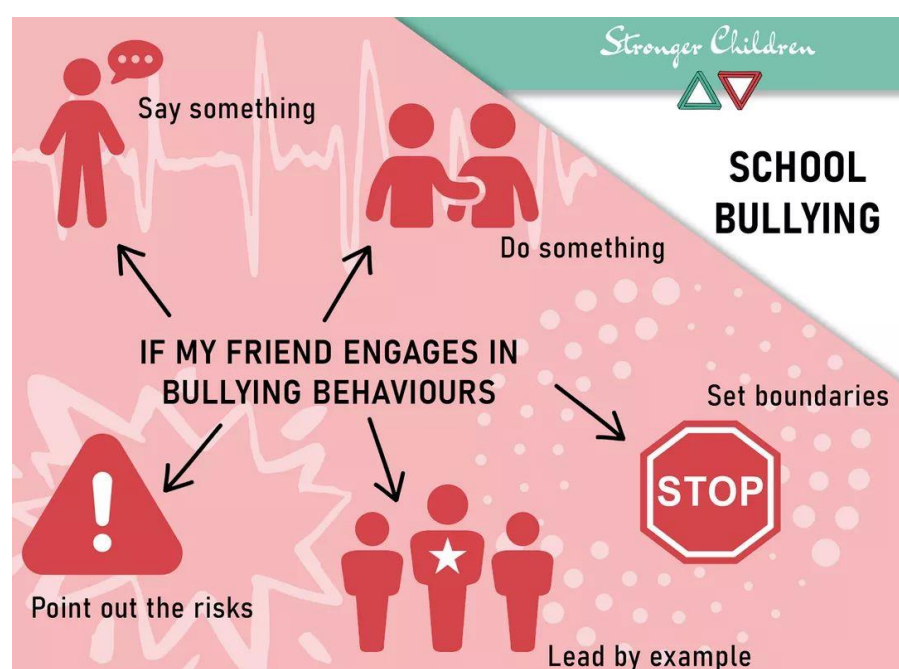
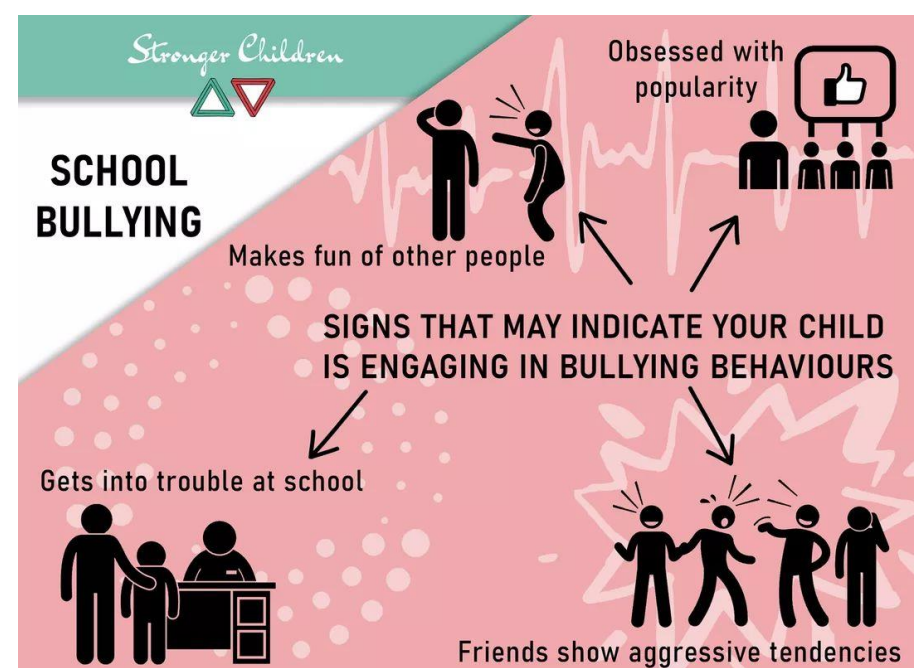
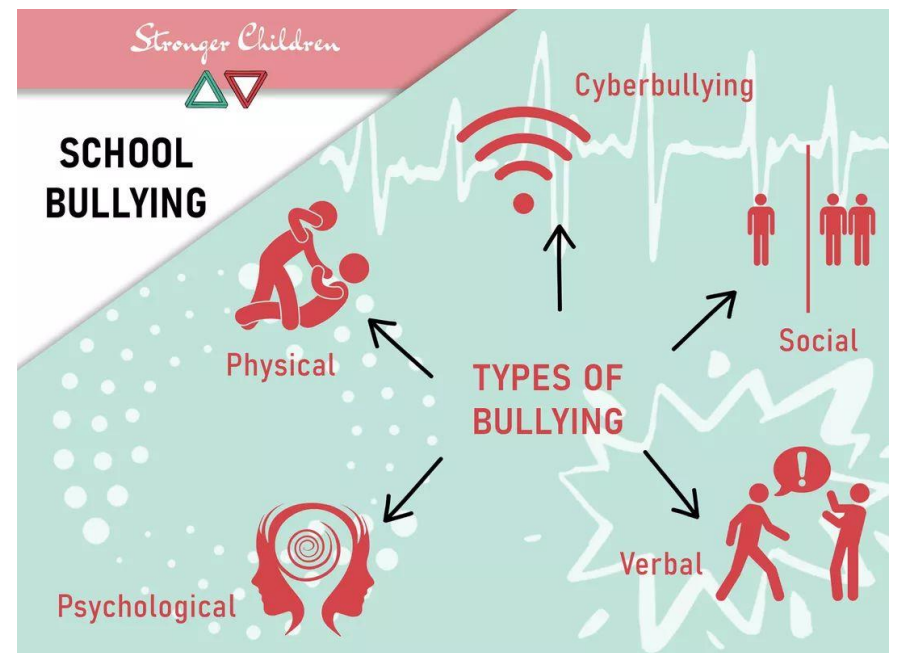
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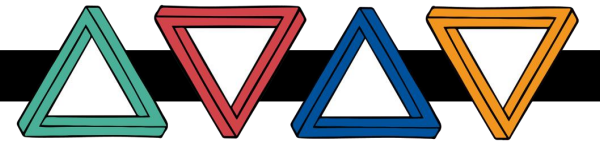
This event was organized in collaboration with the Labyrinth Art Gallery in Straight Street where more than 50 blank canvases were made available for the public to paint. The event attracted more than 1,000 people with some of them holding a paintbrush for the first time in their life. The event also welcomed people with special needs as the Labyrinth Art Gallery had all the necessary for them to participate. Other activities were held such as a street party for kids and a band playing live at the Labyrinth Art Gallery. At the end of the week, an auction was held at Freedom Square with Joe Azzopardi from Xarabank as the auctioneer. All the money collected during this event was used to fund the free-of-charge alternative education program that YMCA was offering at this time.



b. ANTI-BULLYING CAMPAIGN

The 'Anti-Bullying Campaign' consisted of an online campaign which took place between the 16th and 21st November 2020 to mark the National Anti-Bullying Week 2020. It is the second consecutive year for YMCA to carry out this online campaign. This year, the campaign focused on school bullying and aimed at providing essential tools for parents, teachers, and children to better recognise and address instances of bullying and bullying behaviours, as well as guidance on how and from where to seek professional support.





Through different discussions with youths who attend our facilities in Valletta, YMCA Malta became increasingly aware that vulnerable youths lack healthy and safe spaces where they can express themselves and become active citizens. For this reason, back in 2019, YMCA Malta, funded by Star Group, undertook the necessary renovation works on the new youth space in Valletta. This funding allowed YMCA Malta to undertake the required infrastructural refurbishments needed to develop a new floor at the YMCA Head Office & Youth Facility.

In 2020, YMCA Malta applied for and was awarded the A4U grant, a grant from Agenzija Żgħażaġh. Through this financial assistance, YMCA Malta was able to develop this long-term project even further. This grant allowed us to furnish the YEP Space and make it a welcoming space for all young people attending for the activities. During this year, Start Group made a second financial donation towards this project, thus helping YMCA Malta to acquire the remaining essential items necessary to have a one-of-a-kind multi-purpose room that can also serve as a cinema room, group activities areas, and counselling room.



In 2020, YMCA Malta started its blog on Newsbook. The purpose of the blog is to share life experiences and stories of those amongst us who are going through a rough time in their lives, how they overcome these obstacles and to keep the community updated with YMCA's life. Thanks to these blogs, YMCA Malta continued in 2020 to raise awareness about social issues, such as homelessness and rooflessness, youths, advocacy, mental health, wellbeing and so forth.

Over 20 stories were shared in a bid to amplify the reality of homelessness and to be true to our clients' stories which were not only promoted through the Blog but also through YMCA's social media platforms.



From sleeping in bushes to independent living

Anthony Camilleri March 31, 2020

NEWSBOOK EN MT



Reaching out by email

Anthony Camilleri May 8, 2020



Family ties

Anthony Camilleri April 23, 2020



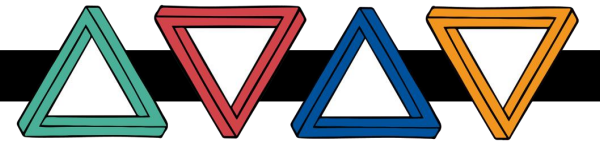
Family sleeping at the side of the road

Anthony Camilleri April 7, 2020



No one can believe how different I am!

Anthony Camilleri March 24, 2020



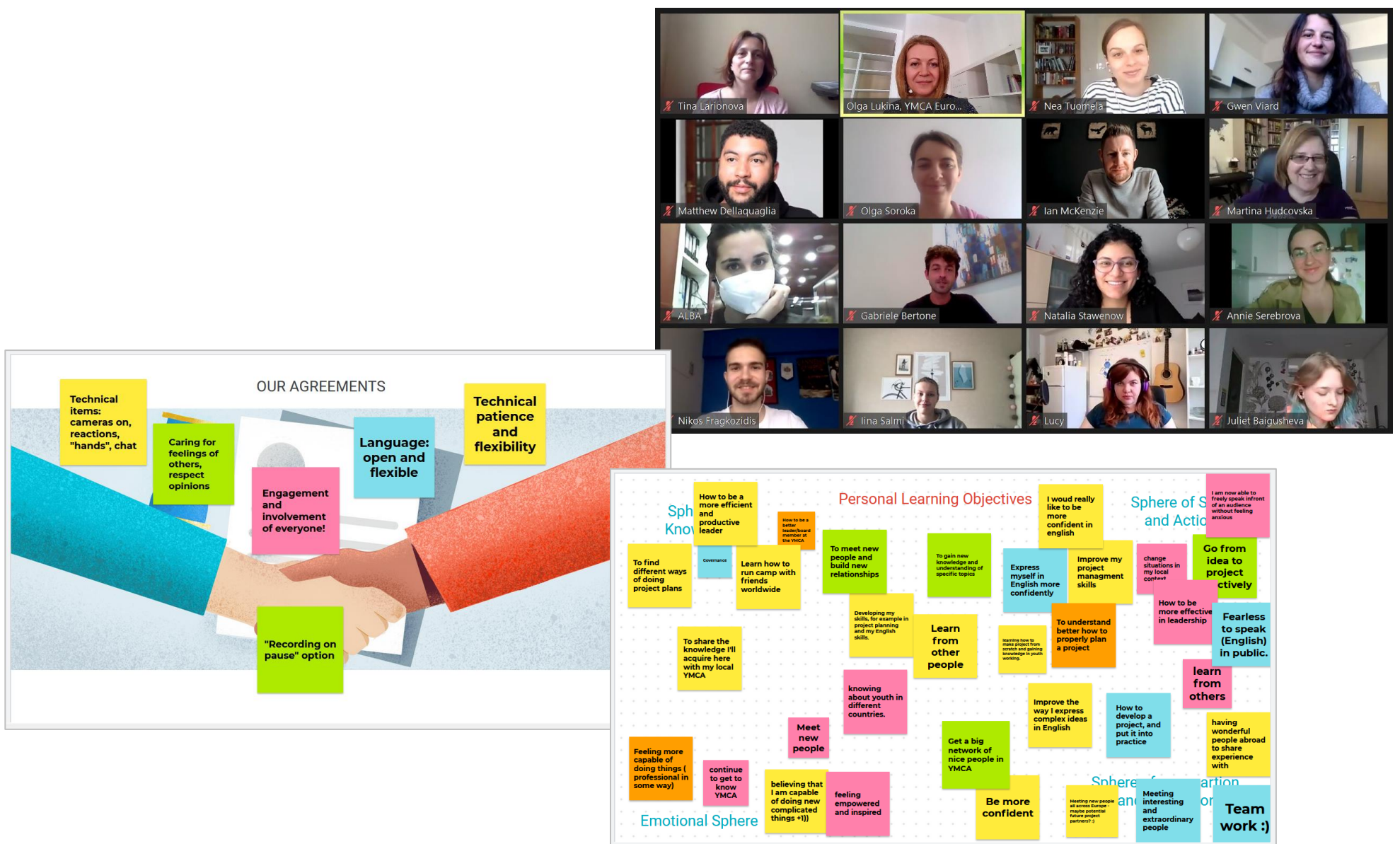
The project 'What About?' consisted of 9 online discussion groups and were conducted by youth volunteers Martina Camilleri, Glen Galea, and Giulia Bertone. These online-based discussion sessions were held between June and September 2020 for teenagers aged 11-13 and 14-16.

This project aimed to foster a safe environment that is conducive to healthy discussions for school-age teenagers. Topics of national and international interest were used as a springboard to guide these conversations. During these discussions, the participants were encouraged to express their opinions whilst being open to other group members' ideas. This method facilitated the teenagers' critical thinking abilities and collaborative learning skills.



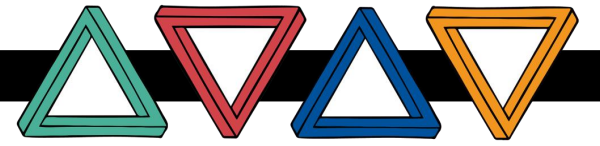
f. LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

The YMCA Malta has always found ways and means to promote leadership. In 2020, two young people participated in the 'YMCA Europe Leadership Academy' (YLA). The Leadership Academy was created to assist the YMCA National Movements and empower young people to take action as active citizens, equipping them with skills to promote social change and strengthen their movements as bearers of democratic values change-makers. The goal of the Leadership Academy Project is to promote the civic engagement of young people through enhancing their capacity as leaders for local communities.



The plan for YLA 2020 which also had to carry out its first workshop in Malta bringing together over 32 young leaders from all over Europe, had to be transferred online after postponing sessions several times due to COVID-19. In fact, YLA 2020 apart from taking place online had to be adjusted to continue in 2021. YMCA Malta also supported the financial needs to carry out this training thanks to the NGO Co-Financing Fund through the Malta Council for Voluntary Sector and the Ministry for Education.

g. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE FUNDS



In 2020, YMCA Malta applied for the second edition of the 'Sustainable Communities Initiative Fund' - an initiative organised by the Ministry for Social Accommodation in collaboration with Housing Authority and funded through the Specialised Housing Programme Fund. YMCA Malta was awarded a Palazzo and €350,000 funding to be able to refurbish the latter and start providing services for homeless individuals and families over the age of 60+ and others with special needs that require a special environment.

The submitted proposal 'Y Communal Home' (YCH) by YMCA Malta came after the proposal submitted in 2019 with the name of H.O.P.E (Homeless, Opportunities, Possibilities & Employment). This project failed to pass the first edition of the competition, but we continued building and working on the idea which developed itself into a separate supportive service project providing vulnerable and ex-homeless people with possibilities and opportunities, including employment with YMCA here referenced in another section.

Following the COVID-19 situation in Malta, the residential component of the proposal was based on the first licensed YCH launched to combat loneliness in the continuous fight to eradicate homelessness by targeting families, and their children who for various reasons were unable to live independently or rent an apartment. YCH integrates an evidence-based approach and vision towards alternative service-provision pathways to reach reintegration. YCH is based on the ethos of 'psychologically informed environments'. Whilst the first YCH targets service-users that have achieved semi-independent living and fulfilled a care-programme, particularly families and children, the second YCH as aforementioned targets groups, another specific population, that is the elderly and persons with disability who are able to live independently but are experiencing homelessness.

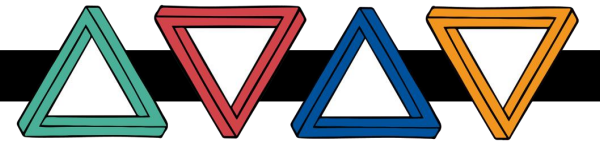
This project proposal was one of the four winners of the initiatives, and thus, in the near future, YMCA Malta will be running its third home.

h. HEALTHY MASCULINITIES



'Healthy Masculinities' was a series of workshops and outing activities aimed at adolescent boys. During these 5 sessions, the participants discussed gender roles, toxic masculinity, and respectful attitudes towards women.



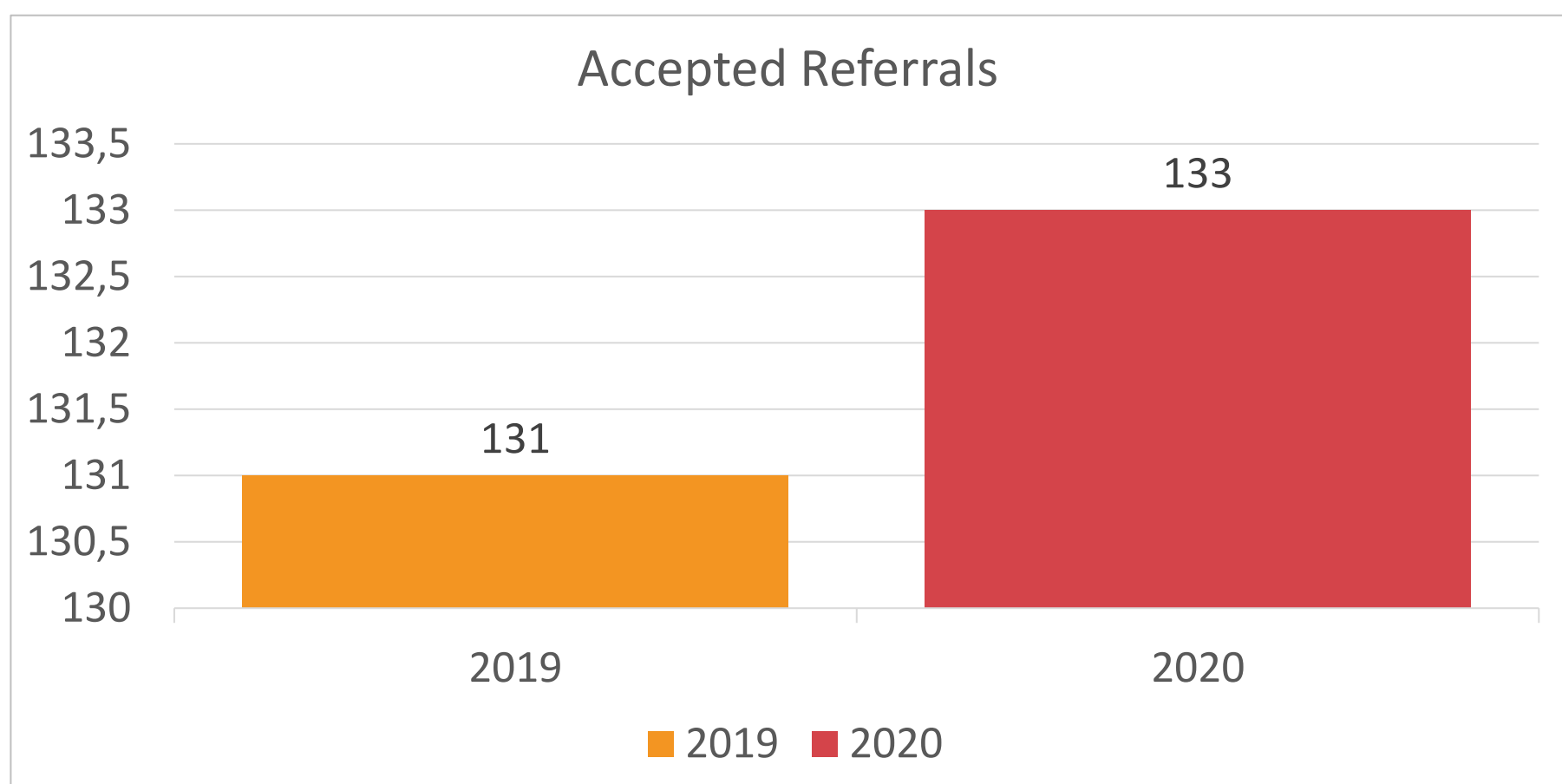
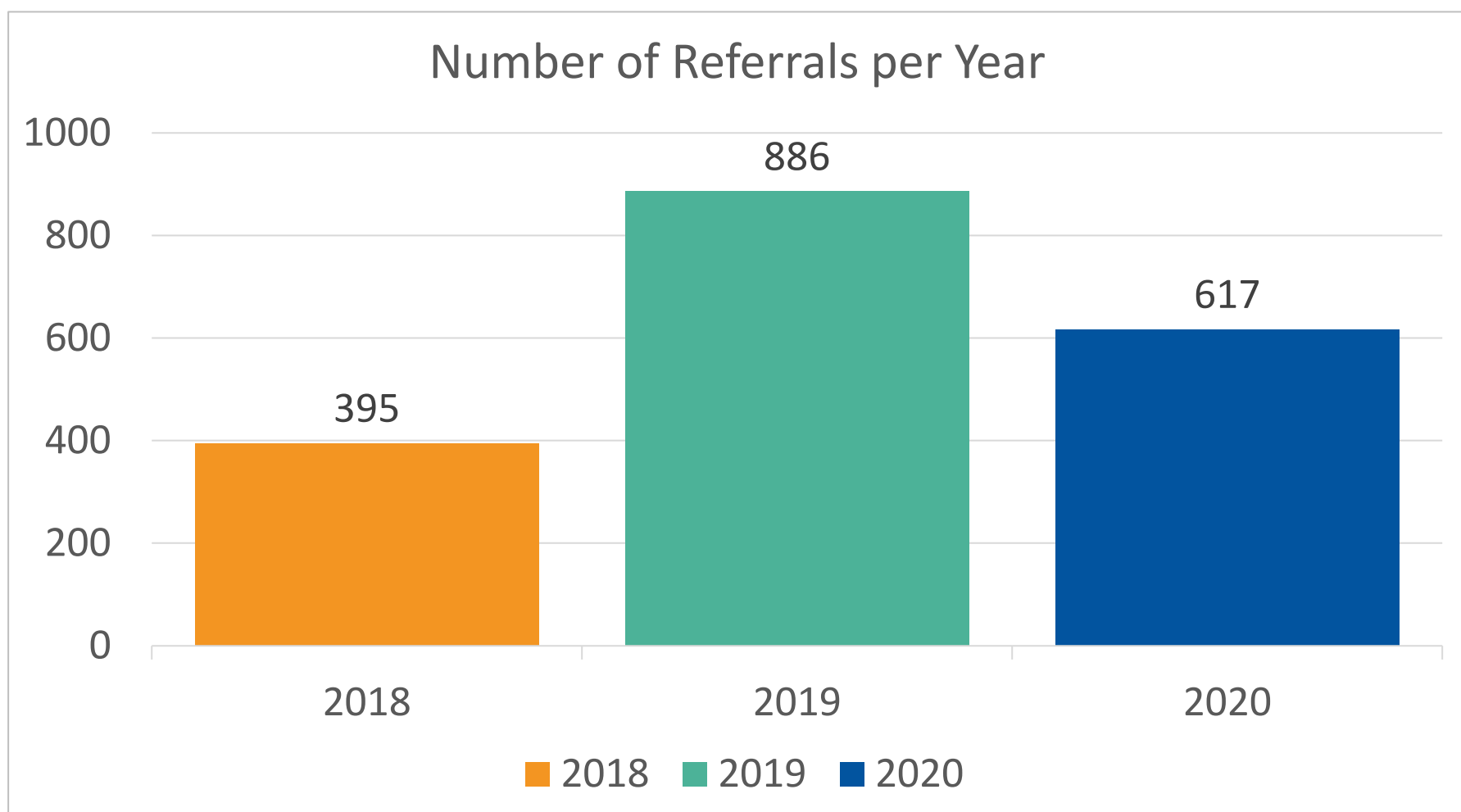


At 'Dar Niki Cassar' (DNC), YMCA provides sheltered accommodation and holistic support to vulnerable individuals and families including children experiencing homelessness.

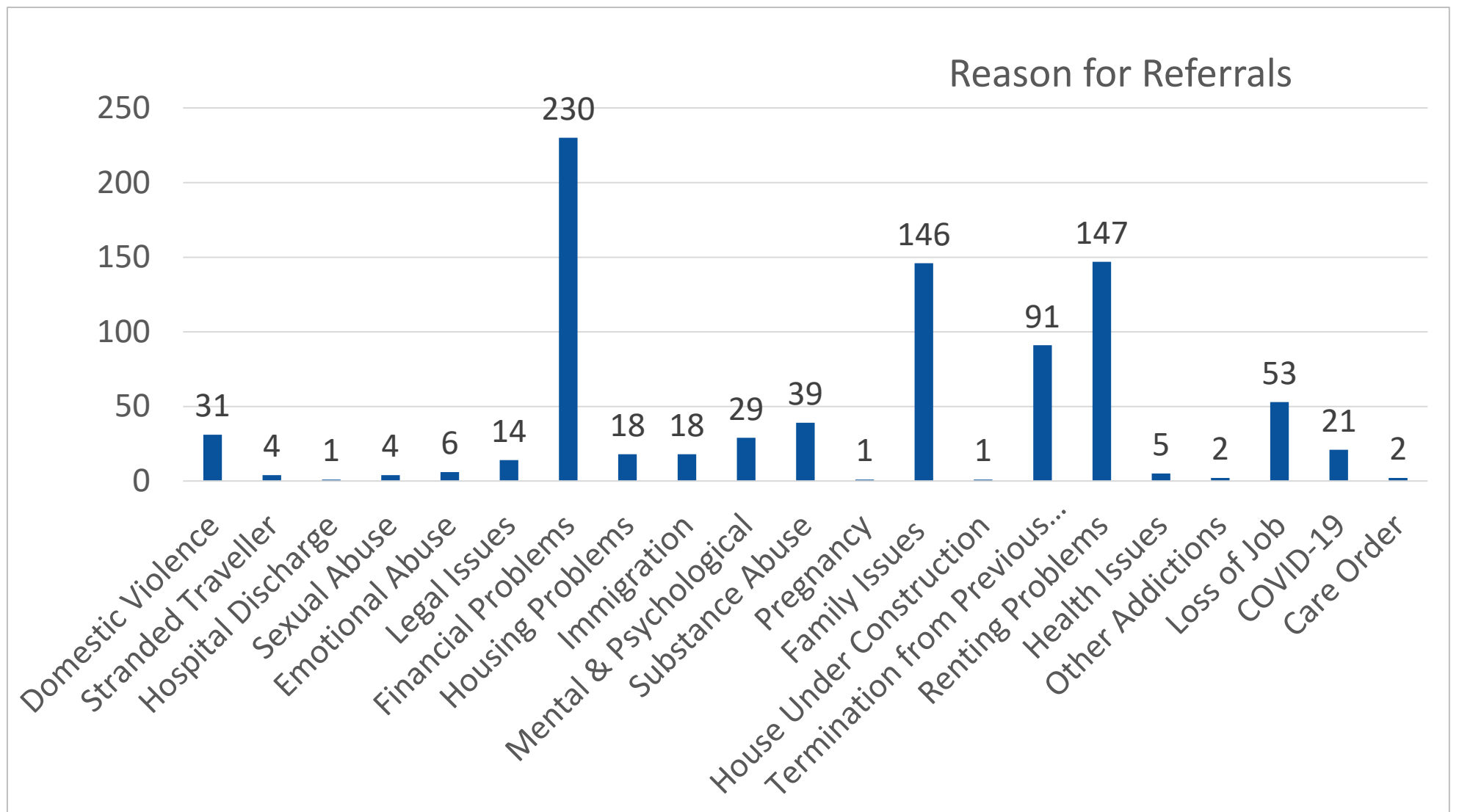
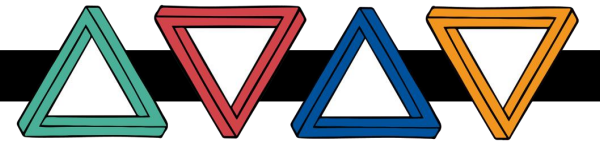


Through DNC, YMCA supports up to 34 individuals at once as they prepare for independent living. YMCA works with people of all ages, genders and nationalities, where promotion of cultural humility and diversity is carried out and where people who may have become homeless for a number of reasons are supported holistically. In 2020, YMCA had 617 cases, unlike 2019 where the cases received were that of 886. In the past three years YMCA received 1,898 cases of homelessness. Due to COVID-19 restriction measures, YMCA had also around 10 beds that were set up as quarantine whilst the referrals dropped. One has to take into consideration also that several offices were closed and many service-users and individuals seeking support found it harder to reach out.

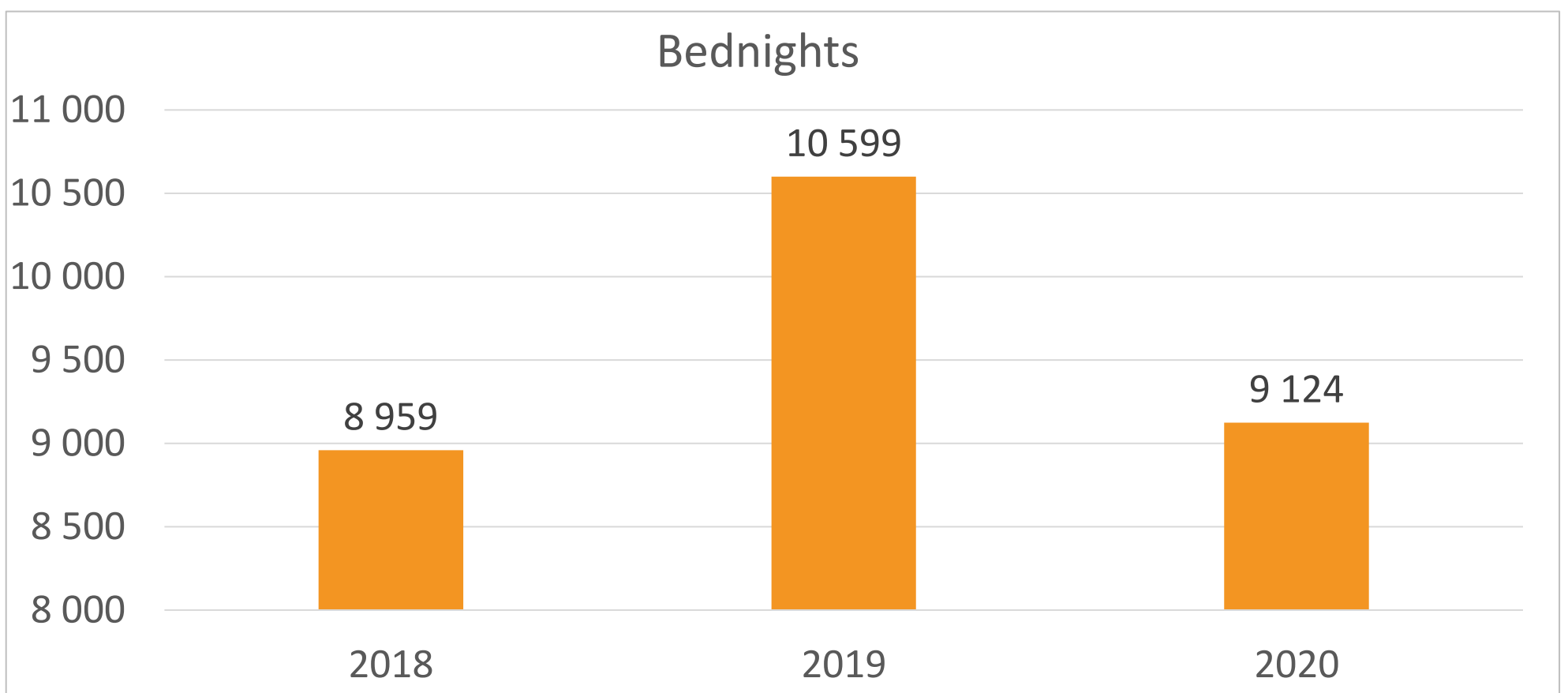
i. DAR NIKI CASSAR



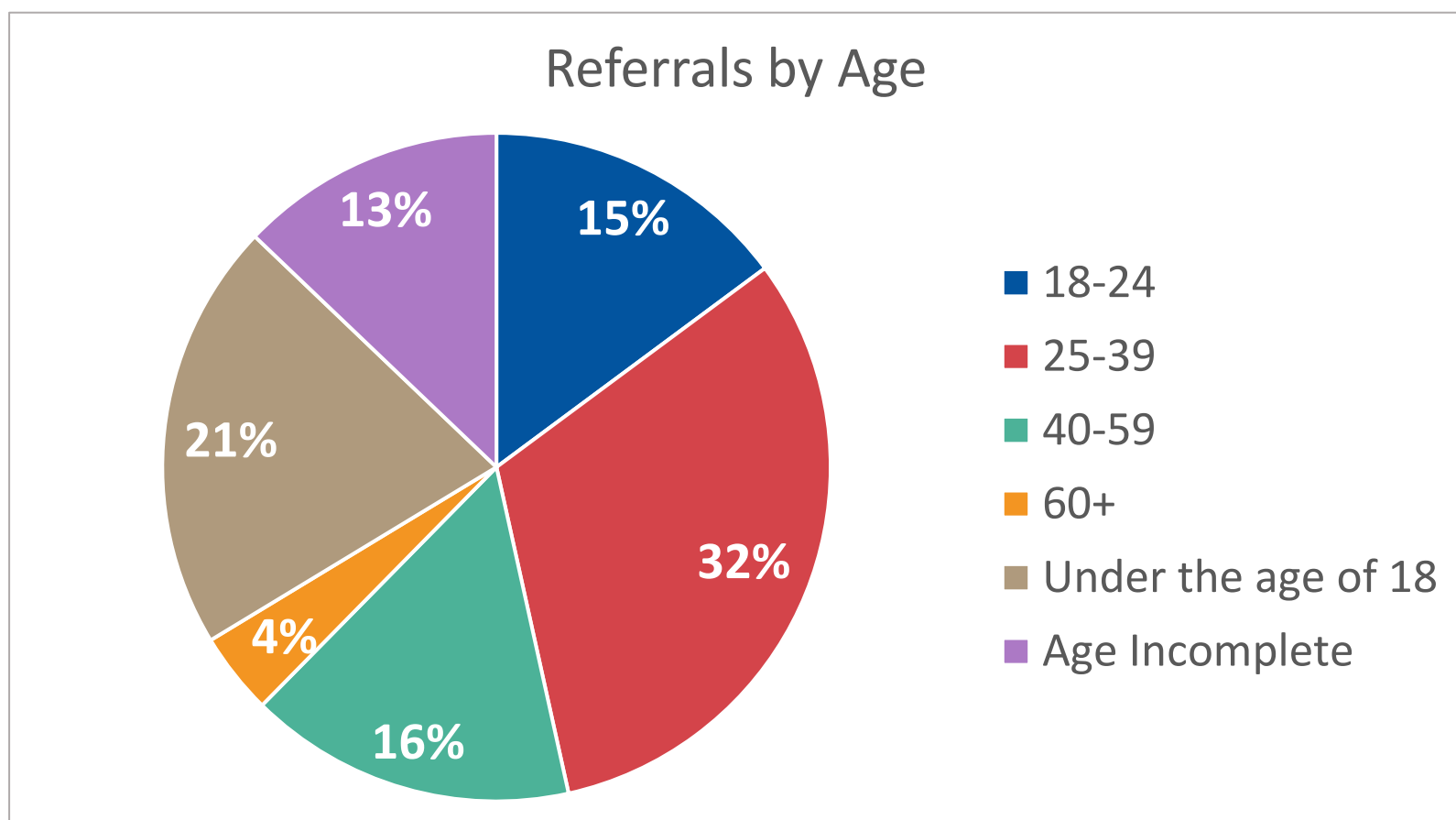
Despite the fact that YMCA Malta received over 600 referrals, YMCA was only able to support 133 in 2020. YMCA has given less bed nights in 2020 unlike in 2019. Here, one also needs to take in consideration that a referral had a waiting period of two weeks prior to entering the shelter to get a swab test and quarantine period to facilitate mitigation of COVID-19 precautions. In 2020 YMCA Malta had no positive COVID-19 infections within the team & the service-users.



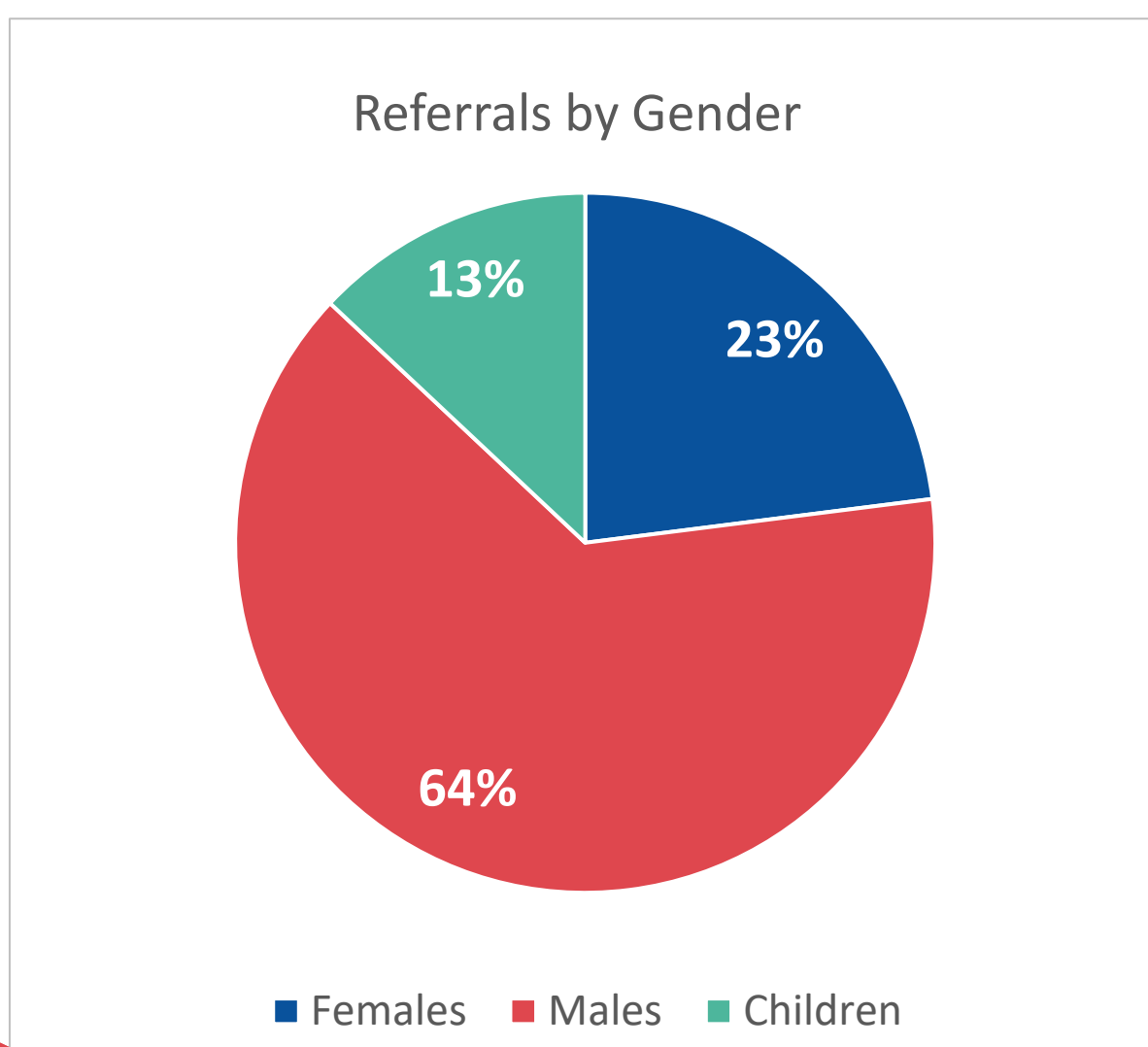
In 2020, the highest reason for referral was that of financial problems, followed by renting problems and family issues. Other reasons for referrals are listed in the above table.



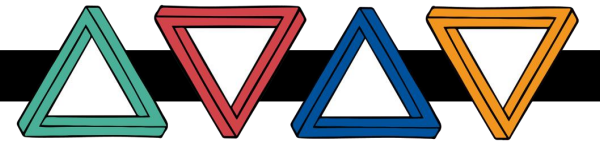
In the past three years, YMCA Malta gave 31,433 bed nights to homeless people. Between 2005 and 2020, YMCA has given 119,565 bed nights, a roof & special care to those homeless.



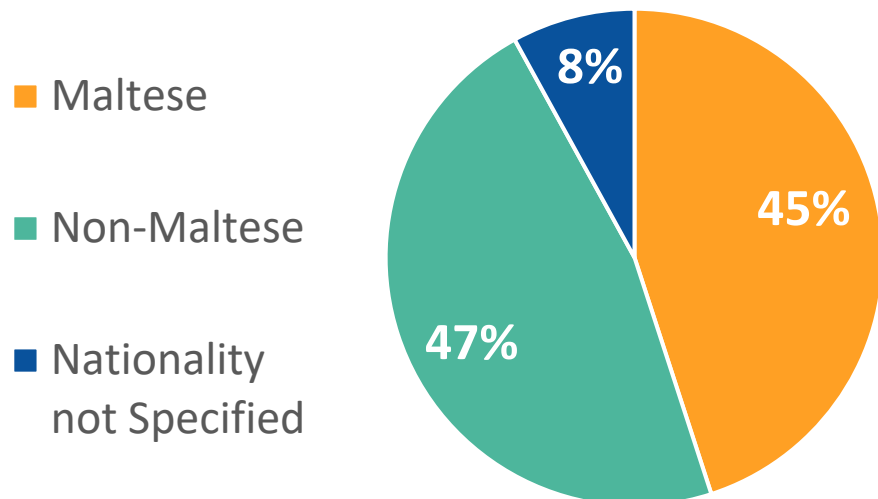
Like in 2019, the highest category in 2020 remains those between the ages of 25-35 years of age with 32%. In 2019, this category was 27%. The highest category is followed by those under the age of 18 (21%) which, in 2019, was only 16%, and therefore increased. Whilst those between 18 and 24 years of age (15%) remained with the same percentage as 2019. Those between 40 to 59 years of age (16%) decreased from 2019 (22%). Also, those cases of age 60+ decreased from 2019 (7%).



The majority of cases YMCA Malta had in 2020 were males followed by 23% females and 13% children. Whereas in 2019, 56% were males, 28% were females & 16% children.



Referrals by Nationality



Non-Maltese remain the highest category of cases referred to the YMCA. In 2019, 55% were foreigners whilst 45% were Maltese. Considering the lack of information on 8% of the cases, the categories are relatively the same as last year. In 2019, 33% were EU residents whilst 67% were migrant cases out of 55%.

The situation in 2020 is quite similar to that of the previous year. In fact, 47% of referrals made to YMCA Malta were for non-Maltese nationals of which 14.34% EU Nationals and 83.72% were Third-Country Nationals. 45% of service-users referred to YMCA Malta were Maltese Nationals. Finally, 17.83% of referrals did not disclose the service-users' nationality.



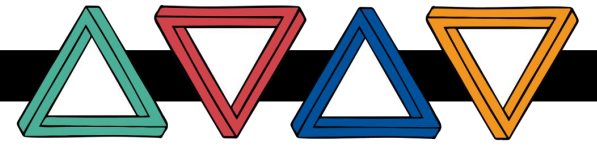
Homeless Opportunities Prevention and Education

H.O.P.E. integrates an evidence-based programme approach and vision towards providing an alternative service-provision pathway towards reintegration. It targets service-users that itself are integrated in the service-provision given.

H.O.P.E. was initially launched in 2019 and was still running in 2020. This project aims to offer opportunities and education as a means of prevention to service-users who have successfully finished a care programme. Secondly, through the H.O.P.E programme, YMCA Malta does not only aim to reintegrate service-users into the community, but the community itself contributes to the service provision given to the service-user.

1. Housing families who do not have a home with an objective to invest in families who are not able to reintegrate in society after a 'housing first' approach.
2. Helping families find and retain their home with an objective to expand the support families need in order to experience a tenancy support scheme to their budget.
3. Increasing opportunities and options across housing and employment with an objective to retain, protect, and increase opportunities of their active employment and housing, and create further opportunities such as in-house education.
4. Building capacity and improvement for active citizenship with an objective to enhance the capacity for service-users to be actively involved in society, and outreach to community to be actively involved in H.O.P.E. itself through Education, Activities, and Opportunities.
5. Instilling hope to successfully move on with achieving the objective of resources, skills, support and integration.

Since 2019, YMCA Malta has given the opportunity to 4 individuals that benefitted from part-time employment, and 5 individuals in paid employment (2 full-time and 3 part-time basis). These individuals were all ex-homeless people.



Through projectABLE, we have created the space within our YMCA residences where residents teach and share their skills and talents with each other. This aims to help the residents acknowledge their strengths, believe in themselves, learn new skills (from other residents), and empower each other within the DNC community. We firmly believe that every individual has strengths, and these are promoted through projectABLE. In other words, we continue to look at what makes our clients unique and their strengths, and empower them. Throughout 2020, 11 classes were held by residents themselves for the residents, teaching each other several skills such as cooking, crafts, meditation, etc.



Cooking

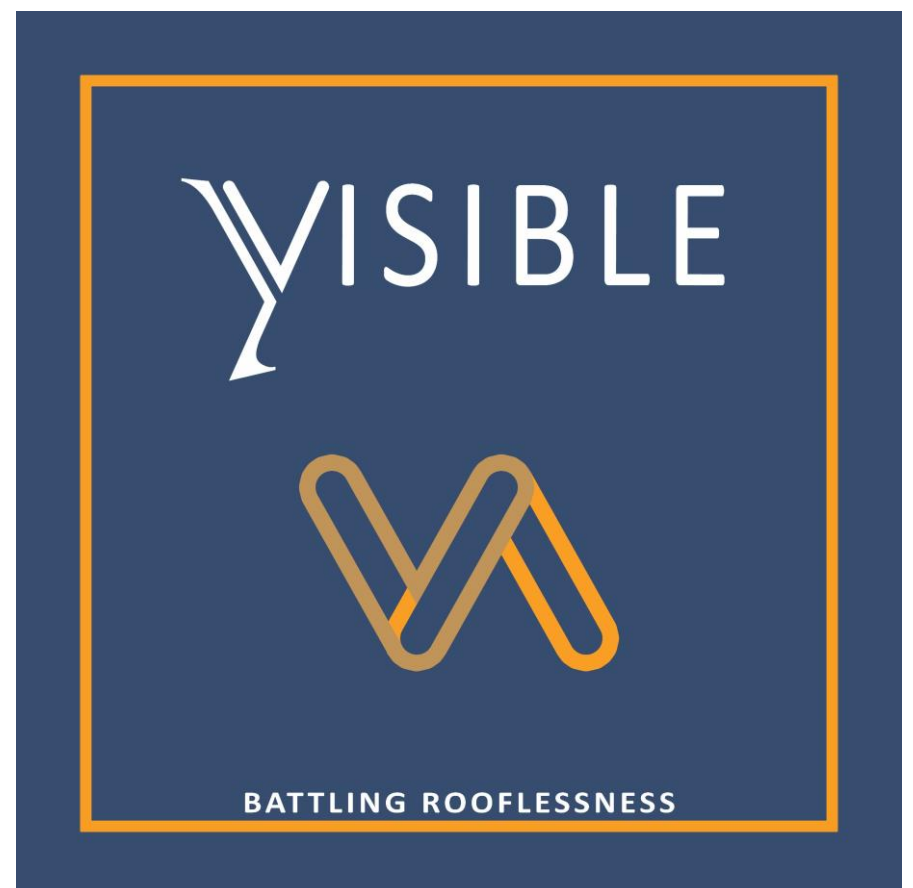


Meditation



I. Y'VISIBLE

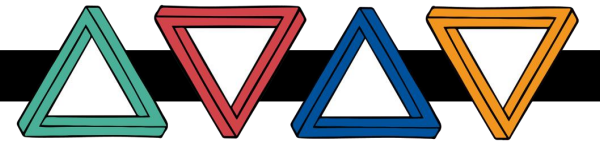
Y'Visible is an outreach service with the purpose of tackling visible homelessness in Malta. Members of the residential team visit various locations in Malta in an attempt to reach out to people who are sleeping rough, with the provision of food, blankets, clothing, and information of services.



This project has a proactive side whereby we search for individuals who are roofless during allocated times and the reactive side whereby we respond to reports from professionals and concerned members of the public in relation to people who are roofless.

In 2020, the community has made numerous contact with us via telephone and social media, reporting sights of homeless people in several localities. Throughout 2020, YMCA supported 34 individuals who were roofless providing them with bedding, food, water, clothes, face-masks, taxi transport to APPOGG premises, and service advice.

Through outreaching, we supported numerous individuals who were afraid and struggling to come to terms with their situation. This sometimes meant to guide them on steps needed to take in order to reach out safely. For those who were not ready to leave their situations, it meant helping them know that when they are ready, YMCA will be there to support them.



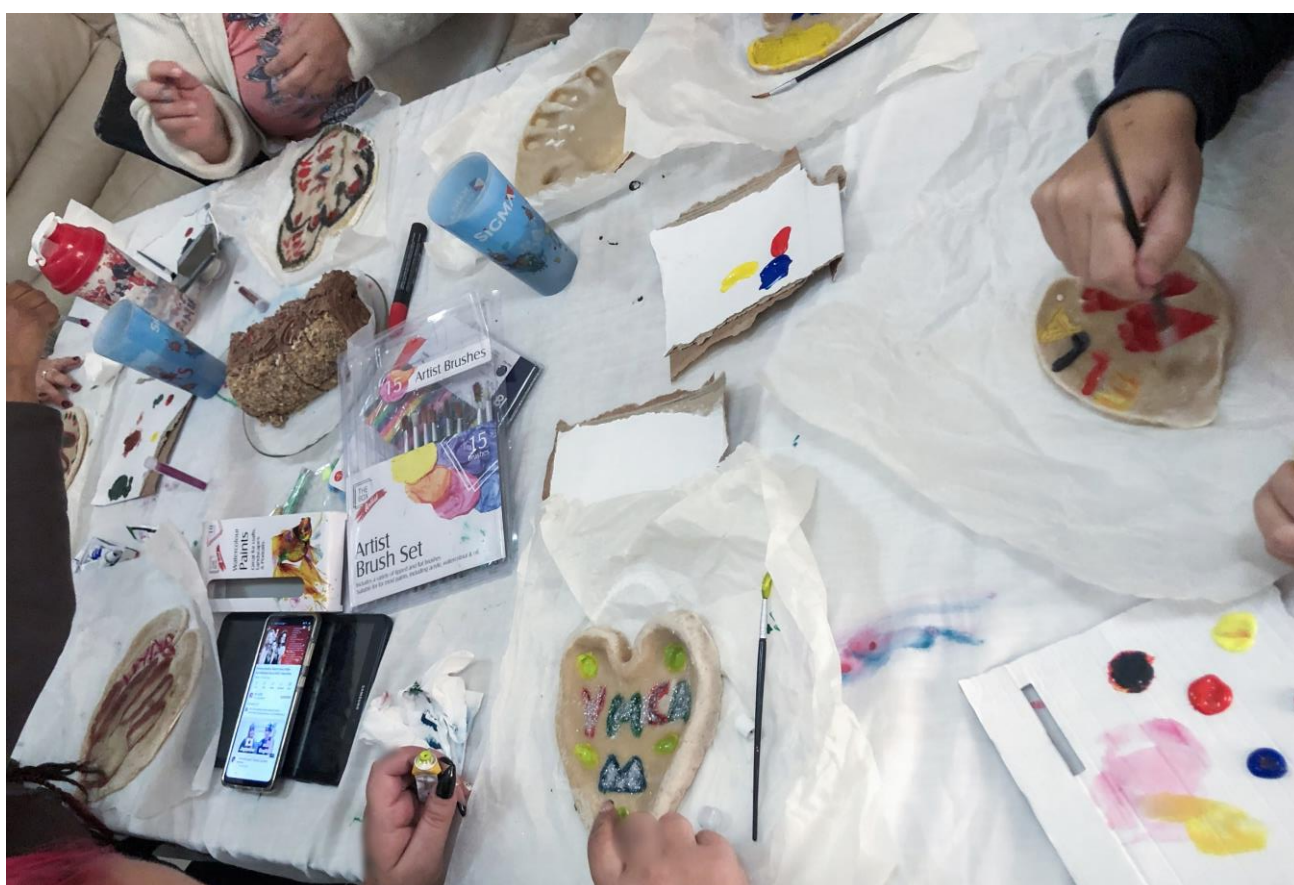
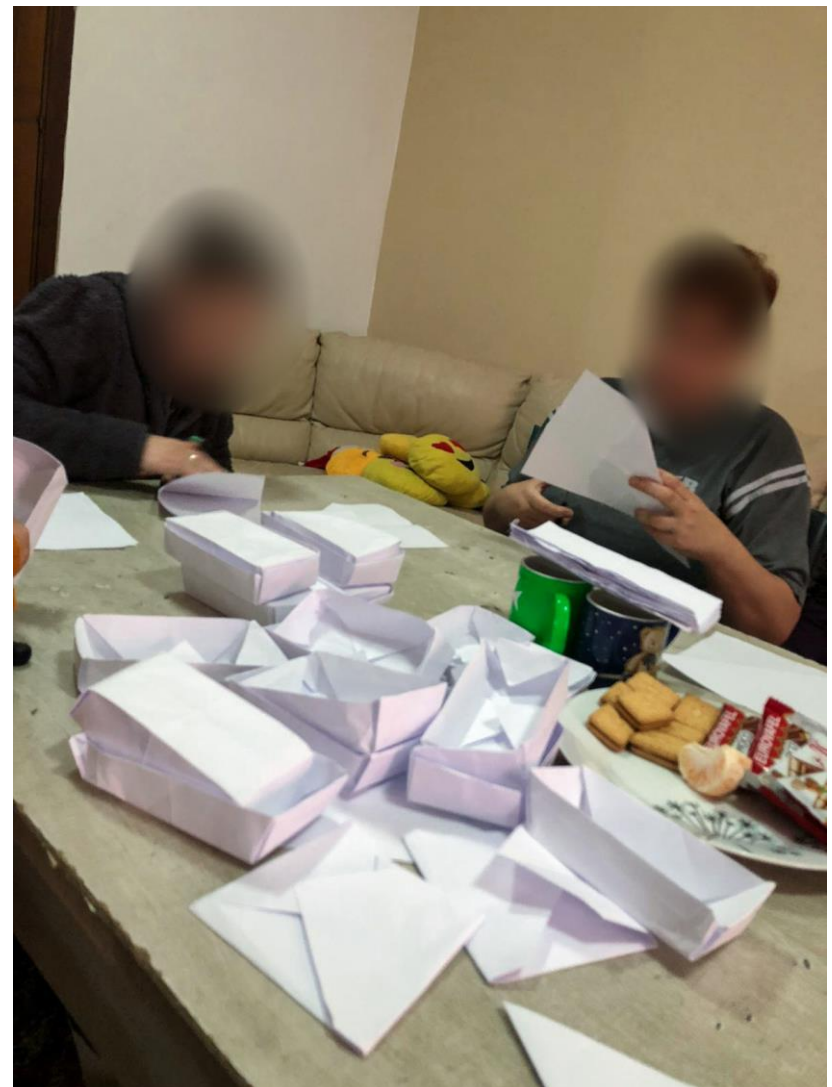
YMCA Malta has always been at the forefront creating activities for children. Despite the many difficulties that the pandemic brought with it, 'Because your Children's Happiness is our Priority' continued to be carried out in-house within the residential premises. This periodical activity within YMCA's shelters revolve around presentations and discussions whereby parents residing at 'Dar Niki Cassar' and 'Y Communal Home' discuss obstacles and situations that they may encounter in relation to their children whilst living within the shelters. It also provides them with a platform to share their thoughts and contribute their ideas, and learn new skills of how they can tackle certain issues which they might face from time-to-time.

However, several activities that are carried out with children via the Youth Facility Centres we have in Valletta and Zabbar had to be cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

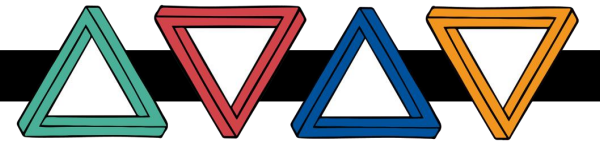


n. Y' QUEENS

Y' Queens involves a number of ladies residing within our shelters, who come together twice a week and carry out a number of activities. This group is supported by team members, but residents play an active role in deciding what activities they would like to carry out. This group aims at empowering the ladies within our shelters, helps to enrich time, and creates a space for a community activity. Another 9 in-house creative sessions were carried out in 2020.



o. RESIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES



Regular activities are organised according to the resident's needs and preferences. These include BBQs, pancake nights, Halloween parties, games & movie nights, Christmas parties, and regular community meals. In total, in 2020, the residential activities, despite the COVID-19 impact, were around 140 events.



p. EDUCATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Youth Empowerment is also about providing an educational pathway to volunteers, students, and interns that come across YMCA and dedicate their time within one or more of our services. Interns and students who are hosted within YMCA as part of their studies are on placement or are contributing their time in a voluntary capacity.



During this time, we provide training and work with the students and volunteers throughout their progress. Additionally, we also provide ongoing training opportunities to our team members, and we are also actively involved in providing educational talks and workshops in schools, and at the University of Malta.

Throughout 2020, apart from paid staff, the volunteers, interns and students had the opportunity to participate in several educational opportunities. In-house, a series of support and guidance meetings (introductory meetings, support sessions, performance appraisals, evaluation meetings, project meetings and team-building meetings) are carried out periodically. In 2020, a total of 150 support and guidance meetings were carried out.

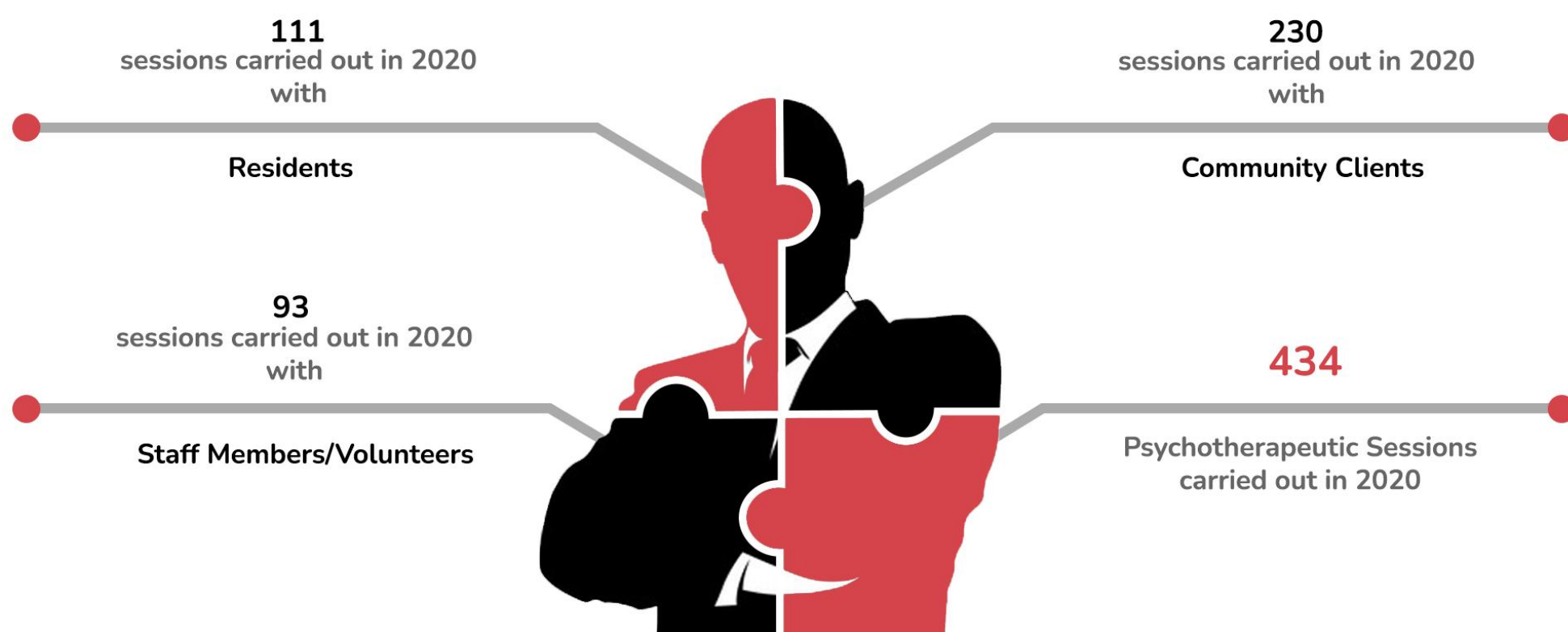
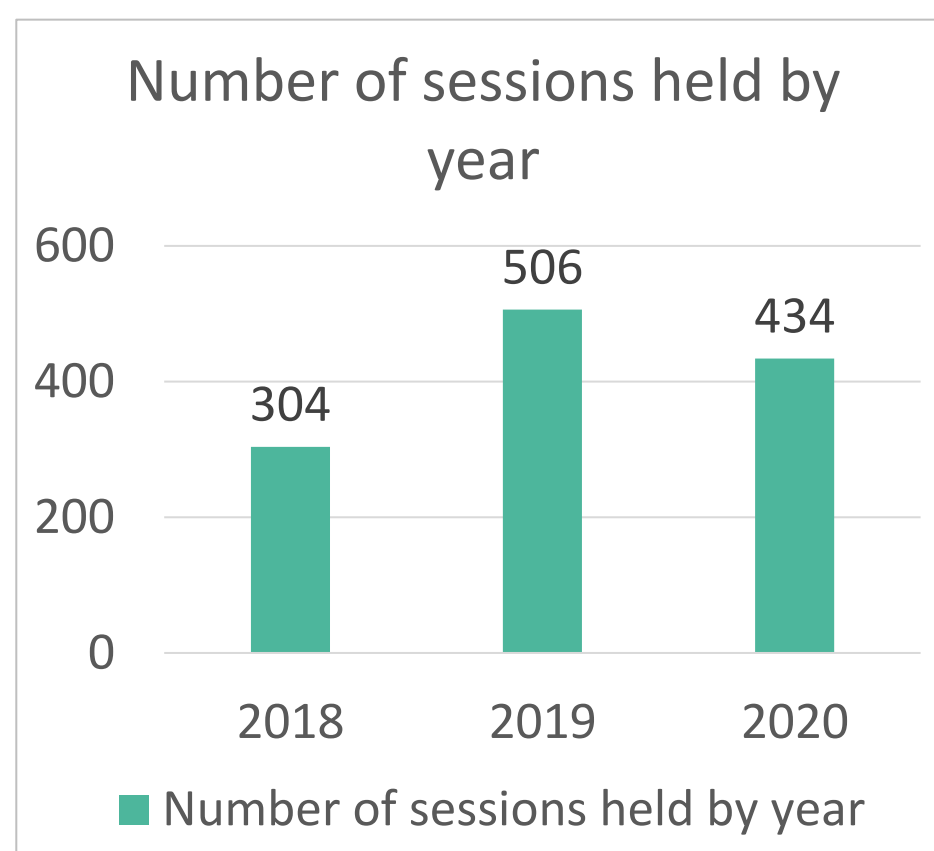


q. PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC SERVICES



The Psychotherapeutic Services, which have been operating since 2016, are mainly provided through volunteer psychotherapists and counsellors. YMCA Malta provides this service also to those in the community who are unable to seek these services privately.

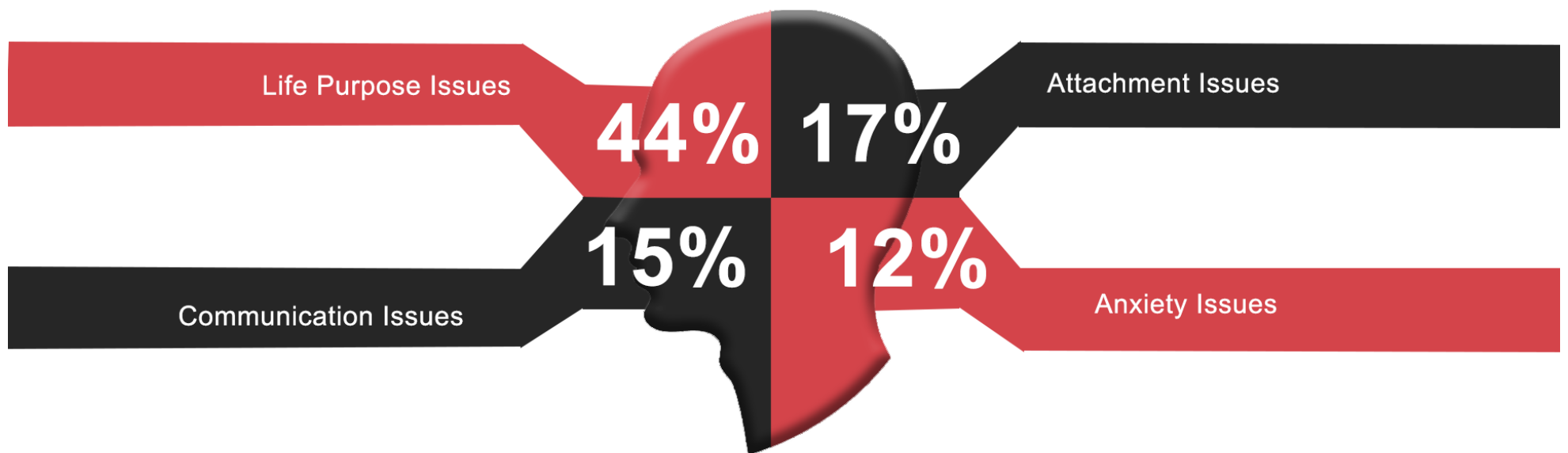
In 2018, 304 face-to-face sessions took place with service users, with the number of sessions increasing to 506 sessions in 2019. However, in 2020, due to COVID-19, the number of sessions decreased to 434 with most of the sessions taking place online, in line with the mitigation and prevention measures set by the local health authorities.



In 2020, 434 psychotherapeutic and counselling sessions were provided of which, 230 sessions were conducted with community clients, 111 sessions were conducted with residential service-users, while 93 sessions were offered to staff and volunteers.

q. PSYCHOTHERAPEUTIC SERVICES

2020: List of Issues encountered:

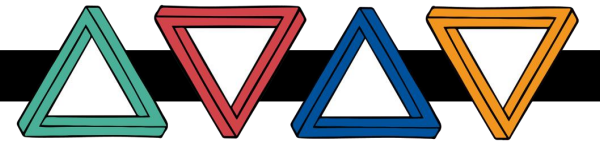


There are several reasons why service-users seek to benefit from psychotherapeutic services, such as depression, grief, anger management issues, trauma, dependency and addictive behaviours, sexual orientation, and family issues.

In 2019, 42% of the service-users required assistance due to relationship issues, 29% required support to tackle anxiety issues and 21% required support due to a loss in their life. In 2020, 44% of the service users who sought assistance did so due to life purpose issues, 17% because of attachment issues and 15% to tackle their communication issues.

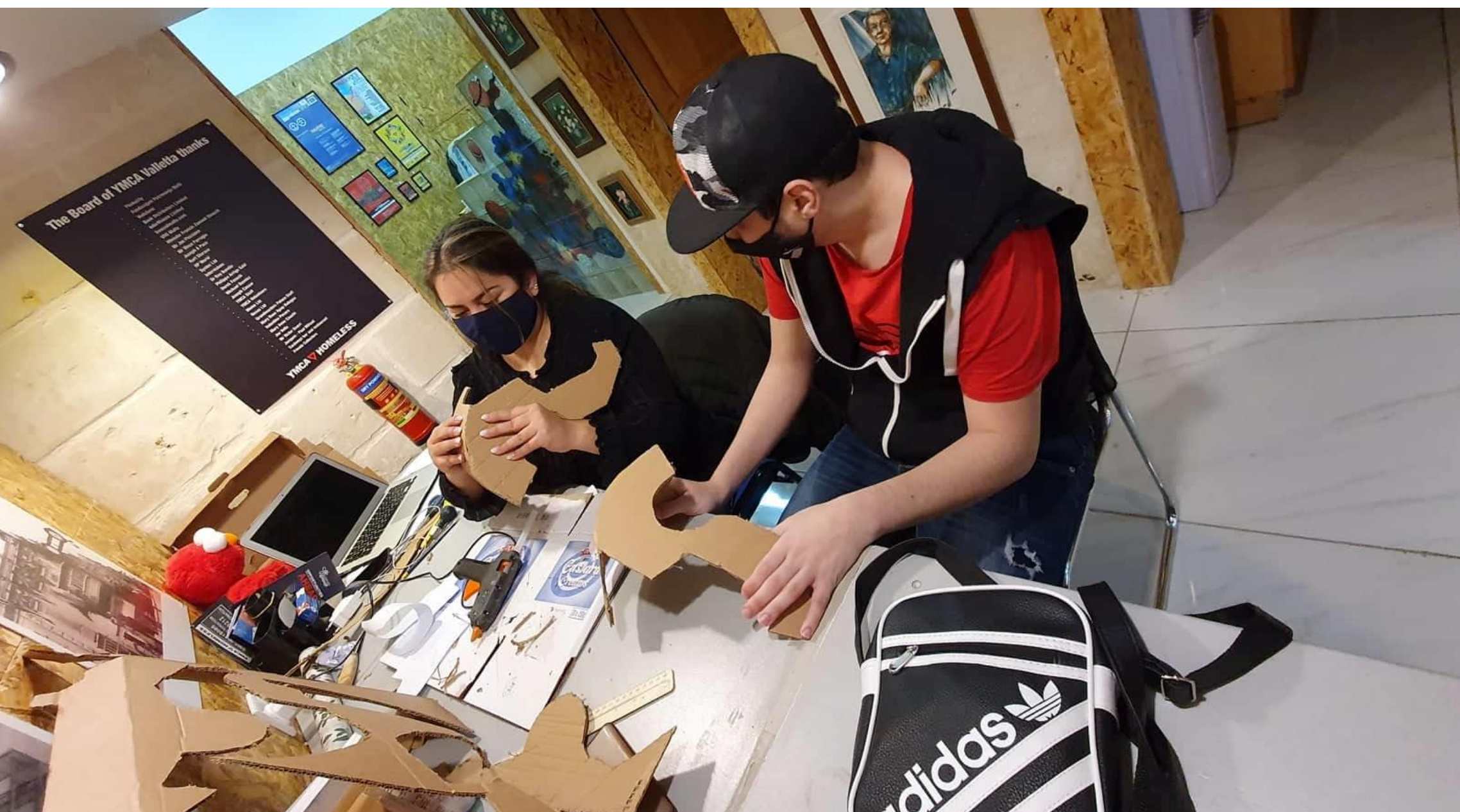


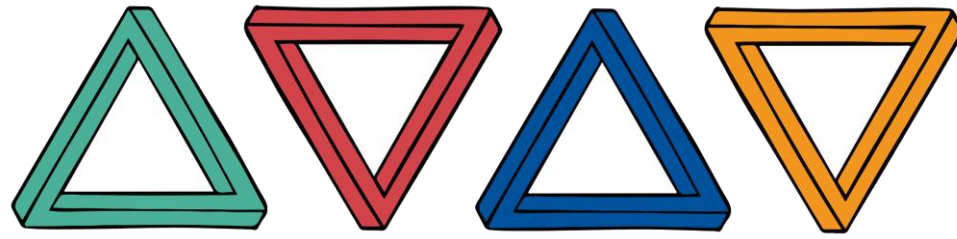
r. YOUTH WORK & COMMUNITY SERVICES



In 2020, despite the pandemic during the third and fourth quarter - Youth Work & Community Services with young people from the community continued to be developed and strengthened. Several mentoring sessions and interventions were carried with young adults and other community service users. The interventions carried out included individual meetings, texting and telephone conversations upon self-development, job-oriented, or academic topics. A total of 41 interventions were carried out in self-development, 52 interventions on academic, and 25 interventions that were job-oriented.

Guidance and Support interventions with the same client-population from the community were given throughout 2020, ranging from psycho-emotional (156 interventions), food and clothing (56 interventions), and paperwork (146 interventions).

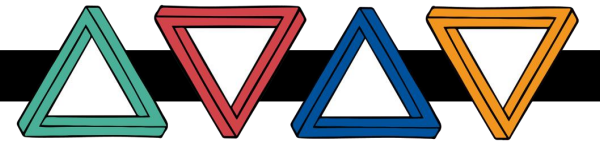




QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH: THE IMPACT OF COVID-19

YMCA Malta commissioned a quantitative research (The Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Quality of Life in Malta) that was carried out by the following Psychotherapists - Anthony Camilleri, Katya Caruana, Caroline Vassallo and Gillian Pillow. Following is the abstract of the paper published on this research:

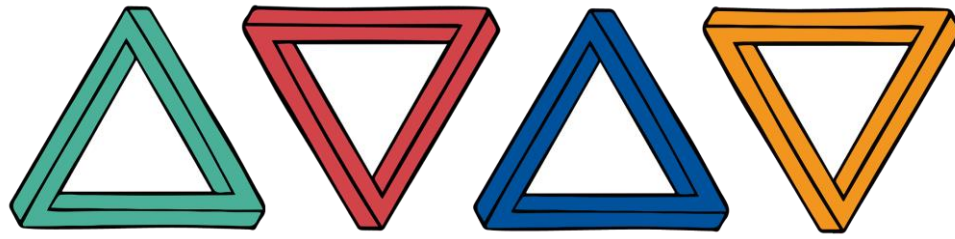




This research replicates a methodology originally conducted in the Balkans, the purpose of which was to present short measures of perceptions on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on quality of life (2020). Cronbach's Alpha register provided enough consistency, ascertaining internal validity, allowing for this research to build further on it, solidly and reliably.

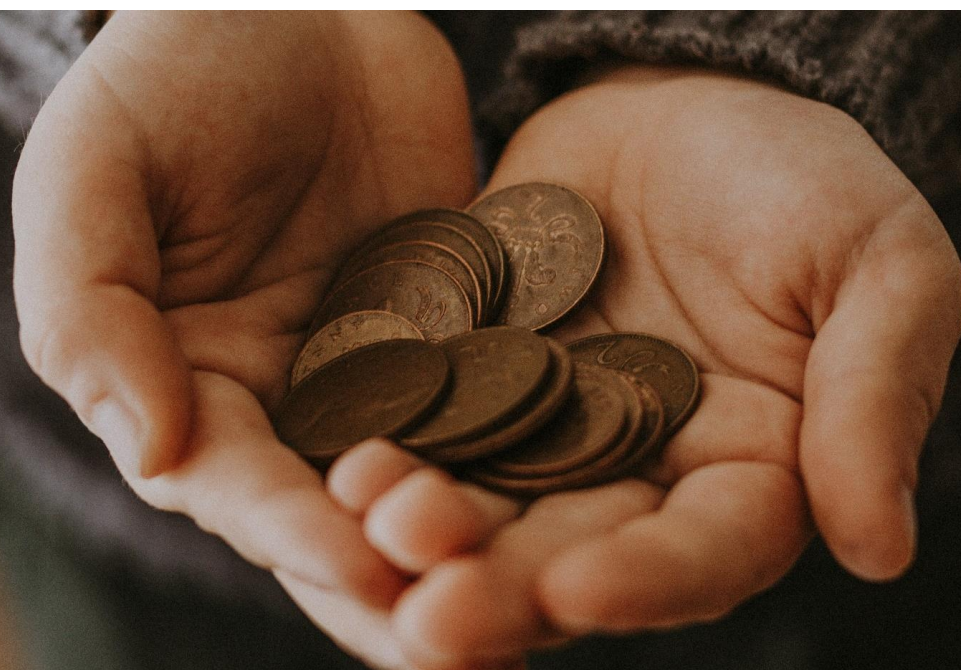


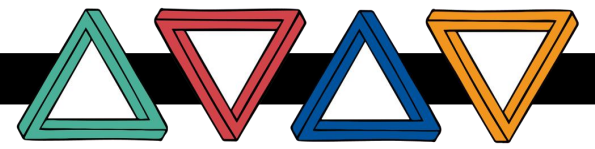
This research presents the outcome measures from a Gestalt Psychotherapy (GT) perspective and in a newer and different context. Research was administered in 2020 with a sample population in Malta. Its essential value lies in it being a *de facto* replicated method, which strengthens the reliability, validity and generalisability of the study, as is known in humanistic and social sciences with replicated methods, if and once results are corroborated. A Likert-scale questionnaire of a set of 6 questions was administered amongst 437 respondents, a random, non-clinical, non-specific, population sample, by means of an online survey as a method. Responses were organised, and data analysed, using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS-27 Software) as a tool. A total of 437 respondents participated: 128 were male, 300 were female, and 3 identified as transgender, non-binary or other. The general respondent age ranged from <18 to 65+, with 24% of responses being from the 65+ range. A core value of this research is that it is relatively innovative for GT, and that whereas GT is often criticised for lacking quantitative measures, this paper also adds to its value in that respect. The study portrays correlations found between variables, and primarily it became visible that tension and depression are correlated monotonically wherein respondents reported an increase in both due to the Covid pandemic and its effect.



SOCIAL BUSINESS PROGRAMME

In 2020, YMCA Malta was financially negatively impacted. This is because, due to COVID-19 and the restrictions which the pandemic brought with it, YMCA Malta had to cancel and/or postpone all fundraising initiatives. Additionally, the demand for the services offered by YMCA Malta has been increasing every year and thus, inevitably, such demand results in an increase in expenses. For this reason, every year, YMCA Malta tries to identify different and innovative ways to raise funds to keep offering its services to the most vulnerable in our communities and offer such services free of charge. The SBP coordinated efforts to generate funds to support the YMCA Malta and its projects and hence, keep offering the much-needed assistance and support to our service-users. Some of these endeavours include:





After an absence of numerous years, YMCA Malta relaunched the 365 Campaign. Through this campaign, YMCA Malta sought the support of companies, individuals, and groups of people to join forces in raising €365.



However, over 50 financial donations by individuals, companies, and groups of friends supported this plea in 2020 reaching €66,238 raised and donated to YMCA.

b. YMCA CHARITY & VINTAGE SHOP

The YMCA Malta Charity and Vintage Shop was opened in the February 2020 in Żabbar. The idea behind this social business venture, which is operated mainly by volunteers, is to support YMCA Malta through the generation of funds by selling second-hand donated items.

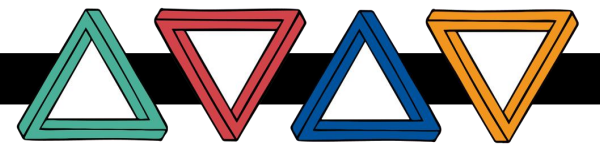
Being environmentally conscious is extremely important for us. Thus, by giving a new life to used items, we reduce the waste in our landfills. This is achieved by applying the 3 R's, that is, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, while adopting a circular economy approach.

Additionally, we provide items at a significantly reduced price, or free of charge to those community members who are experiencing poverty or other social issues, and thus would not be able to purchase the items in conventional shops. Moreover, thanks to the Charity and Vintage Shop, YMCA Malta provides hands-on experience and training to both local students and international interns.

Despite the lockdown and the restrictions on the islands the charity shop still opened its doors when the latter restrictions were lifted.



c. ONLINE AUCTION IN AID OF YMCA MALTA



11 local artists donated 15 original paintings for the first YMCA Malta Online Art Auction. A huge thank-you goes to the artists who participated in this auction and donated their art to YMCA which was worth more than €2000.

•Anthony Lucian Cauchi

•Gulja Holland

•Leszek Soltsyik

•Dorothea Rapa

•Ann Koruma

•Denyse Scerri

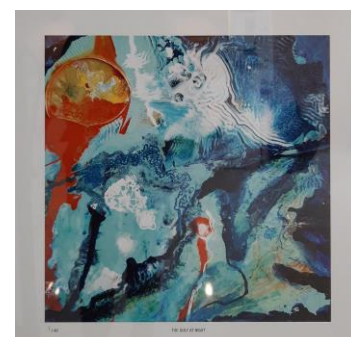
•Selina Scerri

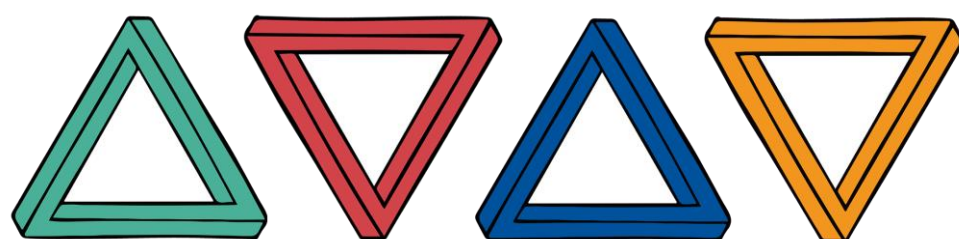
•Francella Pace

•Miriam Cauchi

•Kenneth Zammit Tabona

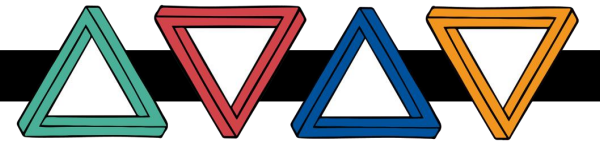
•Matthew Cassar



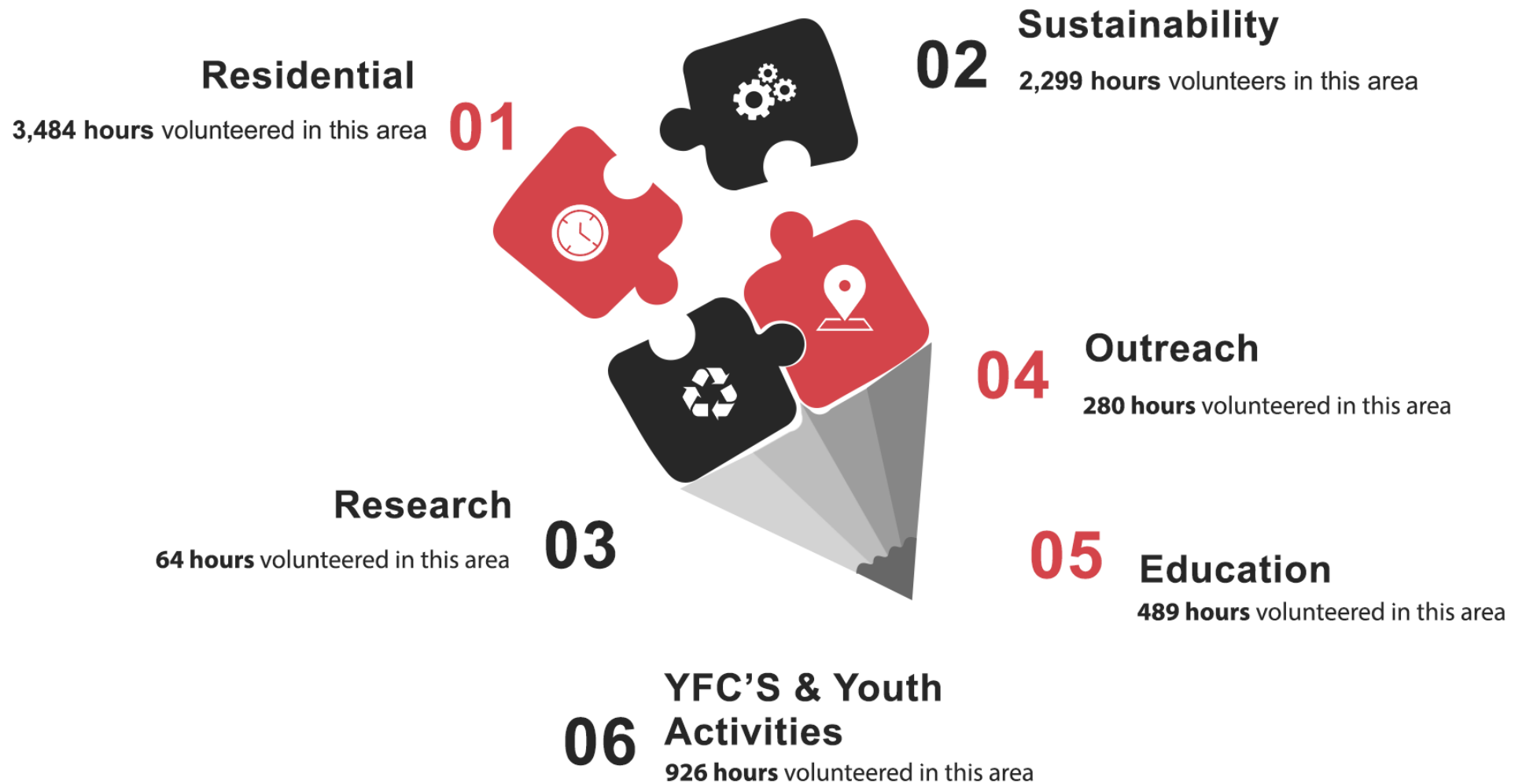


VOLUNTEERING





Volunteering in 2020



In 2020, 8,497 hours were given by volunteers, interns and students, spread in residential, sustainability, research, outreach, education, and Youth Facility Center and youth activities.

**8,497 hours of
Volunteering in
2020**

CARRIED OUT BY:

Civic Service
Students & Internship Placements
Local Volunteers

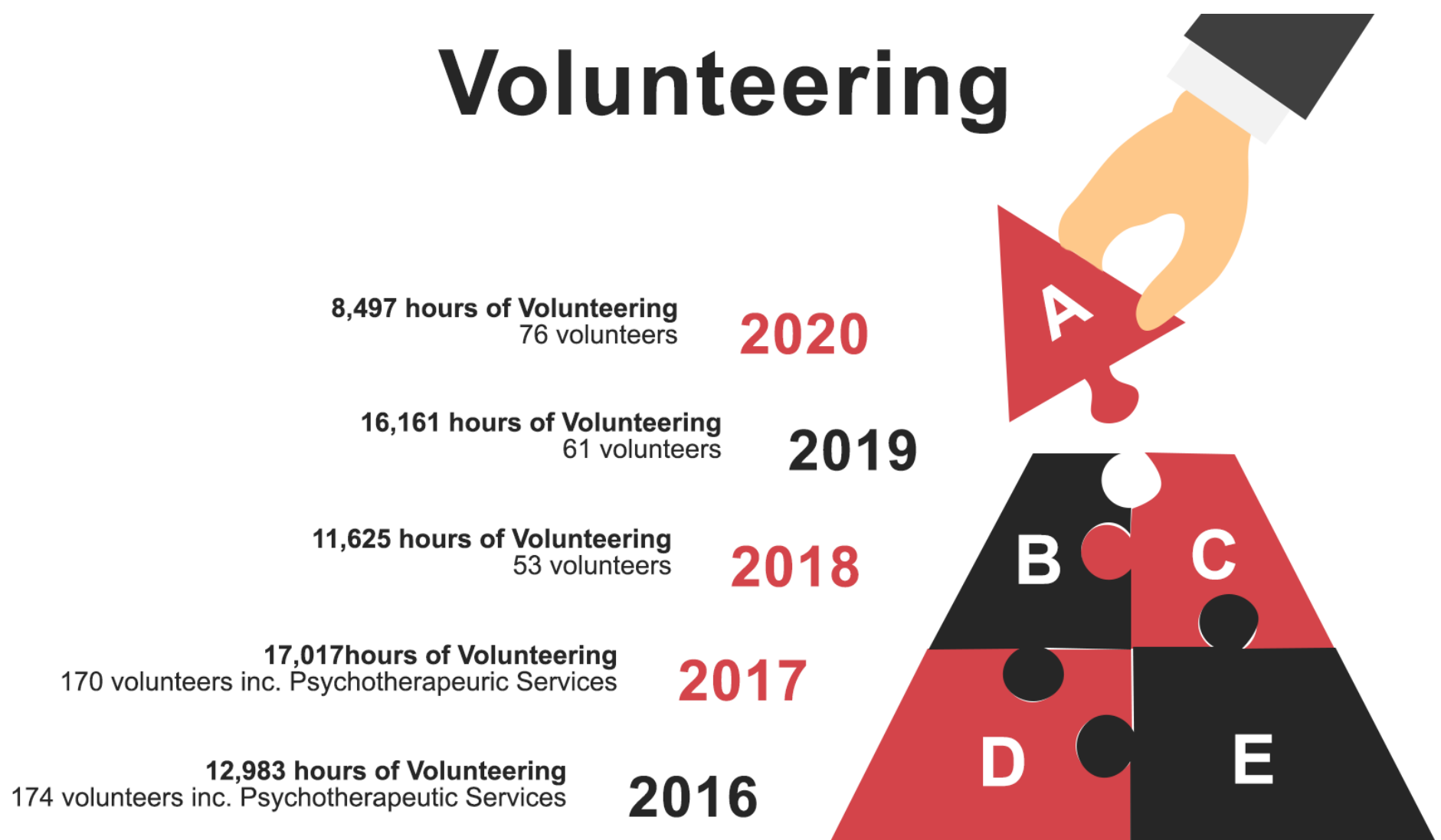
1,608
4,240
2,649



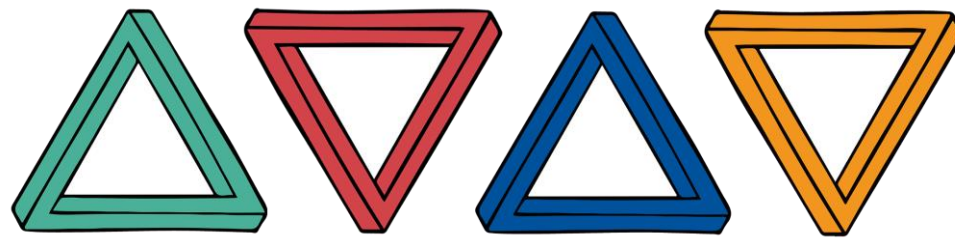
VOLUNTEERING

Whilst students and intern placements covered 4,240 hours of volunteering work, 2,649 were covered by local volunteers which continued to increase in 2020. The remaining hours were covered by a Civic Service agreement we had in 2020 with YMCA France.

Volunteering



Since 2016, in 2020 it was the first time that local volunteers exceeded the yearly average given by student/interns.



KUNĊERT TAMA

Kunċert Tama is an annual Christmas concert which YMCA Malta organizes to thank all the benefactors who supported our project and our service-users throughout the year. This year's concert, which took place on the 19th December 2020, was held at the St Dominic's Church in Valletta, was supported by is-Suq tal-Belt with the participation of Phyllisienne Brincat Vocal Academy. The event was streamed online on the YMCA Malta's social media platforms thanks to the support offered by 4Malta Media/News Company, together with other volunteers who offered their technical competencies and equipment on the day.



TAMA

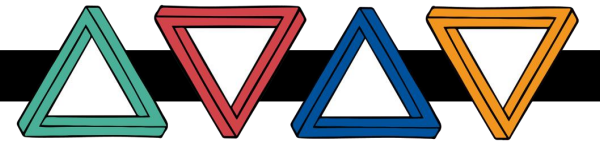
Is-sodda mhijiex tiegħi, imma norqod mistrieħ.
Iċ-ċavetta m'għandiex, imma offrewli post.
Niekol barra ma nistax, imma qatt ma rqadt bil-guħ,
għaliex hawn gew kuljum offrewli platt sħun.
Ismi huwa Karl.

Qatt ma irqadt barra, mhux għax għandi dar.
Qatt ma sifirt, mhux għax m'għandiex passaport.
Qatt ma gie Milied, mhux għax familja m'għandix,
imma għax għalihom jien ma neżistix.
Isma huwa Rebecca.

L-iskola l-uniformi dejjem pulita, għalkemm mislufa.
Privat għal wieħed immur tnejn, għalkemm b'xejn.
Mat-tim tal-futbol nilgħab, għalkemm ħsiebi mhux hemm.
Id-dar nirritorna kull filgħaxija imma ġenituri m'għandiex.
Ismi huwa Jacob.

Għalkemm tqila w it-triq kienet twila, flimkien għamilniha.
Saqsejna ħafna nies mall-mogħdija, imma ħadd ma ta' widen.
Staqsejna fil-lukanda u qalulna li post m'għandhomx.
Kelli nwelled fil-maxtura fl-għar, lil Ġesu' tarbija.
Ismi huwa Marija.

Thallix dan il-Milied jgħaddi, mingħajr ma tinduna,
li madwarek hemm Karl, Rebecca, Jacob u Marija.
Tagħlaqx bibien, kollha għandhom bżonn l-għajnuna tiegħek.
Tagħmilx bħal dawġ u tlebbet għal triqtek mall-mogħdija.



Il-Milied għal Karl huwa s-serġan tal-moħħ f'Dar Niki,
il-Milied għal Rebecca huwa l-għajnuna li sabet hemm ġewwa,
il-Milied għal Jacob hi l-familja li sab, fit-tim li qed jgħinu,
il-Milied għal Marija huwa li twelled f'qalbek din ir-realta'.

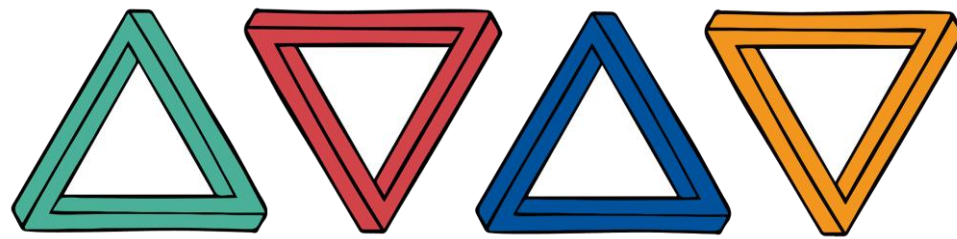
Thallix dan il-Milied jgħaddi, mingħajr ma tiskopri,
li anke int tista' tkun wieħed mill-maġi, li tivvjagga sakemm
Tintaqa' u tagħti r-rigal lit-tarbija. Din hi l-istorja tal-Milied!
X'hini jekk mhux biss sabiex nitgħallmu nagħmlu wisa f'qalbna?

Nagħmlu wisa' għal nies bla dar li qed ibatu,
nagħmlu wisa' għall-ommijiet mingħajr għajnuna,
Nagħmlu wisa' għal dawk iltiema mingħajr familja,
Nagħmlu wisa' sabiex it-tama li nwellduh f'qalbna ma tmut qatt.

X'hinu il-Milied jekk mhux tama li xi darba nifhmu?
Li t-twelid ta' Ġesu fil-maxtura, fil-faqar, fil-ħemda lil hinn mis-sabiħ,
huwa messaġ importanti għalina li hemm biss insibu l-ferħ.
Il-ferħ hu f'dak li tagħti lil dawk li fil-faqar qegħdin.

Kun wieħed mill-maġi u tgħallem x'ittik il-maxtura.
Kun wieħed mill-angli u igri xerred it-tama.
Kun wieħed mir-rġajja u stagħgeb b'dak li qed tara.
Kun inti li tiftaħ l-għar ħa twelled lil Ġesu' f'qalbek.

Dal-Milied x'hinu jekk mhux it-tama li anke int tista' tinbidel.
U f'qalbek twelled post għal Karl, Rebecca, Jacob u Marija.

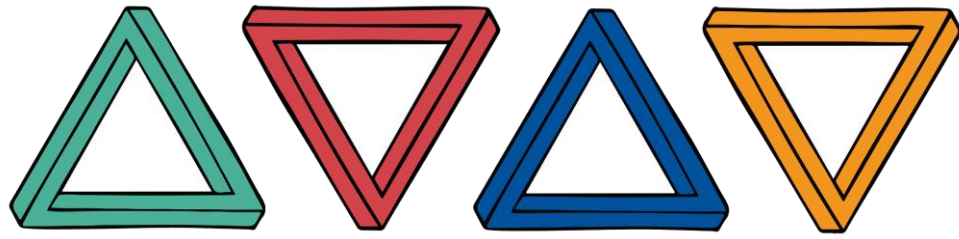


L-IKLA TAL-#BIEB

For the seventh consecutive year, YMCA Malta, in collaboration with YWCA Malta and St. Dominic's Church in Valletta, organised the annual 'Ikla tal-#bieb'. As in the previous years, a mass was celebrated at St. Dominic's Church. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions and safety measures in place, the usual community lunch meal could not take place and for this reason, instead, the participants were provided with a warm packed lunch together with a Christmas gift for the children.

YMCA Malta would like to thank the benefactors that provided us with toys that we could disseminate to children in the community that attended this event on an annual basis with their families. In 2020, around 120 vulnerable individuals were reached and supported with a warm meal during such a festive season.





BENEFACTORS

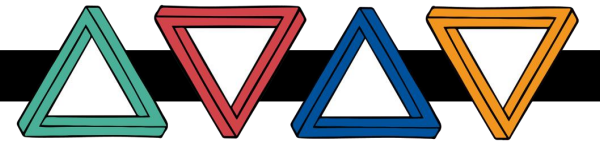


a. Y' FRIENDS

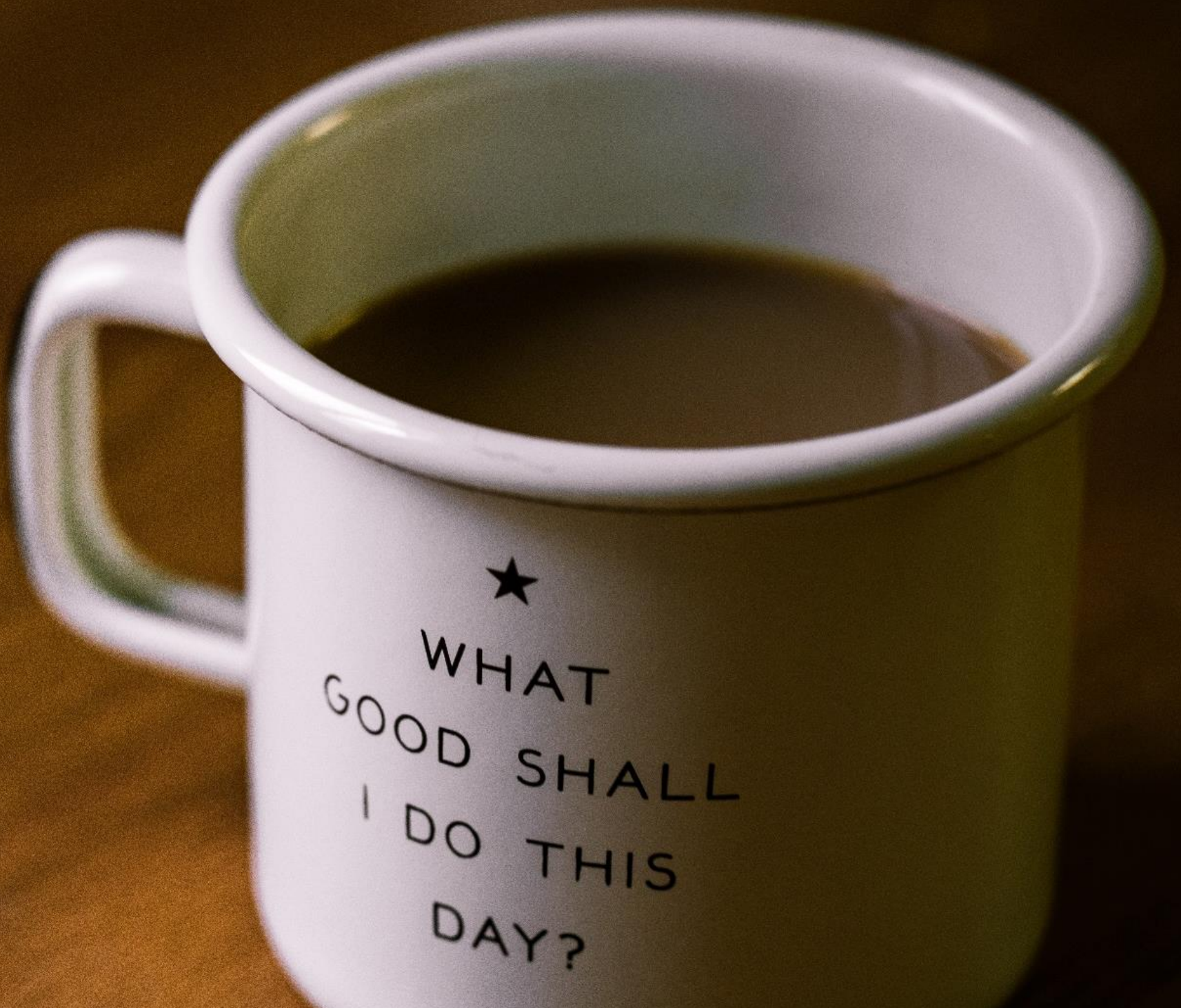
In 2020, Y' Friends, a service-club to the YMCA continued to support YMCA Malta. Throughout the past year, 8 members formed part of this club whereby they met periodically to support the financial needs and requirements of YMCA. In 2020, an agreement was drawn between Y' Friends and YMCA Malta so that the service-club would be more involved at a grass-root level to continue its mission in sustainability.



b. CORPORATE SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



- a. MAPFRE Middlesea: MAPFRE, together with its staff, organized a fundraising car wash activities in aid of YMCA Malta.
- b. The Stars Group: The Star Groups financially supported the development and refurbishment of the Youth Media Lab in Valletta.
- c. Acunetix: Acunetix gave a food donation to the Needs Support Programme.
- d. APS Bank: APS Bank was one the main donor that participated in the 'Let's Go Eco-Friendly' project which resulted in the installation of Solar Panels at Dar Niki Cassar.
- e. CE Installations: 150 employees participated in the YMCA Malta Christmas Jumper Day and made a financial donation towards YMCA Malta's services.

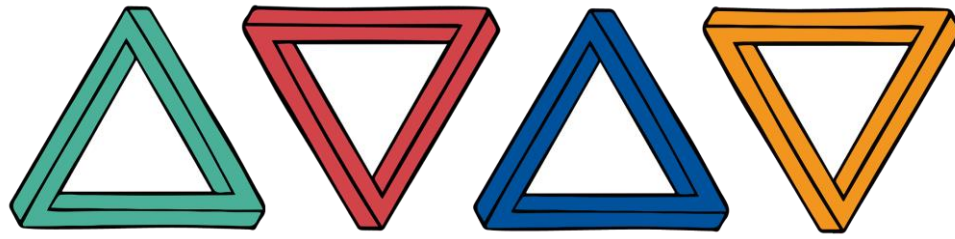


c. OTHER BENEFACTORS

YMCA Malta couldn't be able to carry out its services and projects if it was not for the benefactors that believed and supported financially and in-kind throughout the whole year (in alphabetical order:

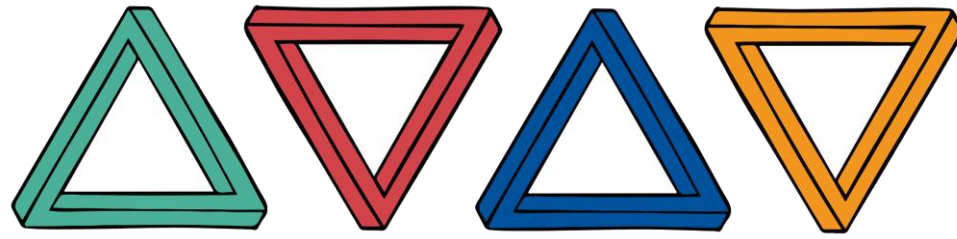
- Agenzija Żgħażaġh
- Alberta Group
- Argus Group
- Bonnici Insurance Agency Limited
- Burgers Ink
- Convenience Shop
- Crane Currency Foundation
- Cryptology Asset Group
- D J COPE
- Davids' Bakery
- Debono Group
- European Union Programmes Agency
- Fenech & Fenech Advocates
- Food Chain Limited
- Forestals
- Genesis
- GO
- I See Malta
- Il-Mithna
- Jesmond Mizzi Financial Advisors
- KFC Malta
- KSI Malta
- Le Grenier à Pain
- LIDL Malta
- Lions Club Sliema
- M. Demajo Group
- Malta Council for Voluntary Sector
- Malta Enterprise
- Malta Health Students Associations
- Malta Properties
- MAPFRE Middlesea p.l.c.
- Melita
- Ministry for Social Justice and Solidarity, the Family and Children's Rights
- Moviment Graffiti
- Platin Casino
- Posh Turk
- Secure Trading Financial Services
- Seifert Systems Ltd.
- Siegfried Malta
- SJS Hartons
- Solar Solutions Malta
- Tal-Lira
- Tektraco
- The Malta Foundation for the Wellbeing of Society
- The Malta Trust Foundation
- Viper Grafix Signs
- Vodafone
- Zeal Ltd.

We would also like to thank the individuals, families and other benefactors who wish to remain anonymous who donated throughout the year.



AFFILIATIONS

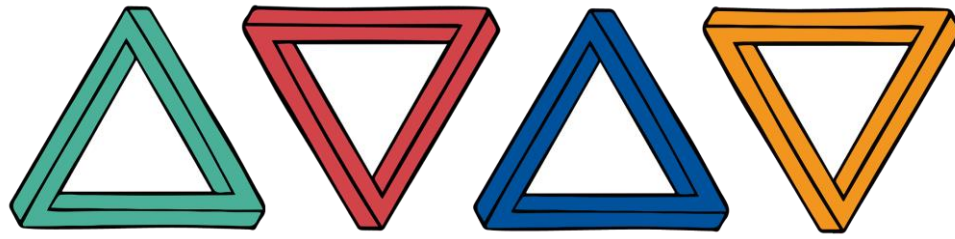
- World Alliances of YMCAs
- European Alliance of YMCAs
- Women Against Violence (WAVE)
- European Federation of National Organisations Working with the Homeless (FEANSTA)
- The Platform of Human Rights Organisations in Malta (PHROM)
- Group of Experts on Action against Violence against Women & Domestic Violence (GREVIO)
- YMCA Platform Against Homelessness



SOLAR PANELS DNC

Initiated in 2019, 'Let's go Eco-friendly' project was concluded in 2020 with a presentation at 'Dar Niki Cassar' on the 10th January 2020, together with the Solar Solution representative that gave us reduced price of the solar system, and the CEO of APS Bank who financed half of the expense. Nowadays, YMCA's 'Dar Niki Cassar' shelter benefits from cheaper electricity bills due to the installation of around 10 solar panels on the roof.





COVID-19 IMPACT FUNDS

COVID-19 negatively impacted the YMCA Malta's projects and operations, especially financially. For this reason, we had to seek alternative means of fundraising streams so that YMCA Malta could still deliver its residential, community, youth, and wellbeing services. The following are some of the initiatives that YMCA Malta would like to mention, and thank those involved in making it happen, and support in covering part of the lost funds.

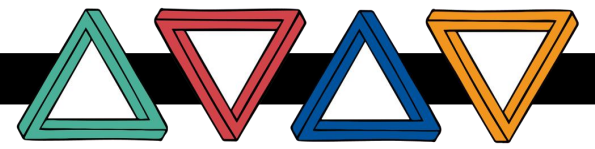


a. CRANE CURRENCY

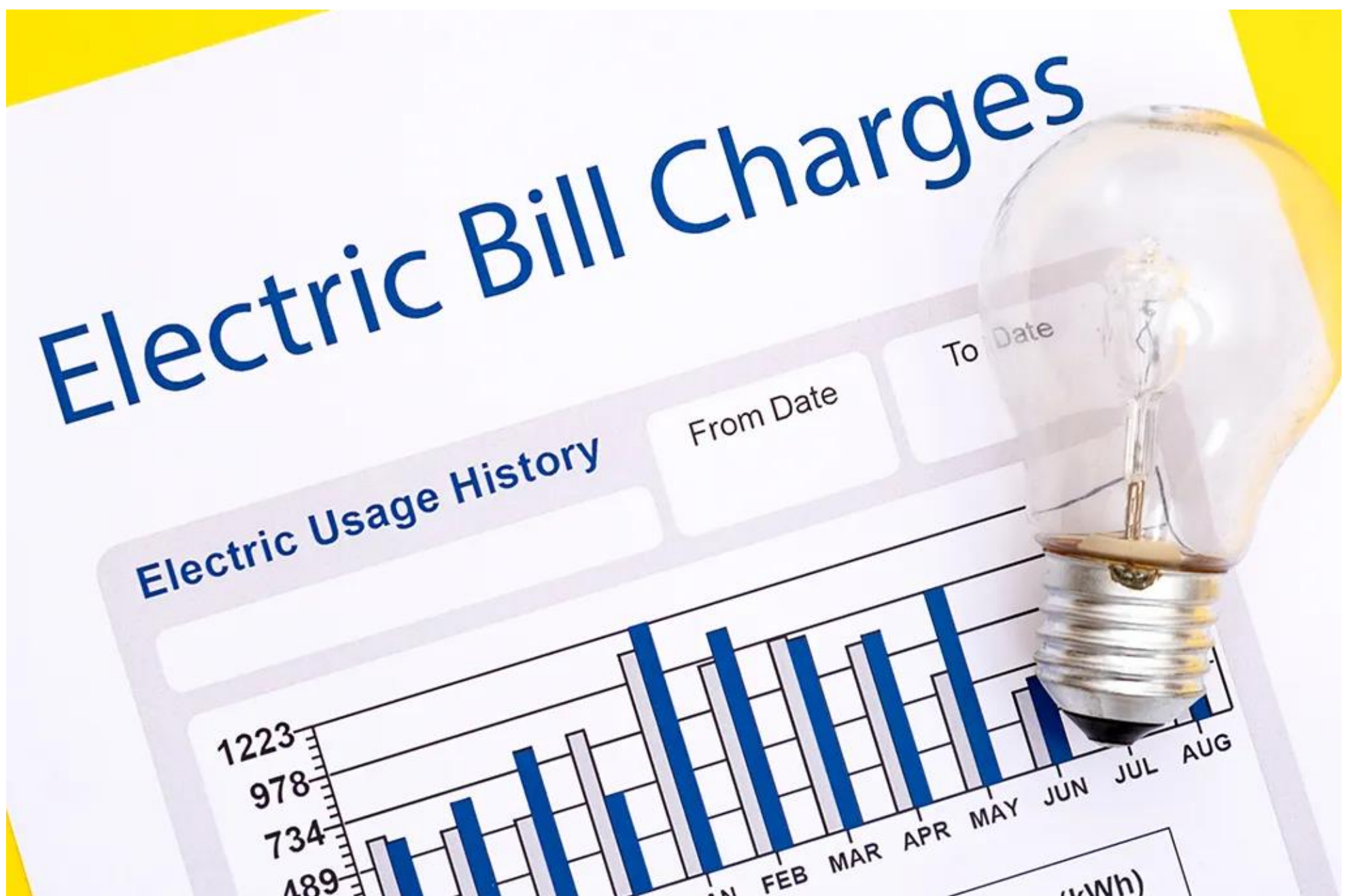
YMCA Malta benefitted from USD5,000 funding in 2020 thanks to Crane Currency in relation to the support given to families, especially women and children living at our residences for the homeless. This financial support helped YMCA Malta to finally have more secure funding in continuing educational and recreational activities in-house.



b. MCVS COVID-19 EMERGENCY FUND



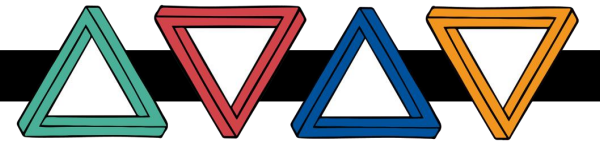
YMCA Malta benefitted from €5,000 funding in 2020 thanks to the Malta Council for Voluntary Sector in their financial assistance via COVID-19 Emergency Fund. This funding assisted in having more secure funding to cover expenses on rent, water and electricity, and COVID-19 essentials like masks, sanitizers etc.



YMCA Malta would also like to thank Malta Enterprise for covering the quarantine leave whenever one of our members was on quarantine, and also the wage supplement for one of the employees that was directly affected in the role of Coordination of the Charity Shop & the Youth Hostel, which both were closed during lockdowns.



d. MCVS OPERATIONAL ASSISTANCE SCHEME (OAS)



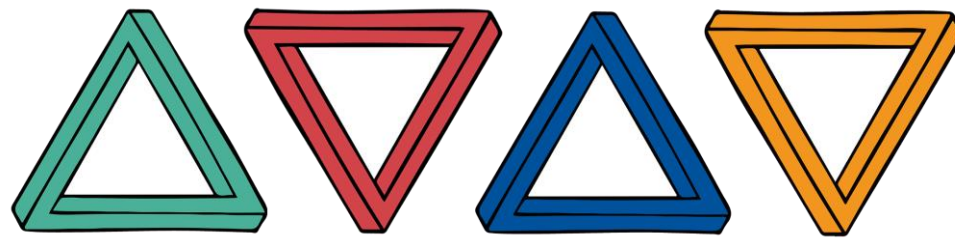
€15,852 funding was covered under the OAS 1st phase scheme that YMCA Malta benefitted from. This funding continued to assist us mainly in being able to pay professional salaries and reduce the while mitigating the issue of limited cash flow that we suffered the most in 2020.



e. YMCA SOLIDARITY FUND

YMCA Malta also benefitted from CHF20,000 funding from the World Alliance of YMCAs through its Solidarity Fund launched after the pandemic hit the whole world. This funding assisted in covering mostly part of the salaries of 10 full-time workers as a means of wage supplement whilst also assisted in administration expenses to cover petty cash needed at both of the residences, and for the Loneliness Response Line.





BENEFICIARIES

YMCA Malta supports, assists, and advocates for and on behalf of the most vulnerable in our communities, irrespective of their gender, sexual orientation, race, nationality, age, religion and political affiliations to create a more just society.

- Asylum seekers
- Families in difficulty
- Homeless individuals and families
- People facing financial issues
- People living in substandard housing
- People without access to proper education
- Stranded travellers
- Unemployed people
- Victims and survivors of domestic violence and gender-based violence
- Victims of addiction such as gambling
- Victims of child abuse
- Victims of usury
- Youths

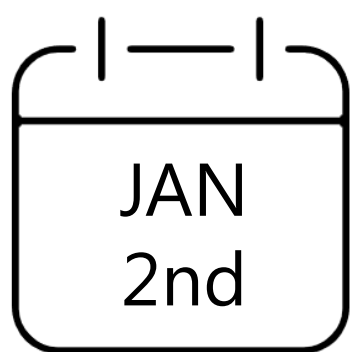
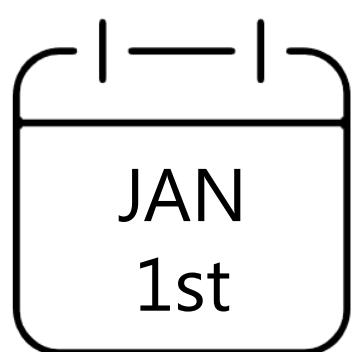
HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT US?



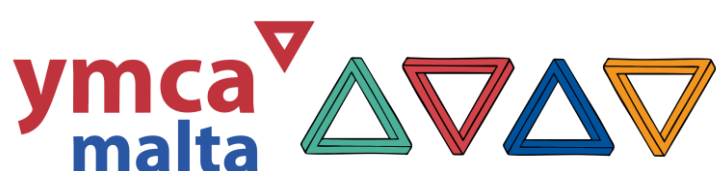
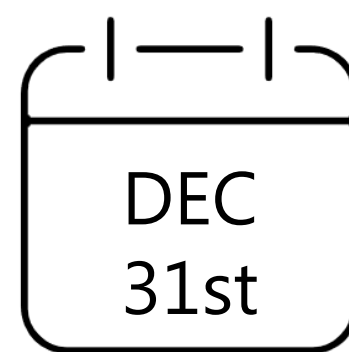
12 MONTHS 52 WEEKS 365 DAYS

=
365 OPPORTUNITIES
TO HELP OTHERS...

1 DAY = 1€



...



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Youtube: YMCA Malta