



MALTESE ASSOCIATION ORDER OF MALTA 2017 HOSPITALIER ACTIVITIES REPORT 2016



SAMOC Trolley Service

A trolley refreshment service was launched at Sir Anthony Mamo Oncology Centre on 22nd July 2016. This is a continuation of service which used to be provided at Sir Paul Boffa Hospital. This service serves as a means of support and comfort to Our Lords the Sick undergoing radiotherapy and chemotherapy treatment.



Prison Ministry

Volunteers and Members of the Maltese Association visit several young foreign male and female inmates on a regular basis. The aim of these visits is to help these special people regain their confidence and self-esteem to be able to integrate with society once again after discounting their prison term.



Prison Ministry Summer BBQ and Thanksgiving Supper

The traditional annual Thanksgiving Supper and Summer BBQ for all inmates at the Young Persons Offenders Unit, in Mtahleb are held in January and September respectively. We are immensely thankful to our regular volunteers who unfailingly organise and assist in all the preparations and cooking.



Visits to St Vincent de Paule Residence, Home for the Elderly

This activity is organised by a dedicated member of the Order and an equally dedicated member of FOTO, mostly for the benefit of persons who lack family and friends to visit them. Monthly visits from October to June take place at the Ruzar Briffa Section.



Jubilee of Mercy

A contingent of members and volunteers manned three First Aid Stations run by the Order of Malta at the Basilicas in Rome for one week in January 2016.



Pre-Lourdes Lunch for Malades

The Maltese Association organised a familiarisation lunch for Our Lords the Sick at The Radisson Blu Hotel in St Julians. This event gives the opportunity for patients and personnel to meet up and get to know each other. The patients are also briefed on the pilgrimage to Lourdes.





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Lourdes Pilgrimage

The Maltese Association participated once more in the Order's International Pilgrimage to Lourdes offering 70 malades the opportunity of making a spiritual journey to this unique Marian Shrine. Two chartered flights were filled. The pilgrimage was a resounding success and a most rewarding experience for Our Lords the Sick and MASMOM volunteers.



Monthly Tea Parties for Lourdes Patients

The Maltese Association organises a monthly tea party for past Lourdes patients at various locations. These events lead to renewal of bonds between past Lourdes personnel and patients. This activity has become one of the most popular Hospitalier activities held throughout the year.



Ta' Pinu Pilgrimage

The annual pilgrimage to the Marian Sanctuary at Ta' Pinu, in Gozo, is held on the last Saturday of May. Over 250 patients and elderly people from various hospitals and homes in Malta and Gozo participated in this pilgrimage. His Lordship Mgr Mario Grech celebrated Mass and later a hearty lunch was served to our special guests at Villa Fiorita, in Marsalforn.



International Summer Camp 2016

The Maltese contingent to Krakow consisted of 19 participants, 8 of whom were our special guests. 10 helpers and one doctor and chaplain accompanied the group. The youngsters had a wonderful time!



Childrens' Christmas Party

300 children coming from economically challenged families were entertained to an afternoon full of fun, animation and games at the annual Christmas Party at the Grand Hotel Excelsior.





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Childrens' Christmas Film

The traditional Christmas matinee movie entertains over 150 underprivileged children from various Care Homes and Centres in Malta. This year the children enjoyed watching the 3D Walt Disney film. 'Moana'; they had a wonderful time. Volunteers handed out tubs of popcorn, soft drinks and sweets.



Family Fun Day

Another annual event well established in our calendar entertains Economically challenged families. 300 guests were hosted to a day packed with activities and good food at the Malta International Airport. The day started with a Mass and was followed by lunch and a variety of fun filled activities for all the family.



Summer BBQ at Lija Parish Church Hall

A BBQ for special families was held in the courtyard of the Lija Parish Church Hall. Food was abundant and the mood was jolly as everyone enjoyed the delicious food provided by the Plaza Hotel. Our guests listened and danced to lively music courtesy of D.J. Michael Jackson Jr.



Tea Party for the Elderly at Verdala Palace.

An afternoon picnic for Elderly guests coming from various Government and Church residential homes was held in the beautiful garden grounds of Verdala Castle. Over 300 Elderly and some past Lourdes patients were also invited to this annual event. This activity started with the Holy Mass after which the guests were treated to some scrumptious food and beverages. The Acting President Mrs Dolores Cristina attended the event.



Guide Dogs for the Blind

This programme is still ongoing. The Grand Magistracy has been instrumental in the donation of €200,000 for the acquisition and training of guide dogs for the blind. The Maltese Association is managing this project in conjunction with the Malta Guide Dogs Foundation.





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Meals on Wheels

The Maltese Association continued to give its patronage to the Maltese Cross Corps which has now grown to provide over 98,000 meals annually to home-bound elderly persons. The Maltese Association also has a representation on the Maltese Cross Corps Board.



Presentation of Christmas Hampers

Every Christmas, 120 hampers packed with food and toiletries are distributed to representatives of various homes and charitable institutions.



Amatrice Earthquake Appeal

The Maltese Association immediately responded to the Grand Hospitaller's appeal by launching a special fund. Members responded quite generously and a €10,000 donation was collected and passed onto the Global Fund for Forgotten People.



Dar tal-Providenza Social Events

Two parties with interactive entertainment were organised for residents with special needs at the Dar tal-Providenza in Siggiewi.



Dar tal-Providenza Transport Project

The Dar tal-Providenza Transport Project was launched at a Press event on the 21st November. This is another high visibility project. Thanks to a grant of €30,620 obtained from the Global Fund for Forgotten People, the Association has fully funded the purchase of two Iveco tail lift vans for use by Dar tal-Providenza. The Association will be responsible for the continued maintenance of these vans.





Volunteers of the Order

Pizza Night

72 special guests, some wheelchair bound were treated to a Pizza/Pasta Night at il-Fortizza Restaurant in Sliema. 17 Volunteers were in attendance.



San Anton Palace Event

75 guests were entertained at an event held at San Anton Palace on the generous invitation of H.E. The President of Malta, Dr Marie Louise Coleiro Preca. Holy Mass was celebrated in the Russian Chapel followed by high tea served in the Palace gardens.



Christmas Party

A Christmas party was held at the Marsa Sports Club. A number of special guests were entertained, and Father Christmas did not fail to make an appearance to distribute gifts on this merry occasion.



Ladies' Night out

A Ladies' Night was again held at The Dolmen Hotel in Qawra. 29 special ladies were entertained to a lovely buffet dinner which was generously sponsored by the hotel management. There were 11 volunteers in attendance on the night. VOTO also covered transport costs for wheelchair users.



Gozo Outing

Another successful day outing to Gozo took place during summer. A record number of 98 special guests and their families joined 15 volunteers who were at hand to lend assistance. The group set off on 2 coaches and 2 wheelchair vans to hear mass in the lovely gardens of a private farmhouse in Gharb, celebrated by Mgr Paul Vella and Fr Jeffery Attard, after which pastizzi and cool refreshments were served. A visit to the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu came next. The group was then taken to Calypso Hotel in Marsalforn where a lavish buffet lunch kindly sponsored by CASUMO Services awaited.





Order of Malta Volunteers in Gozo

Transport Services for Wheelchair Cases

The Order of Malta Volunteers in Gozo continued to run its main Project of providing a special transport service for wheelchair bound cases and patients needing assistance in Gozo. Transport varied from residences to medical institutions, outpatient transport to hospital, outings for elderly persons from homes and pilgrimages to Our Lady of Ta' Pinu and religious feasts. St Domenic's home for the Elderly, Nadur Day Centre, Carmelite Home, Catholic Action widows of Victoria and St Martha Centre for the Disabled were regular users of this important service. This special service is undoubtedly of immense benefit to the community in Gozo and provides the Order with very good visibility.



Day Care Ward and Assistance to Pilgrims at ta' Pinu

The Order of Malta Volunteers in Gozo presented two heavy duty wheelchairs and other ancillaries to the Ta' Pinu Sanctuary in order to assist sick and elderly pilgrims who visit the sanctuary. The presentation to Rector Fr Gerard Buhagiar was held in December 2015 after the opening of the Jubilee of Mercy Mass celebrated by the Bishop of Gozo. A special nursing bed for a day care ward was also presented with the collaboration of the Friends of the Sick and Elderly in Gozo. The OMVG is also providing transport services to pilgrims with special needs wishing to visit the Ta' Pinu Sanctuary on a twice weekly basis (Wednesdays and Saturdays)



First Aid Services

The Order of Malta Volunteers in Gozo regularly provide First Aid services. Last June, a Pilgrimage organised by St George's basilica in Victoria with the Portrait of Our Lady and the Holy Relic Arm of St George which was brought over to Gozo from Ferrara was held from Victoria to the Ta' Pinu Sanctuary for which several people including elderly attended. The OMVG was present to render assistance to the pilgrims.



First Aid Project

The Association made arrangements with the Venerable Order of St John for members of the OMVG to undertake a basic First Aid Course run by the St John Ambulance. Five members successfully completed this course and have recently received their Certificates. This is part of a much larger Project leading to the OMVG having its own qualified First Aid Instructors. The OMVG has detected a niche for the rendering of First Aid Services in Gozo and this is being fully supported by the Council.





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Assisting Needy Families and Refugees

The OMVG continued to provide English language lessons to various refugees who have settled in Gozo. There are also monthly distributions of food supplies to other families in need, including a number of food hampers.



Support for the Dominican Mission in Pakistan

One of the latest hospitaller works of the Order of Malta Volunteers in Gozo is to provide support for the Dominican Mission in Pakistan. This consists of three communities, a school, an orphanage and a clinic with a dispensary. This year a monetary contribution was provided, mainly for the purchase of medicines for poor people. Sister Rachele Agius expressed her thanks to the Order of Malta. She stated that sometimes the Mission could not buy medicines due to lack of funds. There is no free National Health Service in Pakistan and many people do not have health insurance.



Relief Supplies for Ghanaian Missions

The OMVG in collaboration with the Xaghra Local Council organised a collection of good quality clothes, toys and other objects for several Ghanaian missions. Shipments of containers full of relief aid supplies from Malta and Gozo are leaving for Ghana every three months with the respective missions sharing the cost of the container shipment. Ms Manolita Farrugia coordinated the collection in Xaghra.



Visiting the Sick and the Elderly

Members of the OMVG continued to regularly visit the Sick and the Elderly on a monthly basis. Various gifts are purchased by the volunteers themselves and presented to Our Lords the Sick and the Elderly during these visits.

