



# *We are responsible for each other*



Work for homeless people

Charity Service playing for 20 Years

Prayer for Christians in the Middle East





The Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta together with the Ministry of Human Capacities launched a program advancing the integration of underprivileged Hungarians in the Carpathian basin, with the aid of the European Union. During the program, four Hungarian towns are connected with four towns outside the borders of Hungary with a substantial Hungarian population, so that the experiences and best practices of integration can be shared and used across the border. According to the plan, the program will have a positive impact on the lives of 13,000 people of a disadvantaged background. The schedule of the “Jelenlét” integration programs of the Charity Service span a long time, sometimes even decades. The aim of the program for the first 3 years with EU funding is to foster changes that are sustainable after the conclusion of external funding, and to teach care workers of other countries the best practices that are already in place and work well in Hungary.



## Help for 13.000 people

## Health and prevention programs

## in neighbouring countries

The aim of the EU program based on the experience of the Order of Malta, which started in March 2018, is to extend the number of years spent in good health, to prevent diseases and to recognise them early on. According to Lajos Győri-Dani, Deputy Director of the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta, screening that the charitable organisation carries out in disadvantaged towns of neighbouring states does not mean the Order takes on the duties of healthcare provision of those states, but rather it helps preventing diseases in areas where institutional care is sparse or is otherwise far away from those living in small towns. After the screening of tens of thousands of people, patients get feedback and advice from healthcare professionals and the general statistics and results can set the ground for future healthcare programs. The results will be evaluated by the Hungarian National Healthcare Service.



## Meeting the Grand Master



The Grand Master of the Sovereign Order of Malta, Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto received leaders of the Charity Service and the Hungarian Association of the Order of Malta in the Magistral Pal-

ace in Rome. The Hungarian participants informed the Grand Master and the Government about their recent charity, social and healthcare projects and humanitarian actions they participated in within Hungary and abroad.





# Financial Consumer Protection Centre

## opened in Szekszárd

Financial consumer protection office was opened by the Order of Malta in April 2018 with the help of the Central Bank of Hungary. The Order's debt management program have helped hundreds of families in financial despair in the past 10 years to re-plan their lives in order to get rid of their debts. Building on this, the new office now helps with the financial decisions of these families, so that they can make a conscious decision about getting loans, making large investments or undertaking any other long-term financial commitments. The office also offers consumer protection services, is not under any influence and is free of charge.



# Appeal to MPs

Supporting self-sustainment, the Charity Service donated chicken, ducks and rabbits to 70 Subcarpathian families. In this returning program, organised together with the Association of Subcarpathian Large Hungarian Families, crop and forage were also distributed to help with farming.



## Jobs for the homeless people

The Order of Malta public employment program received a Ministerial Award. The program, which has been running since 2012 providing work for the homeless, was nominated by the Budapest District IX Government Office. The Order provided work for 381 people in 24 institutions, mostly living in the Order's homeless shelters. After the conclusion of their contracts, some of them went on for a full-time job with the Charity Service and other job providers. Apart from the capital, the public employment program is still going on in other cities in the countryside.







# *A night shelter*

*for those who do not wish to use any other institutions*



The Hungarian Maltese Charity Service has opened a temporary night shelter in a gym during the critical winter period in Budapest for people who avoid other homeless institutions and live in the streets. The building is open for all, people may use it even without valid IDs or lungs screening results. The only condition is that they can move about independently or with minimal help. During the winter of 2018, an average of 80 people used the heated hall at nights while, at its most crowded stage, it hosted 119 people looking for shelter.



# *Healthcare Centre*

*for homeless people*

The healthcare centre for homeless of the Order of Malta in Szeged moved to a new building with much extended capacities. The institution, which used to be able to put up 16 homeless patients now have a capacity for 14 more. The new venue provides 24/7 medical assistance and a GP for homeless people. The healthcare centre now has 10 doctors and 20 carers as staff. The cost of the medications, bandage and other medical equipment needed by patients is covered by the Order of Malta. Besides providing healthcare, the new centre now has social care workers providing for patients. Spiritual direction and Mass is also regularly offered.





# On the shore with a wheelchair

Two hundred disabled young people participated in the camp organised by the Charity Service in August in Balatonfenyves. The participants who are bound to their wheelchairs and are highly disabled arrived without their permanent carers and their family, and instead were taken care of by other young participants who were trained beforehand. During the camp the youth participated in programs they otherwise wouldn't, e.g. night disco or taking a dip in Lake Balaton. For the latter, the Charity Service built special ramps leading into the lake and also acquired wheelchairs specifically designed for use in water.



According to its customs, the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta celebrated St Stephen, King of Hungary's Day (also the Day of the Founding of Hungary) at the St Stephen's Basilica in Budapest. The several hundred pilgrims, volunteers, staff and around a hundred young pupils from the Order's schools attended Mass and the following Procession together with Mgr Imre Kozma, President of the Charity Service, Miklós Vecsei and Lajos Győri-Dani, Vice-Presidents of the Charity Service and the Knights and Dames of the Hungarian Association of the Order of Malta on 20 August.



# Charity Service during St Stephen's Procession





## *Report for the football players*

The football players of the Order of Malta Sports Association received good reviews, three of whom could also test themselves in Perugia, Italy. Young players from 15 countries were invited to showcase their talent to the managers and coaches of large European clubs. The football playing which started as a social experiment now functions as an established Sports Association, which not only helps the poor to integrate, but also achieves remarkable sporting results. At the end of the week-long review, apart from its players the Sports Association itself received a good review, one of its players was offered a contract in one of the Italian clubs. Therefore, in 2018 the Sports Association not only has a player in the Hungarian National Team, but also one abroad.



## *The Charity Service playing for 20 years*

The Charity Service organised a conference in the summer of 2018 on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the founding of the first Order of Malta playground. The first playground was opened in 1998 for children in the residential area of Békásmegyer. The Order of Malta playground was different to the others as it was staffed who made sure the playground was used safely, was kept clean, and the children and adults were not bored. Due to the success of the first playground, suitable for both toddlers and teenagers, six further

playgrounds were opened in District III of Budapest. The concept later spread to larger cities in the countryside. Today there are 14 playgrounds in the largest residential areas of the country where apart from the usual outdoor toys the Order of Malta provides a heated building with social programs for those living in the area, whether younger or older. There are more than 2,000 children playing at these playgrounds each year, and the first generation now comes back with their own children to play.



## *World Cup-fever in the daytime shelter*

All the matches of the football World Cup held in Russia last year were screened for homeless people in one of the institutions of the Charity Service in Budapest, on Feszty Árpád Street.







# Ambrózia Award for service

The Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta received an award for its outstanding social, child welfare, child protection, healthcare and its own internal programs. The Award, named after a Provincial of the

Order of the Sisters of St Elisabeth, is given on the occasion of Social Work Day to such individuals whose service set an example to all within the Order of Malta and its Charity Service.



# Prayer for Christians in the Middle East



The Order of Malta started to collect prayers for Christians in the Middle East suffering under war. The collected prayers and messages were sent to the Principal of the Mar Yakub monastery named after St James Intercisus, 30 kilometres away from Damascus, Syria.





# Forgotten children

The Order of Malta organised a conference, whose patron was Anita Herczegh, wife of the President of Hungary, the children whose parents live with an addiction. According to professional estimates, there are some 400.000 children living in households where at least one of the parents have some sort of addiction. Many of them are invisible even to the child protection agencies. These children grow up in a tense environment with a number of conflicts and they are usually frightened, ashamed, feeling guilty and insecure. Children growing up in such families are six times more likely to develop some form of addiction themselves during their life.



# Animals as a present



Supporting self-sustainment, the Charity Service donated chickens, ducks and rabbits to 70 Subcarpathian families. In this returning program, organised together with the Association of Subcarpathian Large Hungarian Families, crop and forage were also distributed to help with farming.



# Donation from the mountain race

Participants set off with 30 jeeps for the 7th Subcarpathian Charity Tour and Championship, a motor race that took place in 2018 again combining a mountain tour championship with charity action. The latter runs under the coordination of the Order of Malta, in 2018 the collected donations were sent to the Roman Catholic chaplaincy in Técső.





