

# RECEPTION CENTRE SJA FOUNDATION

SJA FOUNDATION  
Reception Centre  
51, Tarxien Road  
Tarxien PLA04  
Reception Desk Tel. 2767 2367  
Email: sjafoundation@onvol.net

Monthly Newsletter – Issue No. 3 September 2007

## PEOPLE MAY NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID, OR WHAT YOU SAID, ~BUT~ THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.

All of us involved in the St. Jeanne Antide Foundation are called by our baptism to grow in our likeness to the Lord Jesus. His love for the Father and for us is so great that He gave His Life for our salvation, for our eternal joy and happiness. He gives us the opportunity to live His joy from now if we love Him in each other:

*"Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me." (Mt. 25, 40)*

Our Foundress, St. Jeanne Antide lived this statement made by Jesus with great commitment. So in whatever task we are called to do in our life, and in especially in our voluntary work with people in need, our motivation should be to make the person feel better, knowing that we are doing it with Christ Himself. St. Paul says to us,



*'We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbor for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me."' (Romans 15, 1-3)*

I read the following story and I'm sharing it with you. Attention to the need of those we meet on our way is very important.

## PEOPLE MAY NOT REMEMBER EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID, OR WHAT YOU SAID, ~BUT~ THEY WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER HOW YOU MADE THEM FEEL.

When I arrived at 2:30 am, the building was dark except for a single light in a ground floor window. Under these circumstances, many drivers would just honk once or twice, wait a minute, and then drive away. But I had seen too many impoverished people who depended on taxis as their only means of transportation. Unless a situation smelled of danger, I always went to the door. This passenger might be someone who needs my assistance, I reasoned to myself.

So I walked to the door and knocked. "Just a minute", answered a frail, elderly voice. I could hear something being dragged across the floor. After a long pause, the door opened. A small woman in her 80's stood before me. She was wearing a print dress and a pillbox hat with a veil pinned on it, like somebody out of a 1940s movie. By her side was a small nylon suitcase. The apartment looked as if no one had lived in it for years. All the furniture was covered with sheets. There were no clocks on the walls, no knickknacks or utensils on the counters. In the corner was a cardboard box filled with photos and glassware.



"Would you carry my bag out to the car?" she said. I took the suitcase to the cab, and then returned to assist the woman. She took my arm and we walked slowly toward the curb. She kept thanking me for my kindness. "It's nothing", I told her. "I just try to treat my passengers the way I would want my mother treated". "Oh, you're such a good boy", she said. When we got in the cab, she gave me an address, and then asked, "Could you drive through downtown?" "It's not the shortest way," I answered quickly. "Oh, I don't mind," she said. "I'm in no hurry. I'm on my way to a hospice". I looked in the rear-view mirror. Her eyes were glistening. "I don't have any family left," she continued. "The doctor says I don't have very long."

I quietly reached over and shut off the meter. "What route would you like me to take?" I asked.

For the next two hours, we drove through the city. She showed me the building where she had once worked as an elevator operator. We drove through the neighborhood where she and her husband had lived when they were newlyweds. She had me pull up in front of a furniture warehouse that had once been a ballroom where she had gone dancing as a girl. Sometimes she'd ask me to slow in front of a particular building or corner and would sit staring into the darkness, saying nothing.

As the first hint of sun was creasing the horizon, she suddenly said, "I'm tired. Let's go now" We drove in silence to the address she had given me. It was a low building, like a small convalescent home, with a driveway that passed under a portico. Two orderlies came out to the cab as soon as we pulled up. They were solicitous of us and intent, watching her every move. They must have been expecting her.

I opened the trunk and took the small suitcase to the door. The woman was already seated in a wheelchair.

"How much do I owe you?" she asked, reaching into her purse. "Nothing," I said "You have to make a living," she answered. "There are other passengers," I responded.

Almost without thinking, I bent and gave her a hug. She held onto me tightly. "You gave an old woman a little moment of joy," she said. "Thank you."

I squeezed her hand, and then walked into the dim morning light. Behind me, a door shut. It was the sound of the closing of a life. I didn't pick up any more passengers that shift. I drove aimlessly lost in thought. For the rest of that day, I could hardly talk. What if that woman had gotten an angry driver, or one who was impatient to end his shift? What if I had refused to take the run, or had honked once, then driven away?

On a quick review, I don't think that I have done anything more important in my life. We're conditioned to think that our lives revolve around great moments. But great moments often catch us unaware-beautifully wrapped in what others may consider a small one.

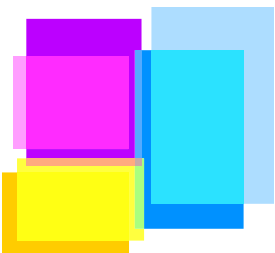


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**Sr. M. Salvina Bezzina soc**



## NEWS UPDATE AUGUST 2007

### Teams of the Reception Centre Projects

#### Social Work Team:

I have started this work almost a year ago in October 2006. At first Sr. Laura gave us a number of cases but as the work developed, I did some outreach work. Lately the parish priest has provided us with a list of people he thinks may be in need and I will visit them in due course. The number of people registered at the centre is now around 60. It gives me joy and satisfaction to get to know these people.

Most of them are elderly people living alone but attending social clubs, by having significant which serves as a source of companionship and they are people of faith who pray and have a Besides their problems they have a lot of strengths



on the whole coping with the situation by contacts and by listening to the media sometimes it is also instructive. Most of all personal relationship with the Lord Jesus. and a lot to offer.

I have weekly sessions of supervision with Ms. Andreana Gellel. These sessions are important for me to verify the work and to plan for effective action.

I also work jointly with other agencies such as Appogg, Mt. Carmel Hospital and Elderly Department. I have also done joint home visits with the social workers of these agencies.

I was also given the opportunity to do a visit at the old people's home of Zejtun since there are people from Tarxien residents there. Although they are not in their home, yet the place is welcoming and the residents seemed relaxed and well adapted to the place.

It' also good to know, that the centre has served as a drop in centre for about three people. This may be an eye opener to a category of socially deprived people who are not served in the locality.

I am grateful for the continual support I receive without which I am not able to do my work properly.

#### **Sr. Rose**

#### Friendship Services Team:

During the Friendship Team meeting held during the month of September, the members present mainly discussed the practical issues concerning the lonely and those who long to have someone to talk to and befriend. Some members of this Team have agreed to start visiting people seeking friendship, on a regular basis. A date has been set towards the end of October to pay our second visit to Corradino Correctional Facility / Female Section.



Needless to say, this Team requires YOUR full support in prayer and encouragement, so that its aim, that being to seek HIM and see HIM in the lonely and isolated, be reached. Needless to say, this team needs recruiting, so whoever wishes to join, is very welcome!!

#### **Caroline**



**Administrator Reception Centre:****1. Training Course for Receptionists**

During September, the much-awaited training course for Receptionists was finalized with the support of Dr. Adrian Gellel and the "Istitut tal-Formazzjoni Pastorali" which Institute will be also providing one of the lecturers. Information on the contents of the Course was made available to applicants at a meeting of the Reception Group held on 4<sup>th</sup> September. Although this is a basic training programme, hopefully it should address those issues raised by Receptionists during past meetings in which members felt they needed some training. The schedule for the delivery of the lectures was also discussed and agreed upon. The four training sessions will be held at the Foundation's Tarxien Centre on 25<sup>th</sup> September, 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> October and will all commence at 18.00 hrs.

This training course will hopefully be followed in due course by more in-house training.

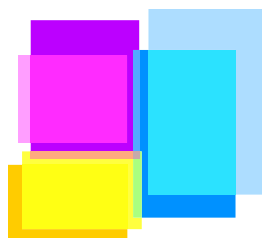
**2. Donation of Office Furniture by HSBC**

Following a letter sent to HSBC asking for possible donations of some office furniture, members will be pleased to note that the Bank has donated 6 writing desks, 6 chairs and some lighting fittings to the Centre. These were delivered free of charge by the Bank's transport contractor late in September. Our heartfelt thanks goes to HSBC for its contribution to the refurbishment of the Foundation's Centre at Tarxien.

**3. Reception Centre Opening Hours**

As was the case for August, during September the centre was open Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 9:00 hrs to 1130 hrs and from 17:00hrs to 19:00hrs for the benefit of those members of the public needing any assistance.

**Paul Barbara**

**Homework Services Team:**

A tutors meeting was held on Wednesday, 19th. Sept. 2007. Present for this meeting were Sister Rose, Jessie, Melanie, Rita, Franca and Clair. Excused for these meeting were Richard, Clinton and Moira.

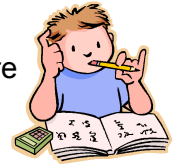
The Meeting started with a prayer and the reading of the Annual Report presented to the steering Committee.

During this meeting it was agreed that:-

- Sessions to be held like last year on a Friday

The tutors assigned for each year are as follows:-

- Year 2 Franca
- Year 3 Rita
- Year 4 Moira
- Year 5 Melanie and Claire
- Year 6 Richard
- Form 2 Clinton



Jessie will currently act as coordinator, and back-up if the need arises.

Mary Grech and Claire Azzopardi are to be contacted to see if they intend to join our team. If we get more volunteers we will be able to accept more children.

The new record keeping system was explained and approved. The tutors were shown what resource material is available. We now have the use of a photocopy machine, which we are sure will be a great help. One of the suggestions was a sort of fun day, where the children can work together as a big group and take part in organized games.

It was suggested that these days should bring an end to the terms, say before Christmas, Easter, St. Jeanne Antide feast day, Easter and summer holidays.

Tutors were asked to be on the look-out for any sort of recourse material that can help add our pool. It was also agreed that a form will be given to the children's parents to fill in their child's particulars which will go in our record files.

Our first session will be held in the second week of October (12th.)

The meeting came to an end over drinks and a date to meet informally for a pizza on the 5th. October.

**Jessie Spiteri**

## SJA FOUNDATION CORNER

### Group Hbieb Santa Giovann Antida

Aħna tlett persuni mill-grupp Hbieb ta Santa Giovanna Antida, missitna l-grazzja li nitilgħu Ruma biex nieħdu sehem għall-ewwel laqgħa internazzjonali tal-Moviment Lajci fi ħdan il-Kongregazzjoni tas-Sorijiet tal-Karita. Għal din il-laqgħa kien hemm rapreżentanza ta lajci u sorijiet minn 11 il-pajjiz differenti kif ukoll il-Madre Generali.

Għalkemm ġejjna minn kulturi differenti u bi stili ta ħajja diversa ilkoll mxejjna id f'id għax l-għejxien ta' l-istess Karisma għaqqadna flimkien. Kull pajjiz għamel power point presentation dwar il-ħajja u l-ħidmiet volontarji tiegħu.

Il-laqgħat kienu jibdedw billi ninqasmu fi gruppi zgħar biex flimkien ngħamlu ftit mumenti ta' diskussjoni, kuljum b'topic differenti. Wara konna naqsmu l-ħsibijiet prinċipali ta' kull grupp fl-Assembleja. Hekk konna nagħrfu l-bżonnijiet mondjali.

Kien ikollna wkoll mumenti ta' talb, li kienu jkunu ippreparati mill-membri ta' pajjizi differenti.

Fl-aħħar ġie mwaqqaf kumitat internazzjonali, li ċ-ċentru tiegħu ser ikun Ruma.

F'dawn il ftit ġranet sirna qisna familja waħda. Kellna ħin ta' rikreazzjoni, fejn flimkien zorna xi postijiet ta' interess

Ħareġ il-bżonn li nagħmlu aħna l-ewwel pass u nersqu viċin taż-żgħażaġh biex insiru ħaġa waħda magħhom. Iddiskutejna l-importanza kbira tat-talb fil-ħajja tagħna.

Kienet esperjenza li lkoll kemm aħna ħassejna l-prezenza ta' Santa Giovanna Antida tinterċedi għalina quddiem Alla.

**Doris Tanti**  
**Daniel Grech**  
**Miriam Grech**



*Il-grupp li attenda għall-ewwel laqgħa internazzjonali tal-Moviment Lajci fi ħdan il-Kongregazzjoni tas-Sorijiet tal-Karita*

### Fund Raising Group

1. Il-laqgħa saret f` Ħal Tarxien u bdiet fis-6.10p.m. u attendew dawn il-membri:  
Sr. Salvina Bezzina, s-Sur Pawl Barbara, Sr. Doris McKay, Mrs Vivien Abela, Mrs Mary Magro.
2. Il-laqgħa bdiet b` talba lil Ommna Marija minn Mary Magro
3. Inqraw il-minuti ta' l-aħħar laqgħa.
4. Ġie spjegat lil grupp l-importanza li l-fundraing għal proġet ta' l-iskola għandu jsir minn grupp ieħor u għalhekk ma għandniex ninvolvu l-iskejjel fil-fundraing li jgħamel dan il-grupp.
5. Tkellimna dwar is-sostenituri. Nixtiequ norganizzaw laqgħa għas-sostenituri sew li jafu l-Organizzazzjoni bħala S. J. A. W. C. u sew għall-dawk li huma ġodda. Dan irridu ngħamlu b'kordinament mall-membri ta' l-"Steering Committee". Il-ħsieb huwa li possibilment din il-laqgħa ssir għal madwar nofs Novembru li ġej.
6. Komplejna niddiskutu dawn it-temi;
  - ❖ Produzzjoni ta' Mugs. Irridu naraw jekk Dr. Tony Macelli kellux xi risposti dwar sejha għal disin ta' logo mill-qarreja tan-Newsletter.
  - ❖ It-talent show imtella mit-tfal ta' xi skola – mhux tagħna
  - ❖ Il-formula li trid tintela mill-istudenti bil-firma tal-ġenituri
  - ❖ Kuntatti li għandna ngħamlu.
7. Iddiskutejna ideja oħra ġdida ta' Fundraising li dwarha sertiġabar aktar informazzjoni u fl-laqgħa oħra niddeċiedu jekk naħdmux fuqha.

**Sr. Doris McKay**



### Steering Committee Meeting

A meeting was held on the 17th September at Tarxien Reception Centre.

Prayer was led by Tony Macelli through a 3-minute spiritual DVD.

Then members shared Comments & Clarifications about the following group reports which were sent with the agenda, Social Work Report by Sr. Rose Rizzo, Homework Club, and Administration of Reception Centre

An induction course has been planned for receptionists based on their expressed needs.

Trace '99 is being updated by the receptionists. The materials (brochures, leaflets, handouts) obtained from the NGO Caring Awareness Fair is being used.

Furniture has been donated by HSBC (6 writing desks, 6 chairs and 6 lighting fixtures). The initial location of these will be decided between the Administrator and Sr Salvina.

The members then discussed the following issues:

**Deed and Statute;** The Administrator has enquired with the Inland Revenue Department about registering the Foundation for the purpose of exemption from Income Tax. He recommends that the new Foundation should be registered by the end of October and that the Deed should make it clear that the Deed revokes the St Jeanne Antide Welfare Campaign.

**Recruitment;** The need is felt for another type of recruitment drive. Ideas should be passed on through the email group.

### Creation of a Cadre of Social Guides trained in basic listening skills and referral;

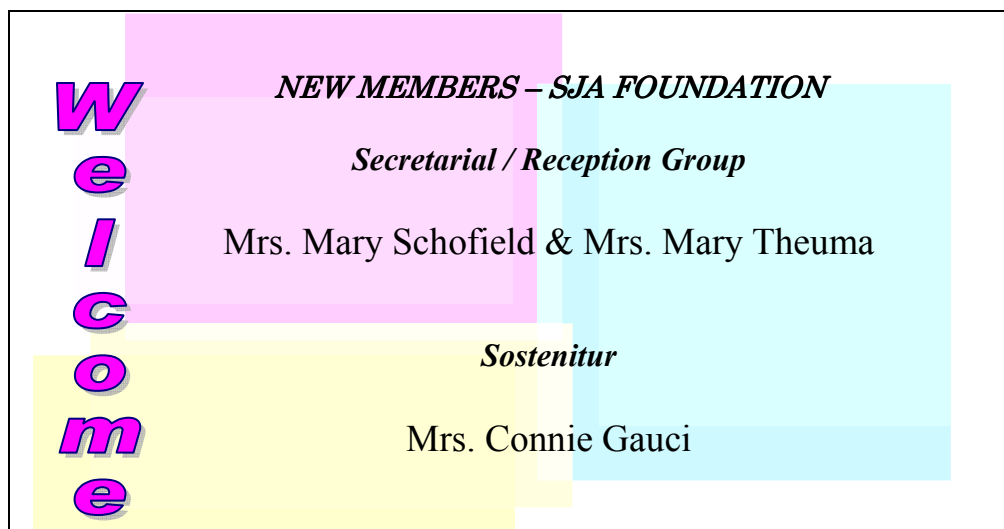
Tony Macelli proposes the creation and training of a cadre of graduates for the following limited roles:

- i. Listening skills.
- ii. Refer persons to existing services.
- iii. Maintain accurate records for the social worker to be able to follow-up case.
- iv. Provide follow-up support when those referred fail to access support adequately.

Possibly, we could link up to a spiritual group whose members are moving towards the expression of their spiritual development in social development work.

**Other matters;** Sr. Fausta's existing email address should be replaced by segprov@onvol.net .

**Sr. Salvina**



### Record-keeping guidelines for all Foundation work.

For the sake of proper Foundation records, could we please all follow these guidelines? It's time for all active groups to set up these proper record-keeping (monitoring) arrangements, *in collaboration with the Administrator* of the Reception Centre.

- (A) REPORTS should have the following: Meaningful Title; Name of Team; Date; Authorship
- (B) EMAILS should have: Meaningful Subject line (this is essential for later filing.)
- (C) QUANTITATIVE MONITORING

In future, we will need to see how the work, especially the public service work, is progressing. In the meantime, therefore, we should be thinking of all quantitative records that we can keep about our work. This means choosing the proper numbers to describe our work, and keeping consistent, dated records based on them. For example, the Homework Services Team might record numbers related to the service being given by the group such as number, gender, ages of children, number of homework instructors, and so on. The Friendship services Team would record number of persons befriended, number and duration of contacts, and so on. Such records should be kept by continually updating a Table in Word, or (preferably) by updating a spreadsheet. If these numbers appear only in an ad hoc manner within reports, based on haphazard records or memory, some items will be forgotten. In such cases, the value of the numbers would be severely reduced or even ruined completely, for purposes such as the following: (a) *planning within the team and within the Reception Centre project*; (b) *evaluations*; (c) *noticing trends, and (d) applications for external funds.*

Thanks.  
Provisional Coordinator



**BOSK BIL-LEJL**

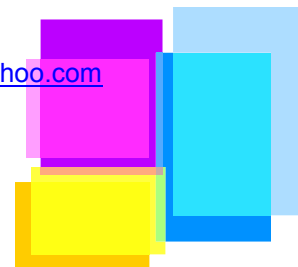
Akwarell u efetti digitali – Tony Macelli

#### SJA Foundation Reception Centre

Reception Centre Administrator:	Paul Barbara	<a href="mailto:paul.j@maltanet.net">paul.j@maltanet.net</a>
Reception Desk	tel: 2767 2367 email	<a href="mailto:sjafoundation@onvol.net">sjafoundation@onvol.net</a>
• <b>Adult Education and Community Work Team</b>		
Current contact:	Nora Macelli	<a href="mailto:nora.macelli@gov.mt">nora.macelli@gov.mt</a>
• <b>Friendship Services Team</b>		
Co-ordinator:	Caroline Cortis	<a href="mailto:carol.cortis@global.net.mt">carol.cortis@global.net.mt</a>
• <b>Social Work Team</b>		
Co-ordinator;	Sr. Rose Rizzo	<a href="mailto:sisterroestk@yahoo.com">sisterroestk@yahoo.com</a>
• <b>Homework Services Team</b>		
Co-ordinator:	Jessie Spiteri	<a href="mailto:marjespi@gmail.com">marjespi@gmail.com</a>
• <b>Reception and Secretarial Team</b>		
Co-Ordinators:	Paul Barbara Melanie Ferò	<a href="mailto:paul.j@maltanet.net">paul.j@maltanet.net</a> <a href="mailto:amfero@maltanet.net">amfero@maltanet.net</a>
Information Officer:	Joanne Ebejer	<a href="mailto:joannee@maltanet.net">joannee@maltanet.net</a>
• <b>Refreshments Group</b>		
Contact:	Sr. Rose Rizzo	<a href="mailto:sisterroestk@yahoo.com">sisterroestk@yahoo.com</a>

#### Other SJA Foundation Teams and Steering Committee

- **Fundraising Team**
- **S.O.C. Steering committee for SJA Foundation**



**GHAX ĠIE**

Tinghafas qalbha, mela le  
iżda ma tgħeriqx f' melankolija -  
u meta tgħanni, sas-sema tirkeb il-ghanja  
Għax Huwa hawn!

*“Għalkemm ma rajtx dak wiċċek jiddi, u l-fattizzi  
tmellisa wahda biss qatgħetli nifsi  
tiifaċċali ma stħajtx...  
kull ferita fejjaqt”*

U taħdem hi u tħabrek, mela le  
iżda biż-żifna ma daqqa ġewwinija –  
u jekk tliessen, tliessen biss kelmet il-hemda  
Għax Hu ġie !

*“u wiċċek fi ġmielu jitbissem għaġġieli  
għajnejk tal-hlewwa, ġentili, sinċieri  
malli lmaħtni, mohħi nħall  
u tbennet qalbi f'tiegħek.”*

U tasal hija, mela le  
għalkemm tluq m'hemmx u lanqas miġja -  
titgerbeb f'loġhob ma raġġ ix-xemx... hi farka trab  
Għax Huwa ġie!

Tony Macelli

**Training Course Sessions for Receptionists –**

1<sup>st</sup> Session Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> September at 6:00pm:  
lecturer Dr. Adrian Gellel

2<sup>nd</sup> Session Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> October at 6.00 pm:  
lecturers Sr. Salvina Bezzina  
and Sr. Rose Rizzo

3<sup>rd</sup> Session Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> October at 6.00 pm:  
lecturers Fr. Fabio Attard  
and Ms. Andrea Gellel

4<sup>th</sup> Session Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> October at 6.00 pm:  
lecturer Mr. Mark Ferris

All the above training sessions will be held at the  
Foundation's Tarxien Centre

**Reception Centre Opening Hours****Opening timetable – October / November /  
December 07**

Monday: 9:00am to 11:00am  
5:00pm to 7:00pm

Tuesday: 9:00am to 11:00am  
5:00pm to 7:00pm

Wednesday: 9:00am to 11:00am  
5:00pm to 7:00pm

**NOTICE BOARD**

**Fundraising Group Meeting** - Wednesday, 10th October @ 4:00pm @ Reception Centre

**Steering Committee Meeting** - Wednesday, 10th October @ 6:00pm @ Reception Centre

**Correspondence Address**

Ponderosa  
Triq l-Ikhal  
M'Scala MXK3623  
Malta

email address: [admir@onvol.net](mailto:admir@onvol.net)