IL-QAWSALLA

Għadd Numru 10/07

Paġna 1 – *I*ntroduzzjoni minn Marcel Pisani

Paġna 2 – *D*ay Centres *C*lients in EU Youth Exchange Projects

Paġna 3 – *M*obility Cup 2007

Paġna 4 – *B*iex tagħmlu kuntatt magħna

Paġna 5 – *Ħ*bieb Aġenzija SAPPORT – Care Awareness Fair

*M*ill-Editur

Paġna 6 – *I*nclusive and Special Education Review in Malta

Meta qbisna nofs is-sena tajjeb li naġġornakhom ftit fuq xi żviluppi li qed iseħħu fi ħdan l-Aġenzija SAPPORT.

Żgur li l-akbar żvilupp importanti seħħ fid-9 ta' April meta iċ-Ċentri ta' Taħriġ għall-Adulti (Adult Training Centres) għaddew minn mad-Dipartiment tal-Corporate Services fi ħdan il-Ministeru tal-Familja u Solidarjetà Soċjali għal taħt ir-responsabilità ta' l-Aġenzija SAPPORT. Dawn iċ-Ċentri issa qed ikunu magħrufa bħala Ċentri ta' Matul il-Jum (Day Centres) għal Persuni b'Diżabilità.

Mingħajr dubju ta' xejn dan l-iżvilupp ġab taqliba kbira fl-Aġenzija SAPPORT għall-fatt li l-impjegati tal-Aġenzija f'daqqa waħda żdiedu minn 130 għal madwar 350 filwaqt li l-klijenti tal-Aġenzija żdiedu għal aktar minn 550, minbarra dawk li jieħdu servizzi ta' Social Work. Dan huwa challenge kbir għall-Aġenzija u għal kull min jaħdem fiha. Iżda żgur li dan mhux se jaqtgħalna qalbna. Anzi, l-filosofija tagħna hija waħda li nilqgħu l-isfidi kollha li jiġu għalina. Bis-saħħa u l-appoġġ tal-ħaddiema kollha, kemm dawk antiki kif ukoll dawk li issa ġew ma' l-Aġenzija permezz taċ-Ċentri, jiena konvint li nagħmlu suċċess minn din il-missjoni ġdida fdata f'idejna.

Dan il-pass ħtieġ ukoll żieda fin-numru tal-Managers li issa żdiedu għal tlieta: Brian Gauci li jieħu ħsieb is-Servizzi Residenzjali; Agnes Bezzina li tieħu ħsieb is-Servizzi fil-Komunità u s-Servizz tas-Social Work; u Joyce Mifsud li qed tmexxi s-Servizzi ta' Matul il-Jum. Jiena nħoss li dan huwa tim qawwi li jaċċerta kontinwità u konsistenza, kif ukoll żvilupp neċessarju fl-operat tas-servizzi tal-Aġenzija. Minn hawn nirringrazzja lil dan it-tim u l-bqija tal-ħaddiema tal-Aġenzija li b'dedikazzjoni u motivazzjoni kbira qed imexxu s-Servizzi li huma ta' benefiċċju għall-klijenti tagħna.

Żewġ oqsma fejn sar progress kbir f'dawn l-aħħar xhur kienu t-tkomplija tal-proġetti tal-*Pool Area* fir-Residenza Vajrita u dak tar-Residenza ta' Bormla.

Bħal ma tafu l-*pool area* tal-Vajrita għal ħafna snin kienet sdingata u ta' periklu u għalhekk kienet kwazi bla użu. Minkejja li kienu jinħtieġu ħafna fondi, matul l-aħħar sena ħadna deċiżjoni li naħdmu fuq dan il-proġett. Minħabba li ma kienx possibli u sostenibbli li nħaddmu s-*swimming pool*, din ġiet mgħottija b'investiment strutturali u l-wiċċ ġie ppavimentat kollu mill-ġdid, b'parti minnha għall-BBQs u tlett toilets u żewġ showers għal użu ta' min ikun qed juża' din il-faċilità. Saret ukoll sistema ġdida ta' dawl biex dan il-post ikun jista' jintuża anke filgħaxija. Barraminnhekk il-*lift* tar-Residenza sarlu aċċess dirett għal ġo din l-*area*. Għalhekk issa l-klijenti kemm tar-Residenza kif ukoll taċ-Ċentru tal-Vajrita għandhom post sabiħ fejn jistgħu jgħaddu ftit ta' ħin mistrieħ jew ikollhom attività fil-miftuħ, u li fl-istess ħin joffri s-sigurtà neċessarja. Dan il-post jista' jintuża wkoll għal attivitajiet ta' *fundraising* u l-Ħbieb Aġenzija SAPPORT diġà ser jorganizzaw BBQ fih fl-1 ta' Settembru 2007.

Fir-rigward tar-Residenza f'Bormla, sar ħafna xogħol strutturali biex id-dar issir kollha aċċessibli. Dan ix-xogħol huwa lest u bħalissa qed jitwaħħal il-*lift*. Minbarra dan hemm is-*semi-basement*, bi tlett ikmamar mdaqqsa, li ġie rranġat biex ikun jista' jakkomoda xi programmi għal matul il-jum. Għal dan il-għan inbnew żewġ toilets u shower, tlesta il-madum tal-art, *bathrooms* u *kitchenette*. Għad-dar ġew ordnati l-kċina (sponsorjata mill-Comminutiy Chest Fund), l-*appliances* (sponsorjati mill-HSBC) u l-kmamar tas-sodda (li waħda minnhom sponsorjata minn *Voices*). Li fadal issa huwa li jkollna n-nefqa rikorrenti biex possibilment din id-dar tibda tilqa' r-residenti mill-bidu tas-sena d-dieħla. Grazzi kbira lill-perita Rita Sant li tmexxi dan ix-xogħol kollu b'għaqal u b'entużjażmu kbir.

Żvilupp ieħor li l-Aġenzija kienet involuta fih kien il-ftuħ ta' Dar Pirotta f'Mejju 2007 f'Birkikara, fejn daħlu jgħixu 7 klijenti. Din id-dar hija propjetà tal-Knisja iżda qed titmexxa b'finanzjament rikurrenti mill-Gvern. L-Aġenzija għanda r-rwol li, apparti li identifikat u assessjat l-klijenti għas-sapport li jeħtieġu, flimkien mal-Knisja tara u tassigura li s-servizz mogħti fid-dar huwa wieħed tajjeb. Dan qed isir permezz ta' kumitat magħmul minn żewġ rappreżentanti minn kull parti.

Bħal ma tistgħu taraw ix-xogħol li qed jitwettaq huwa kbir u dan minbarra s-servizzi normali li l-Aġenzija qed tagħti. Grazzi mill-qalb lil kull min b'xi mod jew ieħor jagħti s-sehem tiegħu.

Marcel Pisani

Kap Operattiv – Aġenzija SAPPORT

Day Centres Clients in EU Youth Exchange Projects

Several clients from the Day Centres for Disabled People have participated in two different EU Youth Exchange Projects earlier on this year.

The first exchange project was hosted in Gdansk, Poland between the 14th and 20th May 2007. The group of Maltese participants consisted of 5 clients and 3 carers. The project's title name was "World Not Known Enough" and was organised under the auspices of the "European Movement for Diversity and Understanding" Caravam 2000. In this project 7 countries participated, namely Poland, Germany, Malta, Latvia, Italy, Spain and Slovakia.

The pre-preparation for this exchange consisted of meetings, outings and a pre-visit to the airport to help clients get accustomed to airport procedures. Formal meetings of orientation were also held in each country for the clients and their parents. In these orientation meetings, the place of visit and the exchange programme were discussed.

During the actual exchange visit, the participants had the opportunity to participate in 4 different workshops about Music, Drama, Fine Arts and Photography. This was a learning experience for all participants. Participants were also invited to go on sight-seeing tours and to attend festivals held in Gdansk. The exchange ended with a parade, where the final conclusions of each workshop were presented. The residents of Gdansk were also invited to this parade.

The second exchange project took place in Neuenhagen, Germany, during the week starting 21st May 2007. In this exchange project 4 clients and 2 carers from Ħal Far Day Centre participated. The Maltese group participated with groups coming from 6 other countries, namely Poland, Germany, Latvia, France, Greece and UK. This title of the programme was Coultour Group – Equal Chances for People with Disability – In which Society do we want to live? Caravam 2000.

The preparation for the Maltese group of clients consisted of informative meetings, both for them and their relatives regarding the place of visit and the exchange programme, outings to help the group members to bond together, and like the first group, a visit to the airport to get accustomed to airport and travelling procedures.

During the exchange itself, the participants were grouped in different workshops to prepare themselves for their participation in the carnival of cultures. The exchange ended with a conference, where one of the Maltese clients together with a Maltese carer gave a presentation on behalf of the Maltese participants. The exchange group where also taken on a sight seeing tour to visit the Parliament building in Berlin, Germany's capital city.

Helen Attard

Psikologa – Aġenzija SAPPORT

Mobility Cup 2007

An international regatta for people with disabilities will be sailing into Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. This regatta will run from 28th August to 1st September 2007, including some days of training. The regatta will be hosted at the Darmouth Yacht Club, Halifax and is organized by Sail Able Nova Scotia.

The Mobility Cup Regatta is North America's flagship for sailors with disabilities. This event was launched by Sam Sullivan, a high level quadriplegic in order to promote his then fledgling adaptive sailing program in the West Coast, Canada. This was back in 1989 and 1990. In fact, the first Mobility Cup was held in August 1991 in Vancouver, Canada. It was immediately clear that the Mobility Cup could be a vehicle for spreading the word about adaptive sailing, raising the level of competition, whilst promoting the sport to the wider community. The event has grown a little each of the subsequent years, with the last Mobility Cup held in September 2006 in Vancouver, Canada, taking on a truly international significance with the participation of 6 countries: Canada, USA, Australia, New Zealand, Hungary and England.

Mobility Cup 2007 is making its first appearance in Atlantic Canada, more precisely at Bedford Basin, a sheltered body of water two miles wide and five miles long. Sail Able Nova Scotia anticipates that the Mobility Cup 2007 will leave a lasting legacy: increased adaptive sailing opportunities for the region.

These sailing events are providing a unique opportunity for people with disabilities, as participants are not segregated by the nature of their disability – the only divisions are according to sailing experience. This kind of event is also a chance to race and socialize – and is one of the few sports open to most and as Gold Fleet sailor Chris Everson, 47, says:

> "Being out on the water is an equalizer. When you are out there racing your boat, you forget you are disabled for a couple of hours. It's the only real escape I have."

For more information and updates about the Mobility Cup 2007, please log on the following website: http://www.sailable.ca

Angie Farrugia

Eżekuttiv tal-Amministrazzjoni – Aġenzija SAPPORT

Biex tagħmlu KUNTATT magħna

Nixtiequ ninfurmawkom li kien hemm tibdil fin-numri tat-telefon kemm fir-Residenzi tal-Aġenzija kif ukoll f'dawk tal-uffiċċini tagħha. Għalhekk ġentilment nitolbukom biex tieħdu nota tad-dettalji li ġejjin:

Kemm fil-Head Office tas-SAPPORT kif ukoll fl-uffiċċju tas-Social Work Services, daħħalna linja tal-Hello minbarra l-linji l-oħra. Għalhekk issa tistgħu tagħmlu kuntatt ma' dawn l-uffiċċini permezz ta' dawn in-numri ukoll, dejjem jekk qed tużaw il-Hello:

Head Office	**2700 8001**
Social Work Office	**2744 2121**

Ovvjament il-linji l-oħra għadhom jintużaw, jiġifieri:

Head Office	**21451868 u 21451879 (linji tat-telefon)**
	21453164 (linja tal-fax)
Social Work Office	**21442121 u 21442173 (linji tat-telefon)**
	21489210 (linja tal-fax)
	79442121 (mobile)

Fir-Residenzi tal-Aġenzija daħħalna n-numru tal-Hello u neħħejna l-linji l-oħra. Għalhekk biex tagħmlu kuntatt mar-Residenzi tridu ċċemplu fuq dawn in-numri:

Villino Maria, Mtarfa	**2700 6938**
Appartament fil-Fgura	**2700 4551**
Appartament f'Kirkop	**2700 6212**
Residenza Vajrita, l-ewwel sular	**2700 9047**
Residenza Vajrita, it-tieni sular	**2700 3047**

Tajjeb li tkunu tafu li tistgħu tagħmlu kuntatt mal-Aġenzija anke permezz tal-email:

Head Office	**sapport@gov.mt**
Social Work Office	**sws.sapport@gov.mt**

L-Aġenzija għandha wkoll is-sit eletroniku tagħha li fih issibu l-informazzjoni kollha li wieħed għandu bżonn. Biex tidħlu fiha żuru: **www.sapport.gov.mt**

Sar ukoll xi tibdil fl-indirizzi u għalhekk nitolbukom tieħdu nota u tibdew tużaw dawn li ġejjin:

Head Office	**Aġenzija SAPPORT, Blk. A, Town Centre, Triq ir-Reġimenti Maltin, Mtarfa MTF 1540**
Social Work Services	**Social Work Services – Aġenzija SAPPORT, Ċentru Ħidma Soċjali, Triq Braille, Santa Venera SVR 1012**
Residenza Mtarfa	**Villino Maria, Triq San Oswald, Mtarfa MTF 1311**
Residenza Fgura	**Flat 1, Entratura 2, Triq Mary Carter, Fgura FGR 1960**
Residenza Kirkop	**Flat 1, Entratura 2, Triq Danny Cremona, Kirkop KKP 1709**
Residenza M'Skala	**Residenza Vajrita, Triq Nigel Dennis, Marsaskala MSK 3330**
Residenza M'Skala	**Residenza Vajrita, Triq Nigel Dennis, Marsaskala MSK 3330**

L-Amministrazzjoni
Aġenzija SAPPORT

Ħbieb Aġenzija SAPPORT – Care Awareness Fair

Mis-17 sal-20 ta' Mejju l-Għaqda Ħbieb Aġenzija SAPPORT ħadet sehem fil-Care Awareness Fair. Din hi fiera dwar il-volontarjat hu saret fit-Trade Fair Grounds fin-Naxxar. L-*istand* li kien mogħti lilna, kif jidher fir-ritratti t'hawn taħt, ġie mżejjen b'tagħrif dwar l-Għaqda kif ukoll b'informazzjoni fuq l-Aġenzija SAPPORT. L-Għaqda ħadet sehem ukoll fil-Forum organizzat f'din l-attività, li fih ipparteċipaw il-Prim Ministru, il-Kap ta' l-Oppożizzjoni u ċ-Ċermen ta' l-Alternattiva Demokratika. Fil-Forum ħadu sehem diversi NGOs imma sfortunatament l-attendenza mill-pubbliku kienet fqira.

L-attività li jmiss tal-Ħbieb Aġenzija SAPPORT hija ġurnata Għawdex. Din ser issir nhar il-Ġimgħa, 17 ta' Awissu 2007. Għal din il-mawra diġà hemm ħafna nies li bbukkjaw.

Adelina Pisani

Segretarja – Ħbieb Aġenzija SAPPORT

Mill-Editur....

Infakkru lil kull min qiegħed jirċievi n-*newsletter* biex tressqulna l-kummenti tagħkom. B'hekk biss inkunu nafu jekk il-kontenut ikunx qed jolqot il-gosti tagħkom. Inħeġġukom biex tibgħatu l-kummenti u kontributi tagħkom lill-: **Editur - Il-Qawsalla,** Aġenzija SAPPORT, Blk A. Town Centre, Triq ir-Reġimenti Maltin, Mtarfa MTF154O.

Tistgħu tiktbu wkoll lill-editur fuq l-email: clifford.portelli@gov.mt

Clifford Portelli

Editur – Il-Qawsalla

Like many other countries Malta recognises that inclusive education is a human rights issue. Article 23 of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989) states that it is the right of the children to enjoy a full and decent life. In conditions which ensure dignity, promote self-reliance and facilitate the child's active participation in the community. It recognises the right of the disabled child to adequate support, education, health care, training, rehabilitation and preparation for employment and recreational opportunities. All these shall be designed in a manner which is conducive to the child's development, as stated in the convention:

> ***… the fullest possible social integration and individual development including his/her cultural and spiritual development. (CRC, 1989)***

In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the 'Standard Rules of equalizations of opportunities for persons with Disabilities.' This document emphasises that where the general school system cannot meet the needs of the disabled child, special education provision has to be in place.

The Salamanca Statement of which Malta is a signatory outlines the changing role of special schools. Such schools are seen as a 'valuable resource for the development of inclusive schools…' Special schools should also serve as training and resource centres for staff in regular schools. Finally, special schools or units within inclusive schools may continue to provide the most suitable education for the relatively small number of children with disabilities who cannot be adequately served in regular classrooms or schools.

> ***The Framework for Action was adopted by acclamation after discussion and amendment in the Closing Session of the Conference on 10th June, 1994. (United Nations General Assembly, 1993)***

Over the years there has been an increased interest in inclusive education, and in its contribution towards changing society's perspective and promoting a new appreciation of disability and diversity.

Maltese society has become increasingly aware that inclusive education is not only a human right but can be an asset to society as a whole.

Today, we can be proud to say that there are *only* 0.36% of students in Special Schools, while 99.64% of disabled students are attending Mainstream Schools. In recent years, there have been further developments in governmental, non-governmental and private entities in the provision of services in the inclusive education sector, with emphasis on collaboration between *all actors* such as the National Commission for Disabled Persons (1993), the Ministerial Committee on Inclusive Education (1996), the National Minimum Curriculum (1999), the Inclusive Education Policy (2000), the Faculty of Education (2004/5) and the Church and Independent Sectors (1991-2007).

Joe Borg
Professional Support Worker – Aġenzija SAPPORT