



THE LEBANESE YOUTH POST

A Quarterly Newsletter

#28 April 2018



Alexandra Lichaa



Anthony Hobeiche



Anthony Lichaa



Antoun Souhaid



Coralie Zaccar



Estelle Gemayel



Fadi Sfeir



Ingrid Antonios



Janice Antonios

MEET  
THE  
TEAM



Joumana Doummar



Lamyia Moughabghab



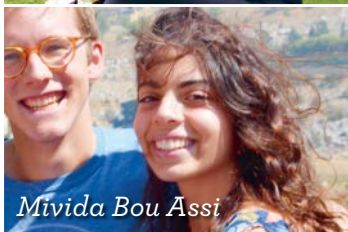
Maria Feghali



Maria Naoum



Michel Fayad



Mivida Bou Assi



Nai Bassil



Raphaël Zaccar



Remy Daccache



Roula Boustany



Sabine Dagher



Nino Zoghbi and his Team



Yara Boutros

"I ask you not what is your color, your language, your race or your religion but tell me what your sufferance is"



## IT TAKES THE TRUE HEART OF THE TEAM TO WIN!

*Nour Moghabghab, President of the Youth of the Order of Malta*

Many of you are aware of the Youths' activities through social media, brochures, newsletters...but this number 28 newsletter will introduce to you the team of amazing young souls and young talents that make all the operations possible. They create ideas, make the magic happen, they are always ready to survive all the roller coasters of organization and sacrifice their time for the others. Most importantly, they got the Order of Malta's cause in their hearts and they know deep inside them that the smiles of the forgotten people are worth working for!

So let's have a look behind the curtains and meet the Youths' team, not an ordinary one, but the best team you can ever dream of working with!

### **CORALIE ZACCAR** | *Vice President Treasurer*

Beginning with the most honorable one! Sharing her knowledge and her guidance is always as precious as having her in the team! The mother, the vice-president, the manager, thank you for being always supportive **#THEPILLAR**

### **FADI SFEIR** | *Executive Vice President*

Always here to observe, give the hint, the advice and the support behind the scenes. Thank you for being the carrier with your voice of reason **#THESUPPORTER**

### **INGRID ANTONIOS** | *Communication officer*

If she wasn't here behind us to remind us to "do it!" we weren't able to reach our goals today! Thank you for following up on every single tiny detail and for being the ambassador of our Label. You make it happen! **#THEKEYPERSON**

### **ANTOUN SOUHAID** | *Head of Youth Properties*

He takes care of our properties as if they were his, he's the example of precision at work, always the Youths' favorite one, a true leader striving for fairness with the needed diplomatic and negotiation skills **#THETRUSTWORTHY**

### **RAPHAEL ZACCAR** | *Head of Public Relations*

Spot on! Always fighting for the legacy of the Youth and the Order of Malta! He is the one who believes in the Youth with a priority of building the network for the future **#THEVISIONARY**

### **MARIA NAOUM** | *Media Team*

What is a good photographer? Definitely Maria! She is the volunteer who serves, captures the moments and engraves it in our memories! Through her photos, she searches for the light and creates the spirit and the curiosity! Thank you for writing the stories! **#THESTORYTELLER**

### **JOUMANA DOUMMAR** | *Community Building and fundraising officer*

She is a unique person in all the words, a balance of a kind personality, a strong women with a creative and a glamorous touch that she always brings into the events she organizes! Devoted and helpful, she knows how to value each person. What if this person was a disabled, or an elder or a child? **#THEONEWHOSTANDSOUT**

### **YARA BOUTROS** | *Community Building officer*

The real manager, capable of having the best address book and the easiest solutions for everything, optimizing all the processes! Always practical, she makes functionality her priority and get things done in a finger snap! **#THEFUTUREISFEMALE**

### **LAMYA MOGHABGHAB** | *Project leader - Underprivileged and Sick Children activities & Media Team*

No limits for dedication! The manager, the marketer, the inventor, the initiator, the media team, the one who fights for the rules, in one word the essential one in the team. Intuition is her magic word! But most importantly, she is incredibly supportive which makes her the confident and advisor of all The Youth! **#THEROCK**

### **JANICE ANTONIOS** | *Project Coordinator - Underprivileged and Sick Children activities*

Despite her young age, she's the one who completes the Youth team because of her energy, her constructive input, her unconditional devotion towards the forgotten people by always helping us making the difference. Thank you for believing in what you undertake and keep up the good work **#THEBELIEVER**

### **SABINE DAGHER** | *Project Leader - Parrainage Program for Elders, Elderly Camp & Christmas Camp*

Where to begin with? The protective, the mommy of the team, the wise one, the unconditional kindness, she creates the equilibrium in the team and her attitude is exemplary! No words can describe her will to always give a hand! What a chance to have her! She's a pearl! **#THERAREGEM**

### **ROULA BOUSTANY** | *Project Leader - Parrainage Program for Elders, Elderly Camp & Christmas Camp*

When service, friendship, fun and good mood meet, there's Roula! She's the example of the good spirit, the energy and the big heart! Always so good to have her around us and our forgotten friends! Thank you for teaching us that life is full of amazing things despite all the suffering out there! **#THEGOODVIBESOFTHETEAM**

### **MICHEL FAYAD** | *Project Leader - Elderly outings*

Between car racing, skiing, doing some financial transactions, he is always available to give some of his time to our elders. His simplicity, friendship and heart is a must to the Youth. **#THECARINGONE**

### **MARIA FEGHALI** | *Project Coordinator - Elderly outings*

The sweetheart of the team who knows what she wants and who conduct very softly and humbly the projects with practicality and organization but especially with loyalty and courtesy! **#THECHIVALROUSSPIRIT**

### **REMY DACCACHE** | *Project Leader - Refurbishing Project*

The man who has everything and who's a real helper! Always ready to help in any way possible but also he's the one in the team who challenges himself and the others pushing for the impossible to give the max. **#THEHANDYMAN**

### **NAI BASSIL** | *Project coordinator - Refurbishing Project*

The emotional one, the one who has volunteering in her blood, the believer and the dreamer. She lives the moment and appreciate every minute of it as if she's engraving the smiles of the others in her heart by creating memories for ever with a full engagement **#THEAUTHENTICONE**

### **ANTHONY LICHAA** | *Project Leader - Disabled homes visits and outings*

The one who knows how to measure things, the professional adviser the doctor, the wise man, the one who believes in his thoughts with self-confidence! This is only a tiny percentage of what defines him! **#THEPRAGMATICONE**

### **ALEXANDRA LICHAA** | *Project Coordinator - Disabled homes visits and outings & member of the Chabrouh team*

One of the youngest in the team, the exemplary and the real volunteer, the psychologist with a young soul. She is known for her devotion and enthusiasm, making the service part of her mission in life! Thank you for always being available and ready to serve! **#YOUARETHEFUTURE**

### **MIVIDA ABOU ASSI** | *Project Leader - International camp for young Disabled*

The pioneer in serving severe disabled people at a very young age, inspiring story of hers, leader and rebel in her dynamics and her thoughts. But above all, meet the biggest heart where there is no limits for loving others! **#READYTOCHANGETHEWORLD**

### **ESTELLE GEMAYEL** | *Project Leader - Down syndrome activities and President of the Youth Club at USJ*

Smart all the way, strategist, optimist and always thinking about the quality of the action and the real pleasure out of it! But beyond all there's the heart, the leadership and the friendship bonding. The Human is at the heart of her thoughts! Getting to know the others is her oxygen and that's what makes her special **#THEHEARTOFTHESTRATEGIST**

# MEET THE TEAM

### **ANTHONY HOBEICHE** | *Project Leader - Lourdes Pilgrimage and Lourdes Alumni Camp*

What a big heart! His dedication, empathy and love to the others stand out! Nothing is impossible with him! **#THEGOLDENHEART**

### **NINO ZOGHBI** | *Project leader of the Chabrouh Summer Camps & THE CHABROUH TEAM*

Words won't be enough to describe the great job that these guys are doing! Special thanks to the Youth representatives in Chabrouh, Nino Zoghbi, Jad Chelala, Diane Moussa, Melissa Bou Assi, Georges Diab, Rafic El Helou, Alexandra Lichaa, Baqer Obeid, Karen Haddad & Rami Sawaya for raising the flag of the Lebanese Youth of the Order of Malta in this unique project. Nino and the team are the exemplary young hospitaliers the Order of Malta in Lebanon and around the world are looking for and are counting on for the future. Thank you for fulfilling this very engaging responsibility in the name of the Youth towards the project and for making it sustainable. Without the Youth of the Order of Malta that you all proudly represent, Chabrouh won't be that complete! **#LIVELOVECHABROUH**





## “LOVE DOESN'T COUNT CHROMOSOMES”

*Estelle El Gemayel, Project Leader - Down syndrome activities and President of the Youth Club at USJ*

“ When Nour gave me the confirmation about the Down syndrome camp, I realized how much there was to do. The preparation of the camp took us some time, the whole team worked non-stop for weeks to make it happen. Everything was ready, and there we were : 8th of February, all gathered in Chabrouh for the same cause: bringing joy to our guests. By then, none of us expected the three amazing coming days. The team and I were all very nervous: new volunteers, a new doctor, 32 guests (boys and girls) and almost 100 people in the center. I remember staying up with Lamya and Loic all night figuring out the last details, and laughing at everything out of stress.

9<sup>th</sup> of February: all the worries and fears disappeared when the guests arrived. Two buses, coming from Antelias and Acsauvel got to Chabrouh with our favorite “downies”, this is where it all started. After getting to know meet with the volunteers and assisting to a magic show, our guests had an awesome lunch. The activities came one after the other, and our guests participated to all of them with all the excitement of the world. Every night, we had a themed party in the dining room, turning into a “disco club” with a bar, music, costumes and a crazy atmosphere thanks to DJ Joe who spent this long weekend with us.

Every single minute of those four days was memorable, but what marked us the most was the spirit and the great vibes of the members: smiles all around, tears of joy and happiness, hugs and loads of love. It was all about emotion and spontaneity, when our guests were happy it was pure joy, when they fell in love it was true feelings and their emotions were contagious: good mood for everyone!



11<sup>th</sup> of February: already over. This camp passed by so quickly, but yet, we feel like we've known each other for years now. When you see the volunteers and the guests saying goodbye, when you see the sadness in their eyes, this is when you know this camp changed lives.

The last moments together were heartbreaking for everyone. When Raymond had to be taken to the bus, this discrete old man who was never emotional or explicit during the camp, he looked at Janice in the eyes and started screaming in tears, refusing to let go of her arm and afraid to be separated from her. This is just one example of how intense it was, especially that Down syndrome people are very emotional.

We all left the center with something different in our hearts but also in our minds, we gave from our energy and time but we earned so much in return: memories, friends and an amazing experience.

Thank you to the whole team, you were great!

Until next time!



## LESS DIAPERS, EVEN SMILES

*Loic Feghali, Lebanese Volunteer*



“ Having only taken part in the Chabrouh summer camps, I was skeptical about the interest of focusing only on individuals with Down syndrome. Is this selection not contradictory to the unconditional love and affection we give to the ones who need it most? Isn't the goal to simply put a smile on a face that lacks it? I failed to answer those questions prior to my taking part in the down-syndrome camp.

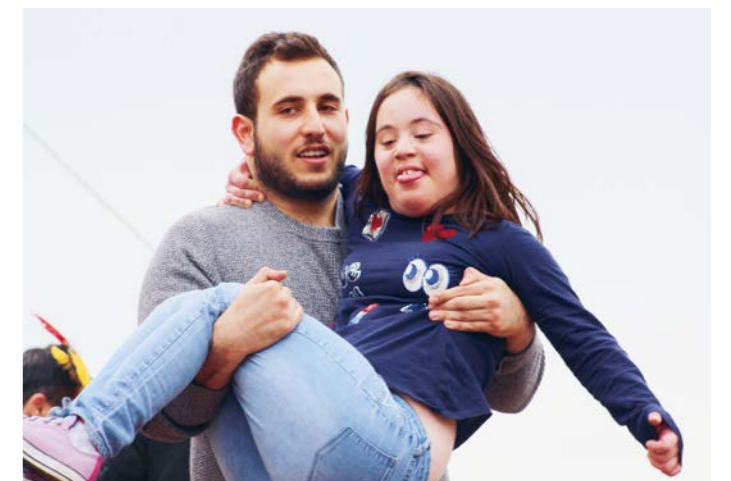
I sought the heavy screams, the full diapers, or the feeling that comes with combining the physical force of four strong volunteers to lift a heavy body as the guest screams in agony from the smelly poo stuck in their bottom. How is it enough to give without the wide variety of need and help? To me, the beauty of camp was defined by the chaos of watching one guest wondering around empty minded, while others stick their heads in front of the radio enjoying the noise of a continuous static sound and some are simply laying down, enjoying Chabrouh's fine breeze and the affectionate kisses of a beautiful blond-haired foreigner. Each volunteer working for the benefit of the individual guest; whatever they might need, it shall be provided.

While keeping that same personal approach, it became clear to me that coming up with a more specialized camp is a step towards better responding to the needs of our beloved guests. It was after an equally as exhausting camp that I realized that as an organization, the Youth of the Lebanese Order of Malta is adapting to the rapid growth of the Chabrouh camps while maintaining the magic of the project. It isn't easy to multiply the number of guests, volunteers and camps without losing the charm of a love-giving project. To overcome this obstacle, the Youth of the Order have taken important steps to keep the flame alive.

Narrowing down the audience of each activity to the specificity of their needs is one step that the project has taken to cope with its growth. A person with Down syndrome has different needs than, let's say, a severely autistic person. While the latter might need a place to ease his mind, the benefits of the loud and proud Chabrouh spirit for cases of Down syndrome were evident when grouped together. It almost felt like guests' excitement and energy had become contagious, and that no one could escape the emotions perpetuated by the constant

singing, dancing and laughing. Guests were taking part in every single activity with smiles that connected the edge of their lips to the bottom of their ears. Their eyes squinted till their eyelids were almost shut and their hips could not stop from going in circles to the cacophonous combination of loud music, clapping hands and stomping feet. Friendships were built between guests, some long lasting and others only had the lifespan of the time they had together; all however permanent in the memories it stamped in everyone involved.

Narrowing down the guests within each activity to individual cases unifies the spirit of camp. However, one might wonder whether this step will lead to the eventual casting out of the cases that don't fit in as clear of a category. This is where a second direction that the project has evidently taken comes into play. The Down syndrome camp doesn't represent a shift in the project's approach as much as it is an added brick to an already solid wall. Rather than replacing the old ways, the Youth of the Order work on diversifying their activities, working with all kinds of groups that need. This includes the poor and the rich, children and elderly, disabled and ill. Every year they manage to reach out to more forms of need than the previous, while maintaining regular contact with the ones they've helped in the past. To me, what the Down syndrome camp mostly represents is the continuous success of the project.





## MY VERY FIRST DOWN SYNDROME EXPERIENCE!

Marguerita Alting von Geusau, The Netherlands, Caravan No. 11

“ On Thursday evening the little white caravan bus made its way up to Chabrouh. There, a group of young volunteers started gathering in order to participate in the first ever Down Syndrome Camp organized by the Lebanese Youth of the Order of Malta. Estelle Gemayel did an amazing job as the “Mazuli” of the camp. Already in the early evening, you could feel how impatient we were, all looking forward for the camp to really start and the guests to arrive. Unfortunately I got sick the very first evening so I had to stay in bed for a day, either way I could feel the camp atmosphere building up. After a team meeting it was time to start decorating the centre. One could see people happily drawing, cutting and hanging stuff all over the place.

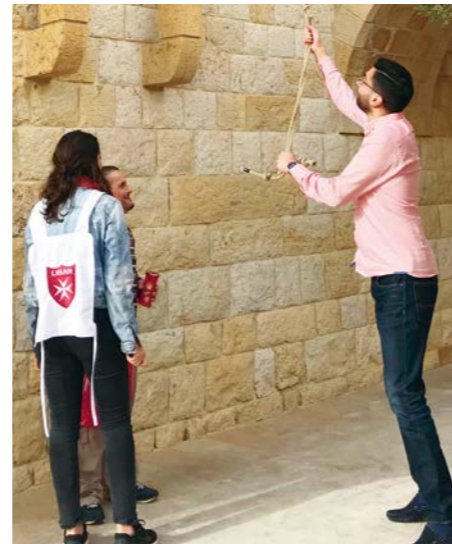
The next morning the guest finally arrived from different homes and I got out of bed, just to see the excitement on the faces of the guests and volunteers.

There were people hugging everywhere, smiling and saying hello, already being excited of becoming best friends with their guest. The entertainment team had a great program and a lot of activities planned for us including sports, beauty sessions, talent shows, a date night, an airplane trip or parties and lots of fun. Everyone was eager to give the “Downies” three unforgettable days and we worked great together as a team. This was a great success as our guests got along extremely well, even though they came from different homes and didn't necessarily know each other. I was put in the Position of a Jumper, so that I spend a lot of time just looking after everybody seeing if somebody needed something. I enjoyed it a lot, especially as none of the guests ever refused to have a little dance with me.

Even though everybody was super exhausted after this short camp, I doubt that any of the volunteers will ever forget this amazing camp, as I will not. That's why even after caravan I would definitely make the journey from Holland to be able to participate the Down Syndrome Camp again.



## PALM SUNDAY CELEBRATION



On Saturday March 24<sup>th</sup>, the Youth of the Order of Malta in collaboration with Saint Joseph School students gathered at the Sisters of the Cross Hospital, Jal el Dib to celebrate Palm Sunday with our friends the disabled and their

families. A Mass was held there in the church followed by a procession. The visit ended with a delicious lunch offered by Zaatar w Zeit, shared between the volunteers and the disabled. Hosanna!



## “MEETING WITH THE ELDERLY WAS ONE OF THE BEST EXPERIENCES I’VE HAD IN A LONG TIME!”

Nadim Rifai, Lebanese volunteer

“ Few weeks ago, I took part in one of the Youth of the Order of Malta activities. On Saturday morning we all met at Saint-Joseph University - Faculty of Medicine to have everything set for our guests: a variety of food for breakfast, from Manakish, Lahmeh baajin, to sweets and deserts; cards, backgammon, music and a great enthusiasm awaiting our elderly.

Meeting with the elderly was one of the best experiences I've had in a long time. Each one of them is special but they all share two common traits: passion and kindness.

The most memorable part for me was playing the guitar with an opera singer I met there. I played some random chords, he sang and there it was, the smile of pure happiness on his face. The smile of a man sharing his passion for music and doing what he loves the most. His happiness was contagious. I couldn't help but smile. I'll never forget this feeling and I can't wait to take part of more and more activities with the Youth.



## POUR L'AMOUR INCONDITIONNEL DONT ELLES NOUS COUVRENT, BONNE FÊTE DES MÈRES!

Samedi matin, comme à leur habitude, les Jeunes se réunissent au centre d'Ain El Remanéh pour leur projet de parrainage mensuel. Les personnes du troisième âge sont déjà là, impatientes de l'arrivée des volontaires. Après des retrouvailles et un accueil chaleureux, les responsables repartissent les jeunes par paire ou triplet sur les différentes maisons. S'en suit alors la distribution des paquets et l'embarquement avec les personnes âgées. Ce samedi n'était pourtant pas pareil à tous les autres. Avec l'approche de la fête des mères, les Jeunes ont tenu à remercier toutes ces femmes pour l'amour inconditionnel dont elles nous couvrent à chaque visite. Pour l'occasion, chacune reçut alors une rose en guise de gratitude.



## A FEW WORDS

Carolina Chammas, Lebanese Volunteer

Volunteering with the Youth of the Order of Malta is an experience that is both enriching and humanizing at all levels... mostly for being part of a network of passionate young people with a culture of togetherness and team work.

A shared cause and values towards a common goal, which is change. When you can make a difference to people who need it the most... nothing can be more rewarding.



## « IL SUFFIT D'UN SOURIRE »

Après plusieurs jours d'hésitation, le maintien du camp des enfants est confirmé. Décidément, rien n'arrête les volontaires : tempête ou pas, ils sont prêts à délivrer, le sourire aux lèvres, ce qui est attendu d'eux. Le jour du départ, les enfants se dirigent vers Chabrouh dans une ambiance de chant et d'enthousiasme. Dès leur arrivée au camp, les activités s'enchaînent : jeu de connaissance, danse, jeu d'étape, goûter... mais il n'y avait qu'une question qui tourmentait nos petits invités : « est ce qu'on va jouer avec la neige ? ». Il est donc inutile de décrire les étincelles dans leurs yeux et les sourires qui se sont dessinés une fois la bataille de neige lancée. Il était clair que le camp dépassait leurs attentes : des volontaires dévoués, des activités variées, une ambiance festive... tout était au rendez-vous pour faire de ce temps des souvenirs inoubliables.

Après avoir passé deux jours ensemble, la séparation était difficile aussi bien pour les enfants que pour les volontaires : quelques larmes combinées à des sourires incessants marqueront ainsi la fin du camp.

*Rita Milan Moussa, Volontaire Libanaise*



Pour un 1<sup>er</sup> camp avec l'Ordre de Malte je peux dire que ça a été une très belle expérience. Beaucoup d'activités étaient au programme, jeux divers, danses, soirées...

J'avais comme but de mettre le sourire sur le visage des enfants qui ont passés environ 2 jours avec nous, mais à la fin du camp je me suis rendue compte que ce sont les enfants qui m'ont donné le sourire. Les avoir vus aussi heureux de passer ces moments avec nous m'a apporté autant, sinon plus, que ce que j'ai pu leur donner.

*Maria Yazbeck, volontaire libanaise*

## NOS JEUNES... NOTRE ENERGIE...

*François Abi Saab, Chargé d'affaires de l'Ambassade de l'Ordre Souverain de Malte au Liban*

J'ai fait la connaissance de l'Ordre Souverain de Malte dans les années 90, à travers son Ambassadeur au Liban, SAS le Prince Edouard de LOBKOWICZ, et son épouse, SAR la Princesse Françoise de LOBKOWICZ, et M. Philippe DUCHET, Conseiller de l'Ambassade, avec qui j'ai collaboré en tant que collègue. J'occupais à cette époque les fonctions d'Attaché de presse et Chef du protocole à l'Ambassade de France au Liban.

En mai 2015 (au lendemain de mon départ à la retraite de l'administration française), j'ai été contacté par l'actuel Ambassadeur, M. Charles-Henri d'ARAGON, et par M. Marwan SEHNAOUI, Président de l'Association Libanaise des Chevaliers de Malte, pour servir au sein de l'Ambassade de l'Ordre Souverain de Malte au Liban, en qualité de Conseiller, Chargé d'affaires a.i.



Depuis, j'ai eu l'occasion de découvrir de plus près les Jeunes de l'Ordre et l'équipe Caravane, tous des bénévoles ! Grande fut mon admiration en les voyant à l'œuvre auprès de « Nos seigneurs et nos invités », au centre de vacances de Chabrouh, ainsi que lors des manifestations qu'ils organisent à l'occasion des fêtes de Noël et d'Al Fitr entre autres... Mais aussi et surtout au cours des pèlerinages annuels du début du mois de mai à Notre-Dame de Lourdes.

Je ne peux décrire la joie, le dévouement, la disponibilité, le courage, la patience et l'Amour (avec un grand A) sans pareil, que tous les jeunes déploient entre eux et manifestent, d'une manière tout à fait remarquable, à l'égard de toutes les personnes qu'ils côtoient, qu'ils servent et qu'ils soulagent. Ils sont animés par une force, une affection et une tendresse aussi infinies que réconfortantes, qu'ils diffusent dans leur entourage. D'ailleurs, tous ceux qui les voient à l'œuvre les admirent et leur reconnaissent leur soutien sans limites.

C'est exactement cet esprit-là qui a permis à cette équipe de jeunes de passer de 8 volontaires, il n'y a pas très longtemps, à plus de 200 aujourd'hui !!!

Nous les encourageons à devenir encore plus nombreux (et de garder la même qualité de travail exemplaire) et nous réitérons toute notre reconnaissance au Docteur Issa FERKH, Président de Caravane, et à Lélia EL-KHAZEN MALLAT, qui était en charge de l'équipe durant dix ans, et qui a cédé sa place, il y a un an, à Nour MOGHABGHAB.

A vous TOUS, « NOS JEUNES » : ADMIRATION, SINCERES REMERCIEMENTS et PROFONDE RECONNAISSANCE.





## THE YOUTH GROWING BIGGER!

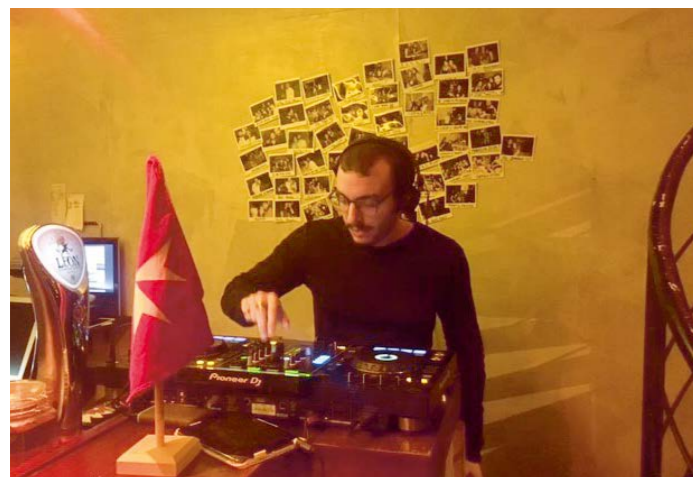


With the beginning of this year, a small group of students at Saint Joseph University have officially launched the Youth of the Order of Malta Club to share their cause with other students from different campuses. More than 50 new volunteers registered to take part of the Youth's different activities. For this, the Club board members

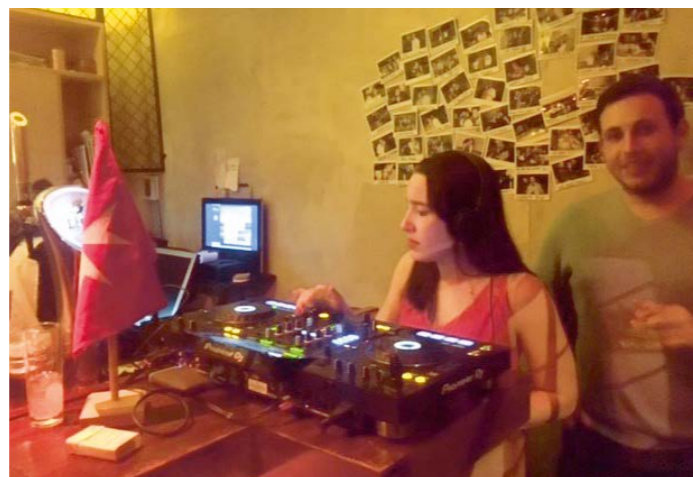


organized a small gathering at Obei where the new members got to meet the Youth's team, know more about various activities and listen to the best experiences lived through camps and outings. Drinks, food and good music on the menu to welcome our new comers! Cheers to more success and accomplishments with the Youth!

## CHARITY FUN. RAISER EVENT

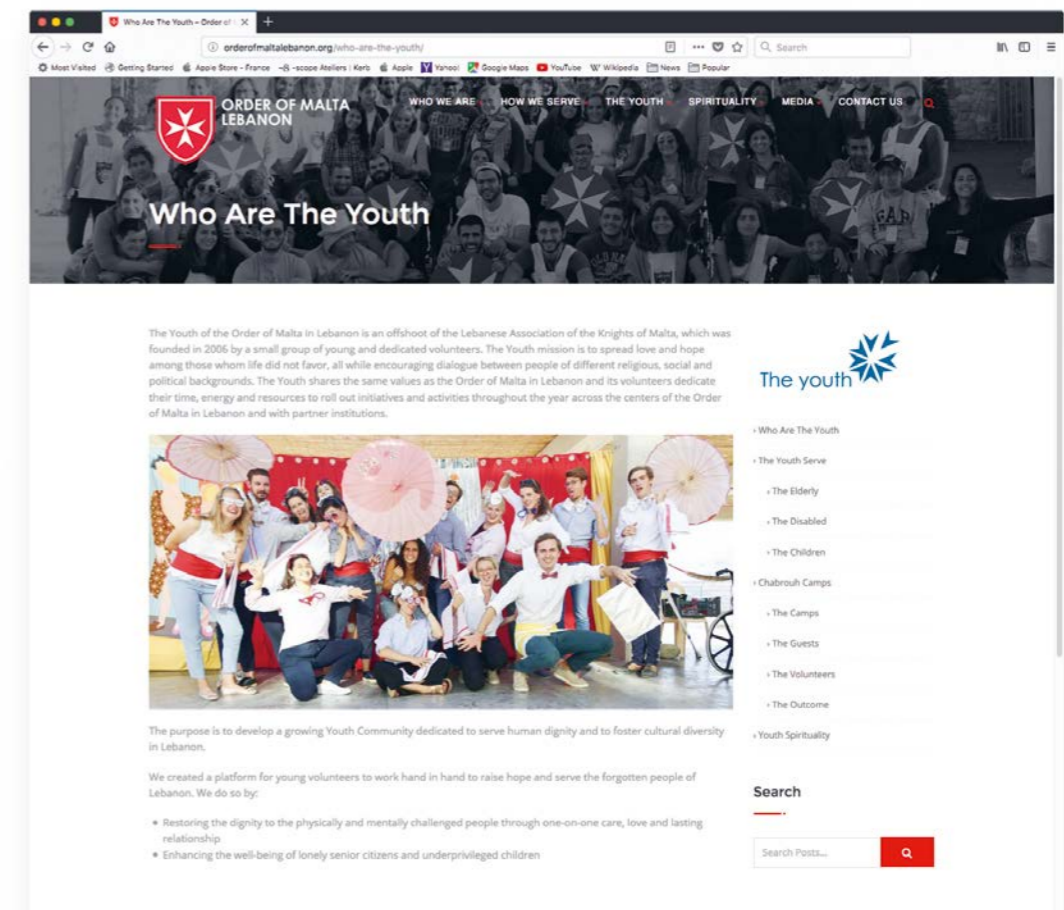
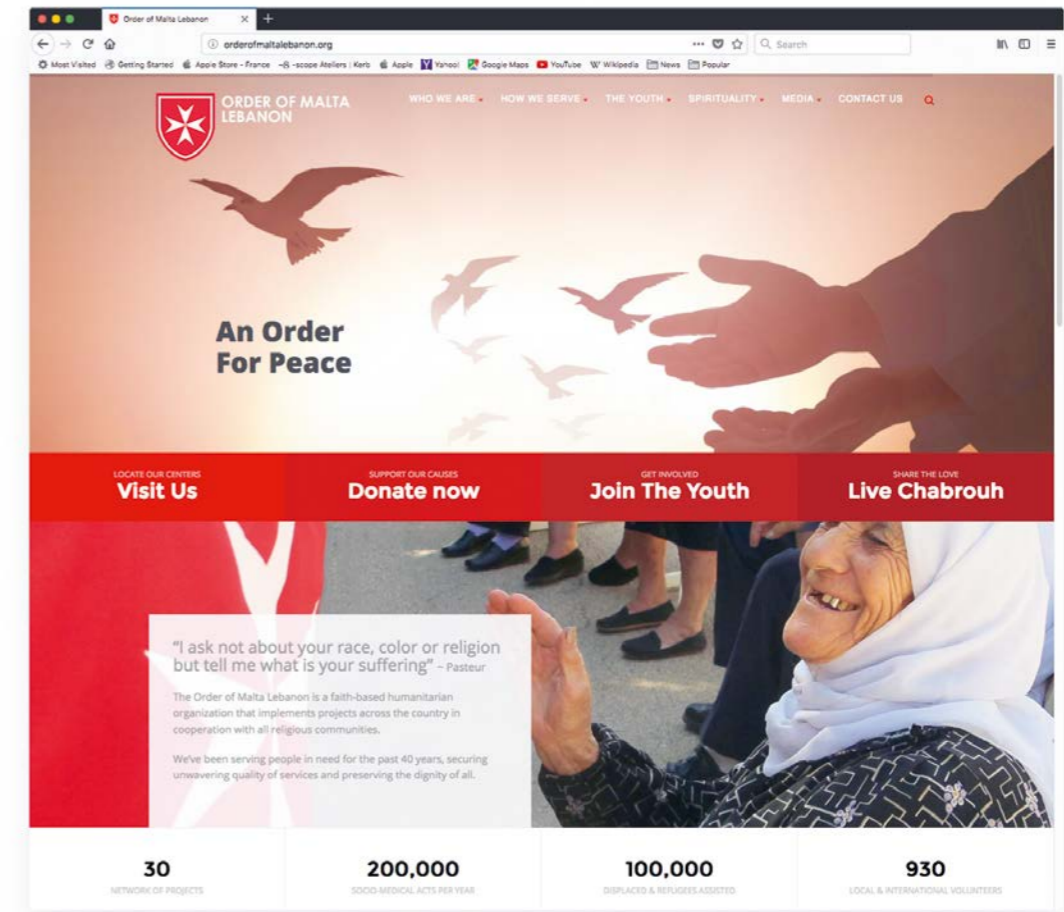


On Saturday March 10, a small gathering was organized at Centrico - Badaro featuring Dj Priss, one of the Youth Volunteers, and her friend MDM for great music and an exceptional night.



Friends and family of the Youth were there to help raise funds for our various activities. Many thanks to Priscilla Bakalian who organized this event, and all those who contributed into making it a success!

## UN NOUVEAU SITE WEB POUR L'ASSOCIATION LIBANAISE DE L'ORDRE DE MALTE



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



CHÂTEAU  
MARSYAS



### ➤ ABOUT THE YOUTH

The Youth of the Sovereign Order of Malta (The Youth) is an offshoot of the Lebanese Association of the Knights of Malta, which was founded in 2006 by a small group of young and dedicated volunteers.

Our Vision is to develop a Youth Community dedicated to serve human dignity and to foster cultural diversity in Lebanon

Our Mission is to create a platform for young volunteers to work hand in hand to raise hope and serve the forgotten people of Lebanon. We do so:

- by restoring the dignity to the physically and mentally challenged people through one-on-one care, love and lasting relationship
- by enhancing the well-being of abandoned senior citizens and underprivileged children around the socio-medical centers of the Order of Malta in Lebanon.

### ➤ THE YOU IN THE YOUTH

The continuous growth of the Youth in terms of activities, number of volunteers as well as Guests and persons in need could not have been achieved without the devotion of our volunteers as well as the generous support of our benefactors and sponsors.

How You can support the Youth?

#### BY VOLUNTEERING:

Without You, the Youth wouldn't be existing!

If you are a student, young working professional wishing to give us some of your time, please send us an information request by clicking here or send us an e-mail to [jeunes@ordredemalteliban.org](mailto:jeunes@ordredemalteliban.org)

#### BY SPONSORING OUR ACTIVITIES:

For those wishing to sponsor our activities, please send us an e-mail to [jeunes@ordredemalteliban.org](mailto:jeunes@ordredemalteliban.org)



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