



ORDER OF MALTA  
LEBANON

The youth 

## THE LEBANESE YOUTH POST

A Quarterly Newsletter

Special Edition  
Christmas 2017

### 2017: BECAUSE GREAT THINGS COME FROM HARD WORK

*Nour Morhabghab, President of the Youth of the Order Of Malta*



If I would to evaluate 2017, words won't be enough to describe what an exceptional year we had. First and foremost, our gratitude goes to the Lord. He has put the Youth under his blessed protection and guided us in every step we took. He gave us the courage to pursue our goals and gave us the strength to believe in each and every single action or decision we took no matter the circumstances. We were able to move mountains and to make hundreds of people smile again. Our faith in God is our strength and 2018 will be even better.

In 2017, we were able to embrace our objectives thanks to the amazing Youth team and to all our volunteers: you were all exemplary. Your motivation, enthusiasm and belief in the cause made it so special! Without each and every one of you, we wouldn't have achieved the impossible. You should be proud of yourselves: you've made it real to all the forgotten people out there!

From the Parrainage Program, we were able to distribute more than 300 packages throughout the year, we launched the CancerVive Children Camp and helped those who suffer forget their sorrows. We distributed more than 100 school bags to underprivileged children

so they can go back to school with dignity. We have organized our 2<sup>nd</sup> Elderly Camp reviving Lebanon's golden age, we have collected more than 1500 items and created a Christmas market so deprived families can feel and live the holiday spirit.

We have recreated Lourdes's spirit in Chabrouh making it memorable to our Lords the Sick, and we proudly participated in the International Camp in Salzburg. We have been able to help manage more than 20 camps as part of the Chabrouh Summer Camps for Disabled providing an unforgettable summer vacation for more than 600 guests. We've signed 2 collaborations with schools, we founded our club at USJ and we were recognized as one of the top 5 most impactful Youth in Lebanon. Notre Dame de la Rue was part of our path in 2017 and we proudly honored Her journey in Lebanon. What a year!

Christmas preparations were no easier than the rest of the year! December was full of activities in order to fill our elderly, families and disabled friends with the most magical Christmas Spirit. You'll get a little further in this Christmas special edition a glimpse of what it all looked like from the homes decoration and Christmas Market to our annual Christmas camp and New Year's Eve celebrations with the Disabled; adding more memories shared with "Who Is Hussain volunteers" and a new collaboration with SGBL.

Looking back, I can say that 2017 has exceeded our expectations. The Youth has more than fulfilled all the work that they were aiming for and thanking each one of you won't be enough.

Thanks to all the members of the Lebanese Association of the Knights of Malta conducted by President Marwan Sehnaoui for always supporting our actions.

Thanks to all the people who worked behind the scenes to show the great work of the Youth, and thanks to all our contributors and donors who trusted us. You have showered us with blessings!

With every 2017 goal reached, there were sleepless nights, hard work, endless inventories, Saturday nights sacrifices, and hard negotiations, however, most importantly there was belief, friendship, collaboration and an unbelievable helping SPIRIT!

May 2018 be filled with joy, courage and perseverance. We are ready!

11 years and counting...

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





## ELDERLY HOMES DECORATION

“ Travailler dans le cadre d'une collaboration entre L'Ordre de Malte et "Who is Hussain" a été une expérience très enrichissante. À chaque fois que je participe à une telle activité un sentiment agréable de bonheur et de bien-être m'envahit. C'était un jour inoubliable où on a pu mettre le sourire sur les visages des autres. Rien ne peut égaler le sentiment de donner de son temps et de son énergie pour aider les autres. Enfin, faire le bien autour de soi ne peut qu'apporter du bien.

*Nadine Hussein, Volontaire de Who is Hussain*

“ I'm 25 years old and for the first time ever in my life I could feel the meaning of truly helping unconditionally without expecting anything in return. When I met the elderly, I truly appreciated that my family is there and I will always remind myself to never take that blessing for granted so thank you for teaching me a great lesson.

*Aya Jouni, Who is Hussain Volunteer*



“ As a Muslim, I never really thought about Christmas and what it means but this event was eye opening. Once we held hands and started chanting and praying with the elderly next to the tree I discovered the true meaning of Christmas and for that I will forever be grateful.

*Jaafar Mestrah, Who is Hussain Volunteer*

“ Taking part in this event for the second year in a row is amazing. Capturing the smiles of elderly that are full of joy is an inexpressible feeling. The Christmas event was a great experience that I'm glad to share with the beautiful souls of the "Order of Malta" volunteers.

*Mariam Mazeh, Who is Hussain Volunteer*







# OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS MARKET, WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT!

*Tylia Helou, Lebanese Volunteer*

“ The Youth of the Order of Malta’s Christmas Market is the perfect occasion to live the Christmas spirit to the fullest!

The Market stands were ranged from clothes and shoes, to toys and home accessories, and covered by the Youth and SGBL volunteers, who were very excited to spread the holiday cheer.

From 11 AM to 5 PM, people of all ages were flowing in to have special treats, dance, sing and shop. But no Christmas event is complete without Santa Claus! He was, of course, part of the festivities, made sure to take pictures with every child (and occasionally adults!), and handed out gifts to the attendance.

This experience was truly eye opening and rewarding. Being able to lend a helping hand, especially during the holidays, is what Christmas is all about.

The Youth’s Christmas Market is definitely an activity I will be looking forward to in the coming years. I strongly encourage everyone to participate and donate whatever he or she can spare, because it really makes a difference.



## BANQUE ALIMENTAIRE

Samedi 9 décembre, la Troupe Cascade des Scouts Sacré-Cœur Gemmayzé a organisé une collecte alimentaire dans le cadre de leur activité de Noël.

Les Scouts étaient répartis sur plusieurs supermarchés dont Spinneys (Mar Mitr), Bou Khalil (Baaba & Mkalles), Fahed (Rabieh) et Supermarket Ashrafieh pour la récolte de denrées alimentaires primaires.

Les profits serviront à la préparation de paquets à distribuer tous les mois aux personnes âgées d’Ain El Remmaneh dans le cadre du programme de Parrainage organisé par les Jeunes de l’Ordre de Malte.







## DISABLED CHRISTMAS CAMP

Helena von Brauchitsch, Member of the Caravan n°11 Team



“ It’s the early afternoon of Christmas day 2017, most of the people have family celebrations going on meanwhile the CARAVAN, as around 30 other volunteers pack their bags and start their journey to Chabrouh, where in the Order of Malta’s Center, the Christmas Camp will take place during the next 6 days. The team was mainly composed of Lebanese volunteers, most of them members of the Youth, some new Lebanese volunteers and the CARAVAN n° 11. We had luck finding a wonderful Mami and Papi in the Bassil parents, who together with Nabila took care of everybody being fed and preparing a great fancy dinner the last evening of camp.

We got spiritual treatment and company by Abouna Romanos who joined our daily Morning and Evening Prayer as well as the Daily Mass we celebrated with our guests.

The Camp was headed by the new “Massouli” of the Lebanese Christmas Camp, Diane Moussa, who did an amazing job making this, her first Camp happening.

Our guests from Deir al Qamar, arrived on the 26<sup>th</sup> and stayed until the 30<sup>th</sup> of December. Even though it was not

extremely cold outside we spend most of the time inside, being all around entertained by lots of different activities, especially the crafting and beauty Session.

For us it was a completely different experience, than the ones we already have with camps, from the German Summer Camp or the camp during the Lieutenant Grand Master’s visit, as the team, the activities and the atmosphere was a complete different.

Further, some of CARAVAN had the possibility to experience the Camp from a new point of view as they for the first time were Team leaders, Jumpers or Entertainment team.

We had a delightful time, participating in the Camp of the Youth with the girls, making new friends among the Lebanese and spending a fun New Year’s Eve with some of them up in Chabrouh. Ending I want to thank the whole team and everybody who worked behind the scenes to make this Camp happen, in the name of CARAVAN 11, we had a great time and look forward to be able to participate in future activities with the Youth.





## LES BASSIL EN MISSION

Youssef et Hanaa Bassil, Kitchen Team



“ Notre plan de la période de Noël cette année a été préparé et prévu il y a un an.

En effets les enfants rentrés du « Christmas camp » 2016 de l'Ordre de Malte, ont décidé que la famille fêtera ensemble Noël 2017 à Chabrouh.

La saison des fêtes 2017 annoncée, la préparation débute avec mission principale de libérer papa de son travail ; Challenge réussi.

C'était le Lundi 25 Décembre, les valises chez nous à Zouk sont déjà là, tant de sacs qu'on dirait une affaire de voyage.

« Allez les enfants, Naï, Amer, Ghady et Nagham, tout est prêt, tout est là...

- papa, t'en pense quoi toi ? A-t-on tout cherché ? Est-ce possible que quelque chose manque ?

- Mais non, c'est fini, allons-nous en, c'est déjà 17h, il nous faut 1h pour arriver à Chabrouh...”.

Les six en voiture, la discussion ne s'arrête pas, on discute des volontaires, des invités, la team cuisine, Mme Nabila, le rythme de travail, le nombre de personnes à Chabrouh...

Une fois là-haut, on s'installe, les valises dans la chambre et le diner est servi...

Le lendemain, de bon matin, vite en cuisine : nos 32 invités arrivent. Dans les allées, on croise les volontaires avec leurs « invités » ; ici les normes et les différences disparaissent... le visage de Jésus est partout, dans leurs mains, leurs pieds, leurs cœurs ; Il est là !



14h de travail dans la cuisine chaque jour, et après 5 jours de ciel, non pas de vacances, on retrouve le vrai sens de notre Noël, une mission pas comme les autres. Merci Jésus pour cette expérience, et ravis sommes-nous d'avoir accompli la mission.



## MESSE DE NOËL DES JEUNES

Comme chaque année, les Jeunes de l'Ordre de Malte ont célébré la Messe de Noël, le dimanche 17 décembre en l'Église Saint Elie, Kantari.

Le président Marwan Sehnaoui, plusieurs membres de l'association ainsi que les fidèles de la paroisse ont pris part à cette Eucharistie. Les Jeunes étaient présents pour le service de la messe. Une nouveauté s'ajoutait cette année: le Chœur des Jeunes qui accompagnait la célébration.

La Messe était suivie par la vente de macarons décorés par les Jeunes pour l'occasion, dont les fonds ont servi au financement de leurs activités auprès des personnes âgées pour Noël.





## INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER DAY

The Youth of the Order Of Malta celebrated for the first time this year the International Volunteer Day. The celebration was held in Memory Lane - Mar Mikhael on December 7, during their annual reunion, and gathered many of the Youth volunteers for a drink, in the presence

of the president of the Lebanese Association of the Knights of Malta, Marwan Sehnaoui and other impactful members of the Association. This event was a good closure to an amazing year full of great accomplishments and commitment.







## THE EVENING OF VOLUNTEERING SAINT JOSEPH UNIVERSITY

*"Your action is just a drop of water in the ocean, but if it did not exist, it would miss."*

- Mother Teresa

The student life service at Saint-Joseph University organized the evening of volunteering on December 13 2017 as a tribute ceremony for the 5 most impactful NGO's in Lebanon.

The Youth of the Order of Malta was chosen as one of those NGOs, next to the Lebanese Red Cross, Donner Sang Compter, Les Scouts du Liban and Association des Guides du Liban.

The event was hosted by Majed bou Hadir at the Jean Ducruet s.j. in the presence of the minister of social affairs,

his Excellency Mr. Pierre Bou Assi and the Rector of the USJ, Salim Daccache s. j. As for the Youth, they were represented by their president Nour Moghabghab, the president of the Association of the Knight of Malta, Marwan Sehnaoui, Mr. Francois Abi Saad- Chargé d'affaires of the Sovereign Order of Malta Embassy in Lebanon, the Hospitaller Paul Saghbini, Dr. Issa Farkh - president of Caravan and many Youth members studying at USJ. The ceremony was followed by a cocktail where all the volunteers got to know each other's and share their experiences.

## LA FÊTE DE LA ST-BARBE

Samedi 2 décembre, les Jeunes de l'Ordre de Malte se sont réunis au Collège Notre Dame de Jamhour pour célébrer la fête de la Ste Barbe auprès d'enfants défavorisés: au programme, plantation de blé, décoration de masque, animation et un bon déjeuner pour clôturer la journée.

## UNE MISSION ACCOMPLIE DE PLUS POUR LES JEUNES !

*Cybelle Klaymeh, volontaire libanaise*

“ C'était la première fois que je fête la Sainte Barbe avec des enfants, et ce fut une expérience sans pareil. Pour moi, l'enfant est sacré, il donne sans rien prendre en retour: il sème la joie, le bonheur autour de lui, se crée un monde innocent dans lequel on peut facilement être soi-même, pas de mauvais regard, pas de jugement.

Rien de plus précieux que ces sourires qui se dessinent sur leurs visages, être là pour eux en cette matinée est tout aussi gratifiant pour nous : ils rayonnent de joie, cette lumière nous pénètre, réveille en nous cet enfant qui dormait depuis si longtemps, que nous avons enfoui pour succomber au rythme infernal de la vie adulte. D'un coup, nous sommes comblés, une sensation de richesse intérieure, d'épanouissement et de bien-être nous envahit.

C'est ainsi que je décris ces quelques heures passées auprès de ces enfants : une matinée chargée de jeux, d'animations mais aussi de bonheur et d'émotions.

Encore une fois, c'était un plaisir pour moi de travailler



au sein des Jeunes de l'Ordre de Malte afin de répandre notre message et de poursuivre notre mission auprès des plus démunis d'amour et d'affection. Toujours prêts pour de nouvelles aventures !



## A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!



### ➤ 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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