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THE MALTA COMMUNITY CHEST FUND FOUNDATION

“TTEJJEB IL-KWALITÀ TAL-ĦAJJA TA’ INDIVIDWI U S-SOĊJETÀ IN ĠENERALI”

Improving the quality of life and care of individuals and society in general

THE MALTA COMMUNITY CHEST FUND FOUNDATION

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FOUNDATION

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MESSAĠĠ MIL-E.T GEORGE VELLA, PRESIDENT TA' MALTA

Żgur li ħadd minna ma jiftakar sena bħal dik tal-2020!

Pajjiżna bħal bqija tad-dinja nħakem minn virus li għamel ħerba fuq saħħet il-poplu, kif ukoll kellu effetti diżażstrużi fuq l-ekonomija tal-pajjiż milquta, u t-tessut soċjali tagħhom.

Ħajjitna nqalbet ta' taħt fuq u xejn ma baqa' kif kien. Ħlief li b'eċezzjonijiet żgħar, (bħal fil-każ tal-influwenza staġjonali) il-mard l-ieħor kollu baqa' għaddejj bħal ma kien qabel.

Il-ħidma tal-Malta Community Chest Fund, f'dan l-isfond ma setgħetx ma tiġix milquta ħażin. Kif mistennija t-talbiet għall-għajnuna komplew deħlin għand l-MCCFF bħas-snin ta' qabel, anzi żdiedu.

Minn naħa l-oħra, l-MCCFF ġiet iffaċċata bil-problema li minħabba r-restrizzjonijiet imposti mill-Awtoritajiet tas-Saħħa, il-biċċa l-kbira tal-attivitajiet li normalment kienu jsiru biex jinġabru xi fondi kellhom jiġu mħassra.

Laħqu ġew organizzati l-Ballu tal-President li nżamm fil-Casino Maltese, u l-Festa taċ-Ċitru. B'ħafna qtigħ ta' qalb irnexxielna norganiżżaw l-August Moon Ball – fost miżuri stretti, bħal pereżempju li ma jsirx żfin.

Il-Fine Arts Auction seta' jsir għaliex huwa prattikament virtwali, imma avvenimenti bħal Rockestra u l-Fun Run kellhom jitħassru.

Biex forsi ndaħħlu xi fondi, ġie deċiż li ssir Maratona ta' ġbir f'Settembru, li kienet suċċess.

Sadanittant ġie milqut ħażin ukoll d-dħul mill-Kitchen Garden, minħabba l-miżuri tas-saħħa.

F'dan il-perjodu ġie deċiż li jsir refurbishment kbir tal-Kitchen Garden li għadu għaddej sal-lum u mistenni jagħti dehera kompletament ġdida lil dan il-kumpless, li l-qliegħ kollu tiegħu jmur għall-MCCFF.

Wieħed jispera li dak li għaddejna minnu fl-2020 isir biss memorja kerha u ma nerġgħux ngħaddu minna.

Irrid nirringrazzja b'mod partikolari lic-Chairperson is-Sinjura Marlene Mizzi għat-tmexxija tagħha tal-MCCFF kif ukoll l-istaff tal-uffiċċju tiegħi għax-xogħol ta' organizzazjoni u preparazzjoni għall-attivitajiet li saru. Nirringrazzja wkoll lill membri kollha tal-Bord tal-Amministratturi u dak tas-Supervisory Council għax-xogħol li jagħmlu, kif ukoll il-membri kollha tal-core groups li jieħdu ħsieb l-attivitajiet.

Nirringrazzja wkoll lill-istaff li jieħdu ħsieb t-talbiet għall-għajnuna soċjali u medika, kif ukoll il-membri tal-Boards li jiddeċiedu dwar dawk it-talbiet.

Il-missjoni tal-MCCFF hija waħda nobbli u altruwistika. L-ispejjeż kibru, imma daqstant ieħor kibret id-determinazzjoni li ma nħallu lill-ħadd li jkollu talbiet ġusti li jiġi minsi jew imwarrab.

Li nkomplu għaddejjin jiddependi ħafna fuq il-ġenerożità tal-eluf li jikkontribwixxu, kif ukoll id-donaturi l-kbar li ma għandix kliem biex nirringrazzjhom għall-għotjiet li jagħmlu sena wara l-oħra.

Fejn ma jaslux dawn il-fondi dejjem sibt l-għajnuna tal-Gvern, u ta' dan irrid niżżiħajr.

Is-Sena 2020, kienet waħda li nisperaw ma narawx oħra bħala f'ħajjitna kollha.

FOREWORD BY H.E. GEORGE VELLA, PRESIDENT OF MALTA

Surely none of us remember a year like 2020!

Our country, like the rest of the world, has been plagued by a virus that has ravaged the health of the nation, and had disastrous effects on the a ffected countries' economy, and their social fabric.

Our lives turned upside down and nothing remained as it was before. However apart from a few exceptions, (as in the case of seasonal flu) all other illnesses were still occurring as before.

The work of the Malta Community Chest Fund, in this context, could not but be adversely affected.

As expected, the requests for assistance to the MCCFF continued as in previous years, and actually increased.

On the other hand, the MCCFF had to face the problem that due to the restrictions imposed by the Health Authorities, most of the usual fundraising events had to be cancelled.

The President's Ball at the Casino Maltese, and the Citrus Festival had already been held.

Through all adversity, we managed to organise the August Moon Ball – with strict measures, such as no dancing.

The Fine Arts Auction could be held because it is practically virtual, but events such as Rockestra and the Fun Run had to be cancelled.

In order to raise funds, it was decided to hold a fundraising Marathon in September, which was a success.

Meanwhile, the income from the Kitchen Garden was also badly affected, due to health measures.

During this period, it was decided to carry out major refurbishments of the Kitchen Garden which is still ongoing and is expected to give a completely new look to this complex, with all proceeds going to the MCCFF.

Hopefully, what we went through in 2020 will only become a bad memory and we will not go through it again.

I want to thank in particular the Chairperson, Ms Marlene Mizzi, for her leadership of the MCCFF as well as the staff of my office for the work in organising and preparing for the events that were held. I also want to thank all the members of the Board of Administrators and of the Supervisory Council for their work, as well as all the members of the core groups who take care of the events.

I also want to thank the staff who process requests for social and medical assistance, as well as the members of the Boards who decide on those requests.

The mission of the MCCFF is a noble and altruistic one. Expenses increased, but so has the determination not to let anyone with fair requests to be forgotten or set aside.

Going forward depends a lot on the generosity of the tens of thousands who contribute, as well as the big donors for whom I have no words to thank them enough for the donations they make regularly year after year.

When these funds are not enough, I have always found the help of Government, and I am grateful for this.

Hopefully, we will never experience another year like the year 2020.

MESSAĠĠ MIS-SINJURA

MIRIAM VELLA

Kemm ili li ħadt ir-rwol ta' Chairperson kemm tal-Unità Medika kif ukoll tal-Unità tal-Għajnuna Soċjali tal-MCCFF, rajt b'għajnejja stess in-numru ta' familji li l-Fondazzjoni tgħin fil-ħafna aspetti tad-diffikultajiet li jaffaċċjaw f'ħajjithom. Din hija tassew esperjenza li tagħti ħafna sodisfazzjon u ninsab grata għax-xogħol kollu li jagħmel il-persunal tal-MCCFF fejn kull ġimgħa jiltaqgħu ma' mijiet ta' persuni f'diffikultà u jlaħħqu max-xogħol ta' kuljum biex jiżguraw li l-applikanti jiġu megħjuna fl-iqsar żmien possibbli. Ninsab grata immens ukoll għall-voluntiera kollha li jgħinuna ta' kuljum.

Qabel bdiet il-pandemija, jiena u r-raġel tiegħi rnexxielna nżuru lill-pazjenti Maltin li jintbagħtu għal trattament mediku f'Londra. Hemmhekk irnexxielna niltaqgħu u nitkellmu ma' dawn il-pazjenti. Kienet esperjenza memorabbli fejn stajna naqsmu l-esperjenzi tagħhom magħhom, u t-tbatijiet li jgħaddu minnhom meta jkunu 'l bogħod minn darhom.

L-Unità Medika

L-Unità Medika hija magħmula minn 5 persuni li ġejjin mis-settur mediku, finanzjarju u amministrattiv. Din l-unità tirċievi talbiet għal għajnuna medika, għajnuna lil persuni li jintbagħtu għal trattamenti mediċi barra minn Malta u talbiet għal tagħmir speċjalizzat u terapiji diversi għal persuni b'abbiltajiet differenti. Kull talba, wara li tiġi rreġistrata, tiġi diskussa u evalwata mill-membri ta' din l-unità u tittieħed deċiżjoni dwar jekk din jistħoqqilhiex l-għajnuna tal-Fondazzjoni. Numru kbir ta' dawn it-talbiet ikunu għal assistenza għal kimoterapija speċjalizzata li jammontaw għal mijiet ta' eluf ta' ewro ma' kull approvazzjoni.

Bir-restrizzjonijiet imposti matul il-pandemija tal-COVID-19, kemm l-Unità tal-Għajnuna Medika kif ukoll l-Unità tal-Għajnuna Soċjali xorta rnexxielhom jiltaqgħu kull ġimgħa, għalkemm virtwalment, biex niżguraw li kull talba tiġi indirizzata fl-iqsar żmien possibbli.

L-Unità tal-Għajnuna Soċjali

L-Unità tal-Għajnuna Soċjali hija magħmula minn 6 persuni b'esperjenza vasta fil-qasam tal-Ħidma Soċjali. Din l-unità wkoll tiltaqa' kull ġimgħa u tassisti f'talbiet li jsiru għal bżonnijiet bażiċi bħal Vawċers tal-Ikel, tagħmir tad-dar u talbiet għal bżonnijiet bażiċi. Kull talba, meta tasal, l-ewwel tiġi evalwata mit-tim ta' Ħaddiema Soċjali tal-MCCFF li huma bbażati fl-uffiċċji tagħna l-Belt Valletta. L-evalwazzjoni tal-Ħaddiema Soċjali ħafna drabi tinvolvi żjara d-dar fejn wieħed ikun jista' jieħu stampa ċara tas-sitwazzjoni tal-Applikant u b'dan il-mod jiġi ddeterminat jekk it-talba għal għajnuna tkunx ġenwina u kif l-MCCFF tista' mbagħad tgħin.

Dan l-aspett tal-ħidma tal-MCCFF f'din l-unità jmiss il-laħam il-ħaj tas-soċjetà tagħna, fejn sfortunatament wieħed jara familji jbatu fis-skiet minħabba l-istigma li jġib il-faqar.

Nieħu din l-opportunità biex nirringrazzja lill-membri kollha taż-żewġ Unitajiet għall-ħidma u d-dedikazzjoni tagħhom fi ħdan il-Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation.

Since I have taken the role of Chairperson of both the Medical Unit and the Social Assistance Unit of the MCCFF, I have seen firsthand the amounts of families the Foundation assists in the many aspects of the difficulties they encounter in their lives. This is indeed a rewarding experience and I am grateful for all the work done by the staff of the MCCF where each week they encounter hundreds of persons in difficulties and in keeping up with the daily work to ensure that applicants are assisted in the shortest time. My gratitude towards the volunteers that assist us on a daily basis is also immense.

Before the start of the pandemic, my Husband and I managed to visit the Maltese patients sent abroad for medical treatment in London. Whilst there we managed to meet and talk to these patients. It was a memorable experience to be able to share with them their experiences, and the hardships they encounter while they are far from home.

Medical Unit

The Medical Unit is composed of 5 persons coming from the medical, financial and administrative sectors. This unit receives requests for medical assistance, assistance from persons sent abroad for medical treatments and requests for specialized equipment and various therapies for persons with different abilities. Each request after it is registered is discussed and assessed by the members of this unit and a decision whether it merits the Foundation's help is then taken. A large number of these requests are for specialized chemotherapy assistance which amounts to hundreds of thousands of Euros on each approval.

During the restrictions imposed during the Covid 19 Pandemic both the Medical Assistance Unit and the Social Assistance Unit still managed to meet weekly, albeit remotely to make sure that each request is addressed in the least time possible.

Social Assistance Unit

The Social Assistance Unit is composed of 6 persons with vast experience in the field of Social Work. This Unit also meets weekly and sees to requests made for basic needs such as Food Vouchers, Home appliances and requests for basic needs. Each request when submitted is first assessed by the MCCF's team of Social Workers who are based at our Valletta offices. The Social Worker's assessment most times involves a home visit where one is given a clear picture of the Applicant's situation and in this way it is determined if the request for assistance being made is genuine and how the MCCF can then help.

This aspect of the MCCF's work in this unit touches a raw nerve of our society, where unfortunately one sees families suffering in silence because of the stigma poverty brings.

I take this opportunity to thank all members of both Units for their work and dedication towards the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation.

MARLENE MIZZI
Chairperson tal-Bord tal-Amministraturi

Il-Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation, hi probabbilment, l-iktar organizzazzjoni magħrufa fost l-organizzazzjonijiet kollha tal-karità f'Malta, mhux biss minħabba l-patroċinju prestiġjuż tal-Kap tal-Istat, iżda wkoll minħabba l-fatt li l-ħidma tagħha tilħaq firxa wiesgħa ta' bżonnijiet tas-soċjetà tagħna, bħal:

- Dawk li huma vulnerabbli u fil-bżonn;
- Familji taħt il-linja tal-faqar u li għal xi raġuni jew oħra, m'għandhomx għaxja ta' lejla;
- Persuni li qegħdin jaffaċċjaw mard serju – kanċer, u/jew mard ieħor – iżda li ma jistgħux iħallsu għal trattamenti u mediċina li jsalvawlhom ħajjithom jew jgħinuhom jgħixu ħajja aħjar;
- Qraba li jakkumpanjaw lil xi ħadd tal-familja għal trattament barra minn Malta.

Il-MCCFF qiegħda hemm biex tgħin lil dawn in-nies jaffaċċjaw il-problemi tagħhom billi tassistihom finanzjarjament kif ukoll psikoloġikament.

Għalkemm dan jista' jinstema' xi ftit insensittiv, dan l-appoġġ li nagħtu lis-soċjetà ma jistax isir mingħajr flus.

Madankollu, inħoss li din il-Fondazzjoni, xi drabi, tittieħed for granted u ftit jirrealizzaw jew japprezzaw il-ħidma, l-isforz, u l-livell ta' appoġġ li l-Community Chest Fund tagħti lis-soċjetà tagħna. Ftit jirrealizzaw li l-MCCFF tħallas medja ta' €1.2 miljun fix-xahar f'appoġġ, fost l-oħrajn għal:

- Trattamenti kontra l-kanċer li jista' jiswa 'l fuq minn €120,000 għal kull persuna fis-sena;
- Il-vouchers tal-ikel jiswew lill-Fondazzjoni kważi €20,000 fix-xahar - mogħtija lil dawk il-familji, normalment bit-tfal, li ma jkollhomx biex jixtru l-ikel bażiku u affarijiet oħra biex jgħixu b'mod diċenti;
- Il-MCCFF tiffinanzja wkoll ġenituri ta' tfal, jew qraba oħra li jirċievu trattament mediku barra minn Malta, u li għal xi raġuni ma jistgħux joqogħdu waħedhom. Il- Fondazzjoni tħallas it-titjiriet tagħhom, l-allowances ta' kuljum biex jixtru ikel u għat-transport – normalment għal ħafna u ħafna xhur.

Dawn huma ftit mill-eżempji tas-sapport li l-MCCFF tagħti lil dawk li jiġu għandna għall-għajnuna. Iżda aħna nagħmlu dan bi pjaċir u b'sodisfazzjon, li naraw stejjer ta' suċċess joħorġu mid-diqa li joħolqu l-mard serju u s-sitwazzjonijiet diffiċli tal-ħajja.

Dan kollu jsir bis-saħħa ta' tim iddedikat ta' ħaddiema soċjali, u amministraturi u uffiċjali klerikali, kif ukoll tim ta' voluntiera,li jagħtu s-servizz tagħhom lill-Fondazzjoni.

Sfortunatament, minħabba l-pandemija globali, is-sena 2020 kienet partikolari ħafna. Qegħdin ngħixu ħajja ta' slow motion surreali fejn dak li nafuh bħala normali kważi ntesa. Ħafna negozji, avvenimenti u attivitajiet soċjali kellhom jieqfu minħabba l-COVID... iżda sfortunament, għalkemm ħafna affarijiet waqfu, il-kanċer u l -mard serju ma waqfux. U lanqas ma waqaf il-faqar – għax il-pandemija ħolqot aktar tbatija lil dawk il-familji fejn il-breadwinner tal-familja tilef l-impjieg tiegħu , u lil dawk in-negozji li kellhom jagħlqu għax ma felħux għall-isfidi ekonomiċi li nħolqu.

Ovvjament, il-COVID affettwat lill-Fondazzjoni wkoll, peress li ħafna mill-attivitajiet ta' ġbir ta' fondi, kellhom jitħassru, li jfisser li d- dħul tal-Fondazzjoni naqas sew. Attivitajiet li jattiraw donazzjonijiet sostanzjalil bħal The President's Solidarity Fun Run u Rockestra kellhom jitħassru. Il-Fondazzjoni qiegħda taffaċċja sitwazzjoni paradossali fejn it-talbiet għall-għajnuna żdiedu filwaqt li l-fondi tagħna naqsu.

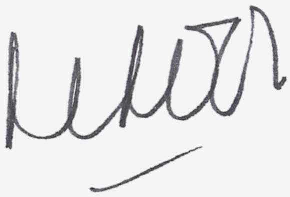
L-August Moon Ball sar b'format differenti mis-soltu biex il-protokolli maħruġa mill-awtorità tas-saħħa ġew irrispettati. Saret telethon f'Settembru, fejn il poplu Malti wera għal darba oħra il-ġenerosità tiegħu lejn il-Fondazzjoni. Dakinhar inġabru aktar minn miljun ewro. L-Istrina ġiet organizzata wkoll – għalkemm problema teknika swiet lill-Fondazzjoni kważi miljun ewro. (Ġejna mgħarrfa b'dan fi Frar 2021)

Il-pandemija affetwat ukoll il-President's Kitchen Garden, li d-dħul minnu jmur għal Fondazzjoni. Ir-restrizzjonijiet tal-Covid għalqu r-restaurants u dan fisser li d-dħul tal-Kitchen Garden ġie fix-xejn . Nispera li x-xogħolijiet ta' tisbieħ li qed isiru jpattu għal dan it-telf sostanzjali.

L-amministraturi tal-Fondazzjoni, huma konxji li din l-entitaà hi responsabbli għal miljiuni ta' ewro fis-sena – li joriġinaw minn donazzjonijiet kif ukoll mill-għajnuna tal-Gvern. Għaldaqstant nassiguraw li l-organizzazzjoni tirrispetta strettament ir-regoli ta' governanza u titmexxa fuq il-prinċipji tal-akkonatbilità, trasparenza u u integrità . Biex nimxu mad-direttivi kontra l-ħasil tal-flus, nesiġu li donazzjonijiet fi flus kontanti ma jeċċedux il-€500 minn donatur wieħed. Il-maġġoranza tad-donazzjonijiet jiġu permezz ta' trasferimenti bankarji jew cheques biex b'hekk ikollna moħħna mistrieħ mill-oriġini tad-donazjonijiet. Il-membri tal-Bord tal-Amministraturi huma wkoll personalment soġġettii għal due diligence li jesiġu l-banek.

Imma irrispettivament mis-sitwazzjoni diffiċli, xogħolna ma waqafx u mhux se jieqaf. Il-missjoni tagħna tkompli bil-għan li nkomplu ngħinu finanzjarment lil kull min jiddependi fuqna għal għajxien dinjituż, għajnuna psikoloġika u ħafna drabi għal ħajjihtom stess.

Finalment, nixtieq nirringrazzja lil E.T. George Vella, il-President ta' Malta u s Sinjura tiegħu Miriam Vella għad dedikazzjoni tagħhom lejn il-Fondazzjoni. L-imħabba li għandhom għal membri vulnerabbli tas-socjetà hija ta' ispirazzjoni għalina lkoll. Grazzi wkoll lill-membri tal-Bord tal-Amministraturi, u tal-Kunsill tas-Superviżjoni, lill–membri tal-Unit Mediku u Assistenza Soċjali, lill-impjegati tal- Fondazzjoni, lill-voluntiera, lill-isponsors u donaturi, u lill-kull min b'xi mod jew ieħor jgħin il-missjoni nobbli tal-Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation.



The Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation is probably the most well-known of all Maltese Charity organizations, not only because of its prestigious patronage by the Head of State, but also because its benevolence is extended to a wide spectrum of needs of our society, namely :

- **Persons in our society who are vulnerable and needy;**
- **Persons and families below the poverty line who for some reason or other, cannot afford basic needs;**
- **Persons facing a life-threatening illness – cancer, and/or other serious conditions, who cannot afford life-saving or life-enhancing medical drugs or treatments.**
- **Persons who need to accompany relatives in need of medical treatment abroad**

The MCCFF is there to help these members of our society by assisting them financially as well as psychologically.

Callous as it may sound, thesupport we give to society cannot be done without money.

Yet, I suspect that this Foundation is sometimes taken for granted and few realize or appreciate the work, the effort, the level of support which The Community Chest Fund gives and contributes to our society.

Few realize that the MCCFF pays an average of €1.2 million euros per month in supporting , amongst others:

- **Courses of cancer treatment which can cost over €120,000 per person per year.**
- **Food vouchers costing the Foundation nearly €20,000 per month - given to those families , usually with children, who lack the means to put decent food on the table, or buy basic needs.**
- **The MCCFF also finances stays abroad for parents of little children, or relatives of persons who cannot travel on their own in order to receive treatment abroad. The Foundation finances their flights, their daily allowances to cover food and transportation – if ned be, for substantial number of months.**

The Foundation extends its assistance with the pleasure of knowing that we are helping; with the satisfaction of seeing success stories emerge from the heartbreak of serious illnesses and sad life-situations...but unfortunately this is not always the case.

This is all done thanks to a very dedicated team of social workers, administrators , and clerks as well as a team of volunteers.

Unfortunately, due to the current global pandemic, 2020 has been a very particular year, in more ways than one. We are living in a surreal life in slow motion, where what was previously considered 'normal' is now almost forgotten. Businesses, events and social activities came to a stop .... but unfortunately it did not stop cancer and other serious illnesses. Nor did it stop, poverty. On the contrary, the pandemic has caused financial and economic hardship to those families whose bread winner lost a job, and to those business owners who could not sustain the economic strain caused by the pandemic and had to close down.

Obviously, Covid affected the Foundation too, because most of our fund-raising events had to be cancelled, which means that our income stream was reduced significantly . Main income generating events like the Rockestra and the Funrun had to be cancelled. The MCCFF faced a situation where requests for assistance increased, while our potential for funds decreased.

The traditional August Moon Ball was held , and in order to comply strictly with health protocols in place, the format was different from the usual . A September telethon was organised and the generous Maltese public did not let the Foundation down. More than €1million euro was donated on the day. The 2020 Istrina was also held - also in different format form the usual- and not without the excitement of a technical glitch which cost the Foundation nearly €1million in over stated donations. (The information of this technical glitch was made known to the MCCFF in February 2021)

The pandemic also affected the Kitchen Garden, where income is in aid of the Foundation. The closure of restaurants for so many months dented the income from this activity to a very serious degree. We hope that the current upgrading of the premises will make up for such significant losses.

The Administrators of the Foundation are well aware that this is an organisation dealing with millions of euros per year – originating mainly from donations, as well as from Government support. In this regard we ensure that the organisation observes strict governance rules and is based on the principles of accountability, transparency and integrity. In compliance with Anti Money laundering directives, it is ensured that cash donations do not exceed €500 from a single donor. The absolute majority of donations made to the Foundation are through Bank transfers or cheques in order to ensure the source of origin of donated funds. All members of the Board of Administrators are subjected to strict due diligence by Banks .

Irrespective of the current situation our work did not stop and will not stop. We will continue our mission so that we can continue to finance those who depend on us for so many vital things: for a decent dignified living, for psychological support, and many times depend on us for their very life.

Finally I would like to thank H.E President George Vella and the First Lady, Miriam Vella for their dedication to the Foundation. Their love for the more vulnerable members of our society is an inspiration to us all. Thanks is also due to the members of the Board of Administrators and Supervisory Council, to the members of the Medical Unit and Social Assistance Unit, to the staff of the Foundation, to all the volunteers , to the sponsors and donors , and to all those who in one way or other support the noble mission of the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation.

Membri tal-Unit tal-Assistenza Medika

Members of the Medical Assistance Unit

Mrs Miriam Vella
Chairperson

Ms Claire Micallef Pule'
Secretary

Dr Antoine Vella
Member

Mr Mark Mizzi
Member

Mr Charles Messina
Member

Membri tal-Unit tal-Assistenza Soċjali

Members of the Social Assistance Unit

Mrs Miriam Vella
Chairperson

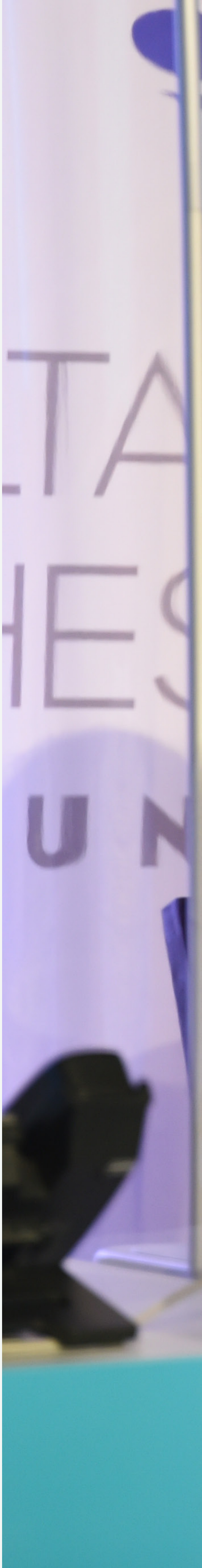
Ms Carla Caramagna
Secretary

Mr Joe Sammut
Member

Ms Josephine Muscat
Member

Ms Adriana Zarb Adami
Member

Mr Anthony Mifsud
Member



DR NICK REFALO

Clinical Chairperson & Consultant Clinical Oncologist

Sir Anthony Mamo Oncology Centre

It-terapija kontra l-kanċer tinsab f'evoluzzjoni kontinwa. Hemm kull possibbiltà li ħafna mit-trattamenti li qegħdin jintużaw illum se jsiru obsoleti f'futur mhux daqshekk 'il bogħod, u minflok, tintuża medikazzjoni iktar effettiva u forsi inqas tossika. Hemm kull possibbiltà li se jkun hemm trattamenti, fejn qabel ma kienx hemm. Bħala eżempju, insemmi l-każ ta' kanċer metastatiku fil-kliewi. Ftit inqas minn 20 sena ilu, l-unika terapija disponibbli għal kanċer avvanzat fil-kliewi kien interferon, li l-effikaċja tiegħu f'din il-kundizzjoni kienet, l-iktar l-iktar, waħda modesta, tant li m'għadux jintuża lokalment għat-trattament ta' tali marda. Minflok, għandna pletora ta' mediċini b'ismijiet strambi u sbieħ li joffru titjib reali fit-tul tal-ħajja u fil-kontroll tas-sintomi, mediċini bħal Sunitinib, Pazopanib, Axitinib, Cabozantinib, Everolimus, Nivolumab u Pembrolizumab, biex insemmi ftit minnhom. U dawn huma biss medikazzjonijiet għal tip wieħed ta' kanċer.

L-iktar ħaġa affaxxinanti hija li, kif għidt qabel, dan il-proċess qiegħed dejjem jinbidel. Aspett wieħed tar-riċerka dwar il-kanċer jiffoka fuq provi kliniċi biex jiġu stabbiliti standards ġodda ta' kura għal varjetà ta' kundizzjonijiet, li normalment ifisser li t-trattament standard tal-lum mhux se jkun it-trattament standard ta' għada.

Minkejja l-aqwa sforzi tal-gvern, huwa kważi impossibbli li wieħed ilaħħaq mar-riċerka b'tali mod li l-iktar medikazzjoni reċenti tkun disponibbli mill-ewwel. Normalment il-proċess biex il-medikazzjonijiet il-ġodda jiġu assorbiti fil-formularju huwa wieħed twil ħafna, għax minbarra d-data u r-riżultati dwar is-sigurtà, wieħed irid jikkunsidra wkoll il-proċessi ta' baġits u potenzjalment ta' tenders.

Hemm ħafna affarijiet x'wieħed jista' jgħid dwar it-terapija moderna kontra l-kanċer, imma hemm fatt wieħed li japplika kważi dejjem. Dawn il-mediċini jiswew ħafna flus. Xi trattamenti jistgħu jiswew diversi eluf ta' Euro għal ftit xhur ta' terapija, oħrajn jistgħu jitilgħu għal mijiet ta' eluf għal kors ta' trattament. Dawn iċ-ċifri jfissru li tali terapiji jistgħu ma jkunux aċċessibbli għall-ħafna, u b'hekk ma jkunx possibbli li jgawdu mill-benefiċċji li potenzjalment joffru.

Jew dan ma kienx ikun possibbli mingħajr il-ġenerożità u l-appoġġ ġeneruż ħafna tal-Malta Community Chest Fund. Din l-organizzazzjoni, bil-President ta' Malta bħala l-kap titulari tagħha, ma ġietx imwaqqfa bl-għan espliċitu li tiffinanzja terapija kontra l-kanċer. Madankollu, matul is-snin, hekk kif it-trattament kontra l-kanċer beda jiswa ħafna iktar flus, għarfet il-bżonn li kien hemm, u b'mod rapidu u effettiv ħadet dan ir-rwol. Dan tant għamlitu b'effett spettakolari li llum, kull meta tkun meħtieġa terapija kontra l-kanċer li ma tkunx disponibbli fil-formularju, tintalab mill-ewwel l-għajnuna tal-MCCF u jingħata appoġġ.

Fil-fehma tiegħi bħalissa r-rwol tal-MCCF huwa indispensabbli għalina l-onkologi f'Malta. Mingħajr l-assistenza tagħha, ħafna trattamenti ma jkunux jistgħu jiġu kkunsidrati u f'xi każijiet l-għajnuna li nkunu nistgħu noffru tkun għalhekk serjament ristretta. Ma nkunx qed nesaġera meta ngħid li hemm diversi pazjenti ħajjin illum li jafu s-sopravivenza tagħhom lill-appoġġ mill-MCCF biex jixtru l-mediċini li kieku l-akkwist tagħhom kien ikun kważi impossibbli.

Madankollu, aħna l-onkologi nagħrfu wkoll il-piż enormi li dan poġġa fuq din l-organizzazzjoni, piż li ma jidhirx li se jonqos fil-futur qarib għax l-ispejjeż tat-trattamenti kontra l-kanċer għadhom dejjem jiżdiedu. Fl-aħħar mill-aħħar, l-MCCF tiddependi wkoll mill-appoġġ tan-nies, għax mingħajr id-donazzjonijiet ma jkunx hemm fondi allokati għal din il-kawża.

Fost il-ħafna modi kif l-MCCF tipprovdi l-għajnuna, jistħoqqilha u għandha l-gratitudni tagħna talli ħadet dan ir-rwol tant umanitarju, li huwa essenzjalment dak li taġixxi bħala fond għall-mediċina kontra l-kanċer. Din hija kawża nobbli li ma hija pprovduta mill-ebda organizzazzjoni oħra lokalment. B'hekk, din toffri lill-pazjenti u lill-familji tagħhom l-iktar sentiment kruċjali – it-tama.

> “The MCCF is vital for us as oncologists in Malta. Without its assistance, many treatments would be off limits and the help we would be able to offer in some instances would therefore be seriously restricted.”

Anti-cancer therapy is in continuous evolution. There is every chance that many treatments being used today will have become obsolete in the not-too-distant future, replaced by more effective and perhaps less toxic medication. There is every chance that there will be treatments, when previously there were none. As an example, let me cite the case of metastatic kidney cancer. Just under 20 years ago, the only therapy available for advanced kidney cancer was interferon, whose efficacy in this condition was modest at best, so much so that it is no longer used locally to treat such an illness. Instead we have a plethora of drugs with weird and wonderful names which offer real improvements in longevity and symptom control, drugs such as Sunitinib, Pazopanib, Axitinib, Cabozantinib, Everolimus, Nivolumab and Pembrolizumab, to name but a few. And these are just medications for one type of cancer.

What is truly fascinating though is that, as stated earlier, this process is in constant flux. One aspect of cancer research focusses on clinical trials to establish new standards of care for a variety of conditions, which typically means that standard treatment today will not be standard treatment tomorrow.

Despite the government’s best efforts, it is next to impossible to keep abreast with research in such a way that the latest medication is available immediately. It is usually a long-drawn out process for new medications to be absorbed into the formulary, because apart from safety data and results, one also has to consider budgeting and potentially tendering processes.

Many things can be said about modern cancer therapy, but one fact applies almost ubiquitously. These drugs are expensive. Some treatments may cost several thousands of Euros for a few months’ worth, others may even run into the hundreds of thousands for a course of treatment. These figures mean that such therapies may be inaccessible to the many, and hence the benefits they potentially offer are out of bounds.

Or they would be, were it not for the generosity and unstinting support of the Malta Community Chest Fund. This organization, with the President of Malta as its titular head, did not start life with the express purpose to fund anti-cancer therapy. However, over the years, as anti-cancer treatment became increasingly expensive, it was able to recognize the need that had been created, and rapidly and effectively subsumed this role. It has done this to such spectacular effect that today, whenever somebody requires cancer therapy which is unavailable on the formulary, the help of the MCCF is immediately solicited and support is provided.

I would say that currently the role of the MCCF is vital for us as oncologists in Malta. Without its assistance, many treatments would be off limits and the help we would be able to offer in some instances would therefore be seriously restricted. I do not think that it would be an exaggeration to say that there are several patients alive today who owe that survival to support from the MCCF in purchasing of drugs which would otherwise have been beyond their reach.

However we as oncologists also recognize the enormous strain that this has placed on such an organization, a strain which is unlikely to be reduced anytime soon given that the cost of anti-cancer treatments continues to soar. Ultimately the MCCF depends also on the support of the people, because without charitable donations there would be no funds to be allocated to such a cause.

Among the many ways in which the MCCF provides help, it deserves and enjoys our gratitude for taking over this deeply humanitarian role, which is essentially that of acting as a cancer drug fund. This is a noble cause, not provided by any other organization locally. By doing this, it offers the patients and their families that most crucial of sentiments – hope.

CLAIRE MICALLEF PULE’

Community Chest Fund Manager

L-UFFIĊĊJI PRINĊIPALI
TAL-MALTA COMMUNITY CHEST FUND
FIL-PALAZZ, IL-BELT VALLETTA

L-uffiċċji prinċipali tagħna jinsabu fil-Palazz, il-Belt Valletta u kull nhar ta’ Tnejn u Erbgħa t-tim tagħna kollu jkun hemm biex jilqa’, jassisti u jitkellem mal-membri tal-pubbliku li jkollhom mistoqsijiet jew li jissottomettu applikazzjoni għall-għajnuna.

Kif wieħed jista’ jassumi, aħna nilqgħu nies minn kull qasam tal-ħajja u t-talbiet ivarjaw mill-iktar affarijiet sempliċi bħal oġġetti bażiċi tal-ikel, sal-iktar kimoterapija reċenti li ħarġet fis-suq, jew mill-bżonn ta’ vjaġġ għal trattament mediku barra minn Malta, sa sptarijiet speċjalizzati. Il-membri tat-tim tagħna jinkludu impjegati li jvarjaw minn persunal klerikali, Ħaddiema Soċjali u voluntiera.L-Impjegati u l-Voluntiera li jassistu f’dan ix-xogħol, ġew imħarrġa dwar kif iġibu ruħhom mal-pubbliku; x’mistoqsijiet isaqsu u x’sinjali jfittxu biex jistabbilixxu relazzjoni li fiha l-applikanti jħossuhom li qegħdin f’post sikur ma’ xi ħadd li jista’ jifhimhom u jgħinhom.

Fil-ġranet l-oħra tal-ġimgħa, il-membri tat-tim tagħna jirreġistraw l-applikazzjonijiet, jibagħtu l-korrispondenza, jagħmlu appuntamenti għal żjarat id-dar jew l-uffiċċju u jiltaqgħu flimkien biex jiddiskutu u joħorġu numru ta’ vawċers tal-ikel kull ġimgħa filwaqt li r-receptionists tagħna jieħdu ħsieb mijiet ta’ telefonati kull ġimgħa. Is-Segretarji tal-Unitajiet rispettivi jippreparaw ukoll ix-xogħol għal kull laqgħa tal-unità li ssir kull ġimgħa u wara dawn il-laqgħat ta’ kull ġimgħa, tintbagħat il-korrispondenza lill-applikanti biex jiġu informati bid-deċiżjonijiet meħuda. Jinżamm ukoll kuntatt kontinwu mal-uffiċċji tagħna f’Għawdex u f’SAMOC biex naraw li l-persuni li jissottomettu l-applikazzjonijiet tagħhom hemmhekk qed jiġu ttrattati wkoll bl-istess mod.

Meta naħseb dwar ix-xogħol tagħna ta’ kuljum, nerġa’ nikkonferma r-responsabbiltà li aħna lkoll għandna meta ta’ kuljum niltaqgħu ma’ persuni li jkollhom problemi, u l-bżonn li naħdmu tajjeb bħala tim wieħed u anki li jkollna superviżjoni fejn nistgħu nitkellmu u naqsmu l-esperjenzi tagħna b’mod speċjali meta niltaqgħu ma’ tali tbatija, mard kroniku u xi drabi anki mewt. L-importanza li l-membri tat-tim tagħna jieħdu ħsieb lilhom infushom meta jittrattaw dawn is-sitwazzjonijiet diffiċli hija indispensabbli.

Konvinta li dan ix-xogħol kollu ma jkunx possibbli mingħajr l-għajnuna kontinwa li għandna mit-tim tagħna ta’ voluntiera. Ma nistax ma nkunx grata għall-ħidma u l-ħin tagħhom. Għandna voluntiera li ilhom parti mit-tim tagħna għal dawn l-aħħar 25 sena u jiġu l-uffiċċju tagħna darbtejn fil-ġimgħa, minkejja x-xemx u x-xita u d-diffikultajiet biex jaslu l-Belt Valletta. Konvinta li l-MCCFF ma tibqax teżisti mingħajr l-għajnuna imprezzabbli u kostanti tagħhom matul dawn is-snin kollha.

Fil-ġimgħat li ġejjin, l-uffiċċji tagħna tal-Belt Valletta se jiċċaqilqu b’mod temporanju għal post ieħor fil-Belt peress li fil-Palazz qed isiru xogħlijiet kbar ta’ restawr.

Meta jitlestew dawn ix-xogħlijiet, nerġgħu lura għall-Palazz fil-Belt Valletta taħt l-awspiċji tal-E.T. il-President ta’ Malta.

L-UFFIĊĊJI PRINĊIPALI
TAL-MALTA COMMUNITY CHEST FUND
FIL-PALAZZ, IL-BELT VALLETTA

Our head offices are situated at The Palace, Valletta and on Mondays and Wednesdays of each week all our team is there to receive, assist and speak to the members of the public that come to enquire or to submit an application for assistance.

As one can assume, we receive people from all walks of life and requests vary between the most simple things like basic food items to the most recent chemotherapy issued on the market or the need to travel abroad for medical treatment to specialized hospitals. Members of our team include employees varying from clerical staff, Social Workers and volunteers. Employees and Volunteers assisting in this work, have been given training on how to deal with the public; what questions to ask, what signs one is to look out for to establish a rapport where the applicant feels safe, understood and assisted.

On the other days of the week, members of our team register applications, issue correspondence, set up appointments for home or office visits, meets together to discuss and issues a number of food vouchers each week whilst our receptionist deals with hundreds of telephone calls each week. Respective Secretaries of Units also prepare the work for each unit meeting which takes place each week and following these weekly meetings, correspondence is sent to inform applicants of the decisions taken. Continuous contact is also kept with our Gozo and SAMOC offices to make sure that people submitting their applications there are also given the same treatment.

Thinking about our daily work, I re-confirm the responsibility we all have when dealing with people with problems on a daily basis, and the need to have good teamwork practices and also supervision where we can talk and share our experiences especially when one encounters such hardship, chronic illnesses and sometimes even death. The importance of self-care for members of our team when dealing with these difficult situations is imperative.

I am sure that all this work would not be possible without the continuous help we have from our team of volunteers. One cannot not feel grateful to their work and time. We have volunteers that have been a part of our team for these past 25 years and come twice a week to our office, notwithstanding the extreme weather conditions and the difficulties to get to Valletta. I am sure that the MCCFF would cease to exist without their invaluable and constant help throughout all these years.

In the coming weeks our Valletta offices will temporarily move to another locality in Valletta since The Palace is undergoing major restoration works.

Once these works are finalized, we will again return to The Palace in Valletta under the wing of H.E. The President of Malta.

IL-PROĊESS TAL-APPLIKAZZJONI

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

1

L-applikazzjoni tiġi sottomessa personalment f'wieħed mill-uffiċċji tagħna bbażati fil-Palazz, il-Belt Valletta; iċ-Ċentru tal-Onkoloġija Sir Anthony Mamo, l-Isptar Mater Dei; jew ir-Rabat, Għawdex; jew inkella b'email jew bil-posta.

Application is submitted either in person at one of our offices based at The Palace, Valletta, Sir Anthony Mamo Oncology Centre, Mater Dei Hospital or in Victoria Gozo or by email or post.

2

L-applikazzjoni tiġi rreġistrata u ċċekkjata għal xi informazzjoni li tista' tkun nieqsa u li tkun meħtieġa mill-unità aġġudikanti rispettiva biex tieħu deċiżjoni.

Application is registered and checked for any missing information it might have that the respective adjudicating unit will require to reach a decision.

Tintbagħat ittra lill-applikanti biex tinformahom bid-dokumentazzjoni nieqsa u tingħata data ta' skadenza biex tiġi pprovduta din l-informazzjoni.

A letter is sent to applicant informing of the missing documentation and a deadline is given for this information to be given.

3

It-talbiet mediċi jiġu mgħarbla, diskussi u tittieħed deċiżjoni dwarhom mill-Unità Medika li tiltaqa' kull ġimgħa.

Medical requests are vetted, discussed and decided upon by the Medical Unit which meets every week.

4

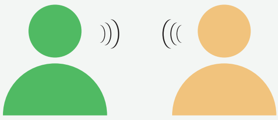
L-applikazzjonijiet għal Għajnuna Soċjali jiġu mgħarbla mit-Tim Psikosoċjali tagħna u ssir evalwazzjoni għal kull talba. Isiru wkoll Żjarat id-Dar għall-applikazzjonijiet li jitolbu tagħmir għad-dar sabiex jiġi ċċekkjat l-ambjent tad-dar u jiġi kkonfermat jekk it-talba tkunx ġenwina.

Social Assistance applications are vetted by our Psychosocial Team and an assessment is conducted for each request. Home Visits are also conducted for applications requesting home appliances in order to be able to witness the home environment and confirm if the request is genuine.

5

L-applikazzjonijiet għal Għajnuna Soċjali jiġu wkoll mgħarbla, diskussi u tittieħed deċiżjoni dwarhom mill-Unità tal-Għajnuna Soċjali li wkoll tiltaqa' kull ġimgħa.

Social Assistance requests are also vetted, discussed and decide upon by the Social Assistance Unit which also meets weekly.



6

Is-Segretarji rispettivi ta' kull unità jinformaw lill-applikanti bid-deċiżjoni tal-Unità permezz ta' ittra u xi drabi qabel tintbagħat l-ittra ssir telefonata lill-applikanti biex jiġu spjegati x'għandhom jagħmlu u jiġu spjegati xi dettalji dwar l-approvazzjoni.

Respective Secretaries of each unit informs applicants of the Unit's decision by means of a letter and this at times is also preceded by a telephone call to explain way forward to applicant and details about the approval.

7

(Il-pagamenti lill-applikanti rispettivi jinħarġu wara li jiġu ppreżentati l-irċevuti mitluba għal ċerti applikazzjonijiet.)

(Payments to respective applicants are issued on presentation of the receipts requested to certain applications)

TESTIMONIALS

GILBERT FORMOSA

Meta kelli 27 sena ħassejtni ma niflaħx b'infezzjoni f'sidri. Wara xi ġimgħat fejn kont għadni ma niflaħx u wara ħafna testijiet, irriżulta li l-kondizzjoni medika tiegħi kienet serja ħafna u kelli bżonn trapjant ta' pulmun. Ħajti nqalbet ta' taħt fuq. Bilkemm stajt nimxi u kont inħossni kważi l-ħin kollu bla nifs.

Bagħtuni f'ċentru speċjalizzat f'Palermo għal iktar testijiet, imma s-sitwazzjoni medika tiegħi tant kienet gravi li t-tobba f'Palermo qaluli li kelli nibqa' hemm għat-trapjant biex jissorveljawni l-ħin kollu għax ma setgħux jieħdu r-riskju li nerġa' lura Malta u nistenna hemm. Spiċċajt qattajt sena u 4 xhur f'Palermo u ħallejt lil marti u tifla ta' erba' snin Malta. Fil-21 ta' Diċembru 2018, filgħaxija, irċevejt it-telefonata li tant kien ili nistenna fejn infurmawni li kien wasal pulmun u kien jaqbel miegħi. Ħaduni mill-ewwel l-isptar; l-operazzjoni tat-trapjant damet 13-il siegħa u kienet suċċess. Wara iktar ġimgħat f'Palermo, fi Frar tal-2019 fl-aħħar erġajt lura Malta biex nerġa' ningħaqad mal-familja tiegħi.

Dan l-episodju ovvjament ħalla impatt kbir fuq il-ħajja tiegħi u tal-familja tiegħi, imma konvint li dan kollu ma kienx ikun possibbli mingħajr l-għajnuna tal-Malta Community Chest Fund. L-MCCF għenitni fl-ispejjeż ta' kuljum sakemm kont hemm biex ommi setgħet tkun miegħi f'dan iż-żmien twil u diffiċli. L-għajnuna u l-attenzjoni u l-kuntatt kostanti li sibt kienu xi ħaġa li qatt ma nista' ninsa u nirrealizza kemm hija importanti din il-Fondazzjoni għan-nies li jgħaddu minn sitwazzjonijiet bħal dawn li huma daqstant diffiċli u ta' wġigħ.

Illum inħossni aħjar imma xorta għadni mmur Palermo ta' spiss biex jissorveljawni u jiċċekkjawni.

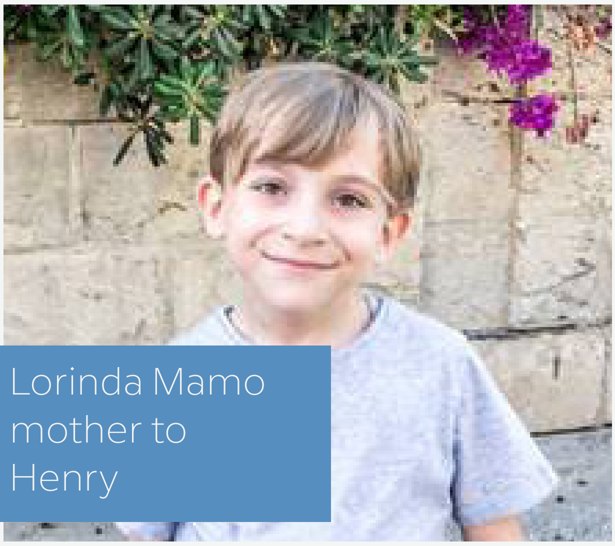
M'għandix biżżejjed kliem biex nirringrazzja lill-MCCF talli żammewni ħaj fl-agħar perjodu ta' ħajti.

At the age of 27 I was unwell with a chest infection. After some weeks of still not feeling well and numerous tests it resulted that my medical condition was very serious and needed a lung transplant. My life was turned upside down. I could hardly walk and was out of breath most of the time.

I was sent to a specialized centre in Palermo for further tests, however my medical situation was so grave that the Doctors in Palermo told me I had to stay there for the transplant so that I am continuously monitored as they could not risk me going back to Malta and wait there. I ended up staying in Palermo for 1 year and 4 months leaving my wife and four year old daughter in Malta. On evening of the 21st December 2018 I received the much awaited call informing me that a lung had been received and found to be a good match for me. I was immediately taken to Hospital, the transplant operation took 13 hours and it was a success.After further weeks in Palermo in February of 2019 I finally travelled back home to Malta to be reunited with my family.

This episode has obviously left a huge mark on my and my family's life however I wholeheartedly affirm that all this wouldn't have been possible if I didn't have the help of the Malta Community Chest Fund. The MCCF helped me in the daily financial expenses of the whole duration so that my mother could be with me during this difficult and long time. The help and care and constant contact I found was something that I can never forget and makes me realise how important this Foundation is for people going through such trying and painful situations. I am much better now but still travel to Palermo frequently to be monitored and checked.

I cannot thank the MCCF enough for keeping me alive in the darkest period of my life.



Lorinda Mamo mother to Henry

Mill-mument li fih twieled Henry, 8 snin ilu, it-tobba sabu li kien twieled bil-kundizzjoni rari ħafna msejħa s-Sindromu ta' Prune Belly. Fl-ewwel ġimgħat ta' ħajtu, ġie ddijanjostikat ukoll b'Marda Kronika tal-Kliewi. Il-kundizzjoni hija kkaratterizzata minn nuqqas ta' muskoli fl-addome u minħabba f'hekk, organi mhux żviluppati fiż-żona tal-addome. Fl-età ta' 3 snin, morna Londra għal iktar investigazzjonijiet u trattament. Sal-lum, morna r-Renju Unit għal trattament mediku għal Henry 16-il darba. Kull darba li mmorru, ma nkunux ċerti meta se nerġgħu lura d-dar u l-iktar li domna hemmhekk kien 4 snin ilu, meta qattajna 5 xhur. F'dan iż-żmien, ir-raġel tiegħi ta kilwa lil Henry. Din kienet waħda mill-iktar ġranet twal u diffiċli ta' ħajjitna. Ir-raġel tiegħi kien qed jiġi operat biex titneħħielu l-kilwa tiegħu fi sptar wieħed f'Londra, waqt li Henry kien fi sptar ieħor in-naħa l-oħra ta' Londra jistenna l-kilwa tasal u jsirlu trapjant.

Jiġu mumenti fejn lanqas biss nemmen l-affarijiet kollha li għaddejna minnhom s'issa. Xi drabi ma jidhrux reali. Kien hemm ħafna ġranet diffiċli li naf li ma konniex inkampaw fihom mingħajr l-għajnuna tal-familji tagħna u familja kbira oħra msejħa Malta Community Chest Fund. L-MCCF mhux talli kienet spalla ta' appoġġ b'kemm ħadu ħsiebna, żammew kuntatt magħna u żaruna biex ikunu ċerti li m'aħniex inħossuna waħedna, talli għenuna wkoll finanzjarjament kull darba li kellna bżonn insiefru. L-ispejjeż jitilgħu faċilment u malajr hekk kif il-ġranet isiru ġimgħat u l-ġimgħat isiru xhur iktar malajr minn kemm timmaġina. L-appoġġ kontinwu mill-qalb tagħhom dejjem kien strumentali biex jgħinna nkampaw matul il-ġurnata u ta' dan jiena grata għal dejjem.

Henry għadu jżur l-isptar fuq bażi regolari, din hi ħajjitna u xi ħaġa li hu se jkollu jgħix biha. Żgur li se jkollna bżonn nerġgħu nsiefru għall-kura medika tiegħu, speċjalment peress li t-tim mediku tiegħu fir-Renju Unit huwa iktar familjari mal-kundizzjoni rari tiegħu u anki minħabba t-tagħmir speċjalizzat meħtieġ għal testijiet speċifiċi. Madankollu, ninsab ċerta li jiena u l-familja tiegħi m'aħniex waħedna għax naf li l-MCCF qiegħda dejjem hemm tappoġġjana f'ħafna modi.

From the moment of Henry's birth, 8 years ago, doctors identified that he was born with the very rare condition called Prune Belly Syndrome. Within the first weeks of his life he was also diagnosed with Chronic Kidney Disease. The condition is characterised by a lack of abdominal muscle and as a result of that, undeveloped organs in the abdominal area. At the age of 3 we travelled to London for further investigations and treatment. To date, we have travelled to the UK for Henry's medical treatment 16 times. Each time we travel, we are not always sure when we'll be returning home and the longest stay was 4 years ago, when we stayed for 5 months. During this time, my husband donated a kidney to Henry. This was one of the longest, most difficult days in our lives. My husband was being operated on and having his kidney removed in one hospital in London while Henry was in another hospital on the other side of London waiting for the kidney to arrive and undergo the transplant surgery.

There are moments when I can't believe all the things we have been through so far. Sometimes it seems unreal. There were many difficult days that I know we wouldn't have made it through without the help of our families and another large family called the Malta Community Chest Fund. The MCCF were not only a pillar of support through their continuous care, keeping in touch with us and visits making sure we didn't feel alone, but also helped us financially each time we had to travel. Expenses pile up easily and quickly as days turn into weeks and weeks turn into months quicker than you can imagine. Their continuous heartfelt support was always instrumental in helping us get through the days and I am forever grateful.

Henry still visits the hospital on a regular basis, this is our life and something he will need to live with. We will definitely need to travel again for his medical care especially since his medical team in the UK is more familiar with his rare condition and also because of specialised equipment that is needed for specific testing, however, I am also re-assured that my family and I are not alone knowing that the MCCF is always there to support us in so many ways.

ATTIVITAJIET U INIZJATTIVI 2020

FESTA ĊITRU
19 ta' Jannar 2020

THE PRESIDENT'S SOLIDARITY FUN RUN
26 ta' Jannar 2020

THE PRESIDENT'S BALL
8 ta' Frar 2020

THE BALL OF THE AUGUST MOON
1 ta' Awissu 2020

GĦINUNA NGĦINUKOM

20 ta' Settembru 2020

L-ISTRINA BOV PIGGY BANK CAMPAIGN 2020

TISJIR MILL-QALB

L-ISTRINA

THE PRESIDENT'S

KITCHEN GARDEN

Sa mill-bidu tiegħu, il-President's Kitchen Garden kien post popolari mal-Maltin u t-turisti li jagħżlu dan il-post minħabba l-attrazzjonijiet sikuri u edukattivi li joffri, waqt li jieklu jew jixorbu xi ħaġa f'ambjent trankwill. Għalkemm matul is-snin sar numru ta' titjib, tqies xieraq li ssir rinnovazzjoni kbira fit-taqsima tal-catering tal-Kitchen Garden biex tisbieħ iż-żona u titjieb l-esperjenza ta' kull min iżuru. Dan il-proġett jgħin biex jinlaħaq l-iskop aħħari tat-taqsima tal-catering tal-Kitchen Garden li kien inħoloq biex jipprovdi fondi addizzjonali lill-MCCFF kull darba li jsir profitt mill-bejgħ.

Il-fokus prinċipali tar-rinnovazzjoni kien l-installazzjoni ta' Pergola fiż-żona tal-imwejjed ta' barra li qabel kienet mgħottija minn tinda tal-plastik li ma kinitx taqbel mal-ambjent u li ma kinitx ideali għal żona tal-imwejjed meta ma jkunx temp sabiħ. Il-Pergola l-ġdida se tagħmilha possibbli biex il-klijenti jgawdu l-ambjent tal-Kitchen Garden f'atmosfera kkontrollata filwaqt li jduqu l-menù ġdid u varjat li ġie introdott. Minbarra li joħloq esperjenza sikura u pjaċevoli għall-familja kollha, ir-Restorant tal-Kitchen Garden se jipprovdi lill-klijenti b'sistemi ġodda ta' punti tal-bejgħ biex kemm jista' jkun jonqos il-ħin ta' stennija.

Tajjeb li jiġi nnotat li x-xogħlijiet kollha li saru s'issa u li se jiżguraw li l-proġett ikun miftuħ għall-pubbliku ġenerali lejn l-aħħar ta' Awwissu 2021 kienu possibbli permezz ta' fondi allokati fil-Baġit Ġenerali tal-Uffiċċju tal-Presidenza.

THE PRESIDENT'S KITCHEN GARDEN

The President's Kitchen Garden has since its inception proven to be a popular spot with locals and tourists alike who are attracted to this venue in view of the safe and educational attractions it offers whilst also enjoying refreshments in a tranquil environment. Whilst a number of ad hoc improvements had taken place along the years, it was deemed opportune to undertake a major refurbishment in the catering section of the Kitchen Garden to embellish the area and improve patrons' experience. This project would assist the ultimate scope of the Catering Section of the Kitchen Garden which had been created to provide additional funds to the MCCFF every such time profit was made from sales.

The main focus of the refurbishment was the installation of a Pergola in the outside seating area which previously was a plastic covered tent not blending in with the ambience and which was not an ideal seating area in inclement weather conditions. The new Pergola will make it possible for patrons to enjoy the Kitchen Garden ambience in a controlled atmosphere whilst partaking in the new and varied Menu which has been introduced. Besides creating a safe and friendly experience for all the family, the Kitchen Garden Restaurant will provide diners with a new point of sales system thus reducing waiting times to a minimum.

It is pertinent to point out that all the works which have been carried out to-date and which will ensure that this project is launched for the general public at the end of August 2021 has been made possible through funds allocated under the General Budget of the Office of the Presidency.

THE MALTA COMMUNITY CHEST FUND FOUNDATION
GOVERNANCE OF THE FOUNDATION

The Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation (hereinafter referred to as "the Foundation") is structured in a number of administrative bodies, namely the Supervisory Council, the Board of Administrators, the Consultative Council and other supporting Units in line with its statute. The members of the Supervisory Council and of the Board of Administrators from 1 January 2020 up to the date of this report were as follows:

Supervisory Council

His Excellency George Vella
Chairperson

Mr. Anton Borg

Prof. Carmelo Borg
(Resigned 2nd March, 2021)

Mr. Michael Grech

Mr. Anthony Guillaumier

Prof. Godfrey Laferla
(resigned 1st January, 2021)

Mr. Anthony Miceli Demajo

Mr. Mauro Pace Parascandolo

Fr. Gordon Refalo

Mrs. Rosette Spiteri Cachia

Ms. Claudia Taylor East

Mr. David Xuereb
(appointed 23rd June, 2020)

Mr. Paul Bugeja
(appointed 14th April 2021)
(ex-ufficio)

AMB. Marlene Mizzi
(ex-ufficio)

AMB. Olaph J Terribile
(in attendance)

Members of the Board of Administrators

AMB. Marlene Mizzi
Madam Chair

Mr. Paul Bugeja
(Appointed 14th April, 2021)

Ms. Matilde Cordina
(Resigned 3rd March 2021)

Marchesino Daniel De Petri Testaferrata

Dr. George Grech

Mr. John Huber
(resigned 4th January 2021)

Ms. Claire Micallef Pule

Mr. Mark Mizzi

Mr. Joseph Sammut

Ms. Rosette Spiteri Cachia
(ex-ufficio)

AMB. Olaph J Terribile
(in attendance)

Secretary to The Foundation

Ms Christine Catania Bonello
(Appointed 22 February 2021)

Mr David Grech
(Resigned 15 January 2021)

The role of the Supervisory Council is to monitor and supervise the activities of the Foundation to ensure that these are carried out in accordance with the Foundation's Statute. In addition, it ensures that the Foundation establishes policies and systems of communication and accounting which ensure proper transfer of information to the Supervisory Council and generally suitable transparency at all times relating to its activities, receipts and expenditure, selection of employees, and day to day operations.

The responsibilities of the Board of Administrators are to report regularly in suitable detail to the Supervisory Council on all matters relating to the activities of the Foundation, which are material. This Board seeks guidance from the Supervisory Council to establish consensus on the integrity and transparency of the processes and methodologies adopted by the Foundation.

THE MALTA COMMUNITY CHEST FUND FOUNDATION
PURPOSES AND OBJECTS OF THE FOUNDATION

The purpose of the Foundation is to provide financial, material and professional support in Malta and Gozo to:

(i) individuals;

(ii) families and communities;

(iii) voluntary organisations which are enrolled with the Commissioner of Voluntary Organisations; and

(iv) other organisations which satisfy all the criteria as set out by the Foundation from time to time.

This support is provided with the aim of improving the quality of life and care of individuals and society in general, and this without any form of discrimination on the basis of social class, gender identity, ethnicity, age, ability, health, status or religion, in the case of individuals and families, and size, membership or public benefit purposes, in the case of organisations.

The Foundation may provide the support described even overseas when necessary and appropriate.

The purposes and/or objectives of the Foundation shall be achieved by ensuring the effective and transparent application of disbursement of funds raised through fund raising activities, donations, contributions, bequests, endowments and legacies or otherwise, and include the following:

(i) to enhance the support and contributions from any source or sector of Maltese society to social justice, democracy and sustainable development in Malta;

(ii) to strengthen solidarity through civil society development;

(iii) to enable solidarity and social enterprise;

(iv) to advance the education and dignity of underprivileged children, particularly those who, are or have been, in care systems;

(v) to promote international collaboration in research and aid in conformity with the purposes and objects of the Foundation; and

(vi) to carry out such activities as may be ancillary to the above as may be necessary or desirable to achieve the above purposes and objects.

The Foundation shall support organisations which have similar purposes and objects to those of the Foundation as outlined above in serving individuals, families and communities in need.

THE BOARD OF ADMINISTRATORS' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

The Board of Administrators presents its report of The Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation (the "Foundation") for the year ended 31 December 2020.

Principal activities

The Foundation is a philanthropic organisation regulated by the Civil Code under the auspices of the President of Malta with the principal aims as set out in Purposes and Objects of the Foundation section of this Report.

Review of activities for the year

During the year under review, the Foundation reported a surplus of €1,364,371.

Total contributions for the year amounted to €5,533,075 whilst reimbursement from Government amounted to €11,317,319. As at 31 December 2020, total assets exceeded total liabilities by €3,202,667.

The Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation (MCCFF) has a Memoradum of Agreement with the Blockchain Charity Foundation (BCF) where the latter has agreed to make available to MCCFF, charitable support through the remittance of crypto funds. In 2020, a discussion evolved as to how such funds are to be transferred from BCF to MCCFF which ended in a disagreement on certain legal and commercial matters. In view of futile efforts to utilise these funds the MCCFF has on 26 November 2020 commenced legal proceedings against the Blockchain Charity Foundation. Notwithstanding the pending case, MCCFF is continuing the discussions with the BCF in an effort to resolve this dispute in an out of court manner.

Responsibilities of the Administrators

The administration and management of the Foundation is vested in the Board of Administrators, who shall manage the Foundation in accordance with the purposes and objects of the Foundation, and subject to the terms of its Statute and applicable law.

The Board of Administrators shall be responsible for the executive management of the Foundation and shall be responsible for the execution and implementation of the decisions taken by itself and the Supervisory Council. The duties of the members of the Board of Administrators shall inter alia include the proper keeping of books of accounts, record all income and expenditure of the Foundation and other records which properly and fully reflect the operations and transactions of the Foundation.

In terms of the above-mentioned duties, the Foundation publishes a summary of the financial statements namely Income Statement and Balance Sheet, which are in representation of its operations and transactions, a clear financial communication of both collections and assistance distributed in line with the Foundations transparency intentions.

Board members

The members of the Board of Administrators who held office during the year are set out in the Governance of the Foundation section of this Report. The Chairperson of the Supervisory Council appoints the members of the Board of Administrators from time to time.

Auditors

A decision to re-appoint KPMG as auditors of the Foundation will be proposed at the forthcoming Board of Administrators meeting.

Approved by the Board of Administrators on 4th August 2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Marlene Mizzi
Madam Chairman,
Board of Administrators

Mark Mizzi
Chief Financial Officer

MEDICAL UNIT

Medical Assistance

Approved Applications

> 1,555

Different Types of Specialised Chemotherapy

40

Wigs

Wigs Distributed

68

Treatment Abroad Assistance

Approved Applications

112

Air Tickets

50

Accomodation in Number of Nights

660

Disability Assistance

Approved Applicatons

227

SOCIAL ASSISTANCE UNIT

Number of Families

616

Number of Individuals

> 2,500

> = more than

2016

JANUARY - DECEMBER

€ 2,920,849

€ 548,212

€ 3,469,061

2018

JANUARY - DECEMBER

€ 9,181,987

€ 559,118

€9,741,105

2017

JANUARY - DECEMBER

€ 4,989,452

€ 656,649

€5,646,101

2019

JANUARY - DECEMBER

€ 13,692,202

€ 394,290

€ 14,086,492

2020

JANUARY - DECEMBER

€ 13,986,505

€ 211,703

€ 14,198,208

Medical and Special Equipment

Overseas Travel for Medical Treatment

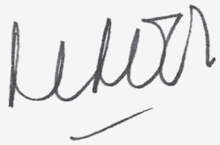
THE MALTA COMMUNITY CHEST FUND FOUNDATION

BALANCE SHEET

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020	2019
	€	€
ASSETS		
Property, plant and equipment	**203,882**	185,282
Intangible asset	**19,202**	42,631
Non-current assets	**223,084**	227,913
Receivables	**3,318,134**	3,741,545
Inventory	**7,707**	6,683
Cash and cash equivalents	**4,513,626**	2,196,456
Current assets	**7,839,467**	5,944,684
Total assets	**8,062,551**	6,172,597
LIABILITIES		
Pledged financial assistance	**701,284**	765,155
Payables	**4,158,600**	3,569,146
Total current liabilities	**4,859,884**	4,334,301
Net assets	**3,202,667**	1,838,296
REPRESENTED BY		
General fund	**2,892,435**	1,553,064
Specific funds	**310,232**	285,232
	3,202,667	1,838,296

The summary financial statements on pages 35 to 36 were approved and authorised for issue by the Board of Administrators on 4th August 2021 and signed on their behalf by:



Marlene Mizzi
Madam Chairman,
Board of Administrators

Mark Mizzi
Chief Financial Officer

INCOME STATEMENT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020	2019
	€	€
Contributions		
Fund raising – Istrina and other activities	**5,213,316**	6,054,513
Donations	**319,759**	435,013
Other net expenses	**(76,610)**	(36,291)
Total contributions	**5,456,465**	6,453,235
Other income – Reimbursement from Government	**11,317,319**	11,044,313
Fund raising activity expenses – Istrina	**(378,451)**	(725,074)
Assistance given to individuals and societies	**(267,684)**	(1,069,896)
Overseas assistance, medical treatment and special equipment given to individuals	**(14,198,208)**	(14,086,492)
Net contributions	**1,929,441**	1,616,086
Administrative expenses	**(565,070)**	(764,404)
Surplus for the year	**1,364,371**	851,682

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Independent Auditors' Report on the Summary Financial Statements

To the Supervisory Council of The Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation

Opinion

The summary financial statements, which comprise the balance sheet as at 31 December 2020 and the income statement for the year then ended are derived from the audited financial statements of The Malta Community Chest Fund Foundation for the year ended 31 December 2020.

In our opinion, the accompanying summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements, in accordance with the criteria established by the administrators for presenting summary financial statements, being a representation of the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundations' operations and transactions, a financial communication of both collections and assistance distributed in line with the Foundation's transparency intentions.

Summary financial statements

The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by the Accountancy Profession (General Accounting Principles for Small and Medium-Sized Entities) Regulations, 2015 and the Schedule accompanying and forming part of those Regulations. Reading the summary financial statements and our report thereon, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements and our report thereon.

The audited financial statements and our report thereon

We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the audited financial statements in our report dated 4 August 2021.

Administrators' responsibility for the summary financial statements

The administrators are responsible for the preparation of the summary financial statements in accordance with the criteria established by the administrators for presenting summary financial statements, being a representation of the Malta Community Chest Fund Foundations' operations and transactions, a financial communication of both collections and assistance distributed in line with the Foundation's transparency intentions.

Auditors' responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on whether the summary financial statements are consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with International Standard on Auditing (ISA) 810 (Revised), *Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements.*

The principal authorised to sign on behalf of KPMG on the engagement resulting in this report is Claude Ellul.

KPMG
Registered Auditors
4 August 2021

ANNUAL REPORT

RAPPORT ANNWALI 2020

THE MALTA COMMUNITY CHEST FUND FOUNDATION