

The Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) Malta Chapter had a remarkable year in 2023, making a significant impact on the communities it serves. The results of its efforts touched the lives of 426 families and 622 children and young people. Throughout the year, RMHC Malta supported 17 NGOs and other entities, engaging 1,549 professionals and volunteers, and contributing 1,067 hours of impactful activities.

RMHC prioritised initiatives centred on education and skill-building, empowering children, young people and families for long-term sustainability and resilience. Notable programmes included an international employability training course for young persons with disability organised by Prisms and held at the RMHC Learning Centre in Qawra, and a programme focused on employability run by Jobsplus and Youth Services Malta, which form part of the Foundation

Making a difference: Reflecting on RMHC's impact in 2023

for Social Welfare Services.

Additionally, emphasis was also placed on initiatives aimed at promoting overall wellbeing. Play and art sessions enabled Ukrainian children to process the trauma of war, while two sets of SibShops were held to empower and support siblings of children with a disability or

chronic illness. The National Parents Society of Persons with Disability (NPSPD) also hosted informative workshops focusing on empowering families and caregivers of children with disabilities. Creative sessions organised by Opening Doors were a resounding success with young adults with disabilities.

Moreover, last year RMHC's annual conference, in collaboration with Aġenzija Sapport and the Department of Disability Studies at the University of Malta, brought together more than 100 professionals from the education, health, social and community sectors to discuss family and person-centre services for children and young people with disability.

RMHC's impactful journey and transformative outcomes were prominently featured at the Academy of Givers' For Impact Event and Fair on 12 March, where corporate executives and members of voluntary organisations wit-



nessed the charity's commitment to social impact and sustainability. As Stephanie Dimech Sant, RMHC Malta's executive director, highlights: "These results serve as a testament to our dedication to making a difference in our community. Through collaborative efforts and the launch of our new Corporate Sponsor packages, we aim to inspire others to join us in our mission of keeping families close."

OHS in the health and elderly-care setting

OHSA organised a specialised Business Breakfast titled OHS in the Health and Elderly-Care Setting, specifically tailored for personnel occupying managerial positions within the hospital, primary health and elderly care sectors. The event aimed to provide valuable insights and foster discussions on crucial occupational health and safety (OHS) princi-

ples pertinent to these sectors.

The participants included representatives from 28 elderly homes, 14 from hospital settings and 10 from primary care facilities, showcasing a diverse representation that highlighted the significance of the topics discussed.

The business breakfast focused on fundamental health and safety principles within the workplace, emphasising their critical significance. Discussions also touched on the legal responsibilities of employers in ensuring the well-being of their employees, as well as the importance of con-

ducting risk assessments to mitigate workplace hazards and protect both employees and organisational assets. Additionally, there was an in-depth analysis of health and safety challenges unique to healthcare professionals, enhancing understanding of sector-specific complexities.

The event provided a dynamic platform for engaging discussions, allowing participants to share best practices and specialised knowledge. It also offered a valuable opportunity for attendees to expand their professional networks and establish connec-



tions within the healthcare sector.

OHSA wishes to extend its sincere gratitude to all participants for their active involvement, which significantly enriched the discussion on workplace safety. Their contributions exemplified a commitment to advancing OHS

practices within their respective organisations. OHSA remains committed to advancing its efforts in promoting a culture of health and safety in the workplace and looks forward to continued collaboration in our shared pursuit of high standards of workplace health and safety.

HSBC collaborates with FES to support children's Performing Arts Project

HSBC Malta is supporting an extra-curricular project within the Klabb 3-16 service, operated by the Foundation for Educational Services (FES). Focusing on empowering children with the skills of self-esteem, confidence and creativity, the project consists of drama sessions delivered by Centrestage Malta.

Last month, the Żabbar A Klabb 3-16 centre celebrated the end of the drama sessions with a fun-filled presentation performed in front of parents and relatives, and in the company of the Minister for Education Dr Clifton Grima, the executive director and head of Business Development at HSBC Malta Michel Cordina and the FES CEO Michael Bondin.

These enriching cultural and educational experiences were successfully implemented also

in the Klabb 3-16 centres of Qormi San Bastjan, Luqa, Żurriq and Fgura. The programme spanned over 10 sessions in each centre and reached a total of 120 children. Feedback from parents was very positive, with remarks that the children benefited greatly as they found themselves immersed in the vibrant world of creativity and expression through the drama sessions.

The collaboration between HSBC Malta and FES seeks to address the prevalent issue of limited cultural capital among children, attributed to restricted time for extracurricular activities due to their parent's late work hours. The programme has been meticulously crafted to not only entertain but also to instil vital skills such as focus, respect for others and the ability to engage in a non-digital

entertainment medium, thereby enhancing their emotional and social development.

This initiative aligns with HSBC's unwavering commitment to catalysing positive societal change through educational endeavours. The bank has consistently demonstrated its dedication to nurture the seeds of education and societal development, believing in the transformative power of knowledge and skills to sculpt the leaders of tomorrow.

Bondin commented: "This initiative provides a practical and enriching platform for our children, ensuring they have access to diverse educational experiences. It's a constructive step towards a future where our youth are well-rounded, both academically and culturally."

Cordina added: "At HSBC, we believe in the boundless poten-



Children and staff at the Żabbar A Klabb 3-16 centre in the company of the Minister for Education Dr Clifton Grima, the executive director and head of Business Development at HSBC Malta Michel Cordina and the FES CEO Michael Bondin

tial that lies within our children. This initiative is a testament to our commitment to unlocking opportunities for them, ensuring they are equipped with a holistic education that transcends traditional boundaries and empowers them to navigate the future with confidence and competence."

Minister Grima commented that "the support provided by the HSBC Malta Foundation fulfils the corporate social responsibility of the bank, in light

of the societal responsibility towards the education of the children, in addition to the initiative such as the Prince's Trust International Achieve programme".

In a world where the arts are increasingly pivotal, this initiative is a step towards embedding cultural literacy within our future generations, ensuring that their journey through life is enriched with cultural understanding and emotional intelligence.