

# NEWS & VIEWS

Down Syndrome Association Malta

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Newspaper Post



# The Association

The Association promotes the interests, developments and inclusion in society of persons with Down Syndrome.

## SERVICES:

- Parental Support
- Aerobics, weekly
- Mass and Tombola, First Friday of month
- Social activities: three times yearly
- Talks and fora
- Christmas Party and Disco
- Book, audiotapes and video library
- “News & Views” magazine: yearly
- Members Newsletter

## MEMBERSHIP:

Full members:  
Annual: €2.50      Life: €25

Associate members:  
Annual: €5.00      Life: €35

## EDITORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS:

Esperjenzi, artikli u ittri mill-qarrejja għal dan il-magazin huma dejjem milqugħha.

Experiences, articles and letters from our readers to this magazine are always welcome.

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Founded 1981

Member of the



Federazzjoni Maltija tal-Organizzazzjonijiet Persuni b'Dizabilità (F.M.O.P.D.)

Associate Member of



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Ħbieb,

F'din is-sena li tiġi fi tmiemha fit-tal-ġranet oħra, I-Unjoni Ewropea ngħaqdet flimkien mal-Istati Membri sabiex tagħmel I-2010 is-Sena Ewropea għall-Ġlieda Kontra l-Faqar u l-Esklużjoni Soċjali.

Madwar 84 miljun Ewropew jgħixu f'riskju ta' faqar, li jfisser li huma jiffaċċjaw nuqqas ta' sigurtà, u jgħaddu mingħajr dak li ħafna persuni jieħdu bħala drawwa.

Li tgħix fil-faqar jista' jirriżulta f'varjetà ta' problemi, minn għax ma jkollux flus biżżejjed biex jixtri l-ikel u l-ħnejjeġ, għal tbatja minn kundizzjonijiet ta' akkomodazzjoni f'postijiet mhux tant deċenti u nuqqas ta' djar. Il-faqar ifisser ukoll li jkollok tfendi b'għażiex ta' stil ta' hajja limitati li jistgħu jwasslu għall-esklużjoni soċjali.

L-oġġetti ewlenin ta' din is-sena kien li tqajjem kuxjenza pubblika dwar dawn il-kwistjonijiet u ggħedded l-impenn politiku tal-UE u l-Istati Membri tagħha kontra l-ġlieda tal-faqar u l-esklużjoni soċjali (informazzjoni meħuda mis-sit tal-Kummissjoni Ewropea).

Il-faqar fl-UE hu mkejjel f'termini ta' dħul, u persuni jintqal li huma ‘f'riskju ta' faqar’, meta d-dħul tagħhom hu ndaqs ma’ jew inqas minn 60% tad-dħul medju tal-pajjiż

tagħhom. Indikaturi oħra bħal-livelli ta' qgħad, kundizzjonijiet ta' akkomodazzjoni, aċċess għal servizzi pubblici, rati ta' tluq bikri mill-iskola u aċċess għal servizzi pubblici bħal kura tas-saħħha, huma wkoll meħuda in konsiderazzjoni.

Il-persuni b'diżabilità huma fost dawk li jew ja qiegħdin jew inkella qiegħdin f'riskju kbir ta' faqar. Hu għalhekk li l-Assocjazzjoni tagħna qiegħda taħdem biex ittejjeb il-ħajja tal-membri tagħna – kemm f'dik li hija edukazzjoni adulta, saħħa, impieg u ħajja indipendent.

Il-ħidma tagħna f'dawn l-areas ilha għaddejja u minkejja li s'issa għadna ma wasalniex fejn nixtiequ, ser inkomplu naħdmu għall-iskop ewljeni tagħna – biex intejbu l-ħajja ta' wiedna. Hadd minna ma jista' u m'għandu joqgħod lura milli jagħti s-sapport tiegħi f'id-din il-kawża ġusta u ħadd m'għandu dritt iwaqqafna milli nagħmlu dan. Uliedna huma l-mimmi t'għajnejna u allura nagħmlu dak kollu possibbli biex jgħixu ħajja li tixraq lid-dinjiet tagħhom.

Nittama li b'dan quddiem għajnejna lkoll, nidħlu għal sena oħra ta' impenn flimkien, biex flimkien nirnexxu għal uliedna.

Nixtiqilkom ilkoll il-Milied u s-sena t-tajba.

# Contents



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mqassma b'xejn.

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Patrick Umanah  
Marthexe Mugliette  
John L. Peel

Views expressed in this magazine may not necessarily  
be those held by the Editor or by the Down Syndrome  
Association.

L-artikli u l-vedut miġjuba f'dan il-magazin mhux  
bilfors juru l-opinjoni tal-Editur jew tal-Għaqda Down  
Syndrome.

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Dear all,

Well, this is all about us and my privilege once more as the editor of the News & Views, 2010. It is my great pleasure that we are able to bring you our 37<sup>th</sup> issue, a wonderful publication which brings readers up to date with what is happening in the world of persons who have Down syndrome.

I would like to invite everyone to be grateful for what you have got. Be grateful, you are here alive where and when things always happen exclusively in support of our Association's ongoing mission. A mission well-spelt out: to promote the interests, developments and inclusive society of persons who have Down syndrome.

Allow me to mention what I would consider to be the main values that could hold the key to our Association's common future. Solidarity is one of them. Although reduced to a cliché by overuse and misuse, solidarity is fundamental for the building of a better Association in order to accomplish its set goals. The value of solidarity teaches us those positive decisions in designing attainable programmes for our children who have Down syndrome, be ultimately about the type of independent life we wish them to lead in the community.



Another value that ought to be brought under the declarations of rights to our children's independent living after the age bracket 16+ appears to me to be "the principle of the common good, to which every aspect of social life must be related, if it is to attain its fullest meaning, stems from the dignity, unity and equality of all people".

In relations to our Association's statute, the common good indicates the sum total of social conditions which allow people who have Down syndrome to reach their fulfilment more fully and more easily. Therefore, a community or Association that wishes and intends to remain at the service of the human being at every level is a community or Association that has the common good - the good of all people and of the whole person.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the members of our Association for their support given to the committee when sought and special thank you to Mr. John Peel (Hon. President) who is always there to help out before the publication.

I wish each and every one of you a very happy festive season.

**Mr. Patrick Umanah**  
M.A, B.ED (HONS), B.A (HONS), B.A.

# Il-Jum Dinji tad-Down Syndrome

# Proset Yowanna!!!

Għall-ħames sena kemm ilu jiġi cċelebrat dan il-jum, l-Assocjazzjoni Down Syndrome fakkret din il-ġurnata bħalma għamlu pajjiżi oħra mad-dinja kollha.

Din is-sena b'differenza! L-għotja sabiha f'dan il-jum importanti għalina tal-inkwattru meraviljuż “Hallu t-Tfal Kollha Jigu Għandi”, ser thalli marka fil-kalendarju tagħna. Il-pittur famuż Għawdexi l-Kavallier Paul Camilleri Cauchi għamel kapulavur b'messaġġ – Hallu t-Tfal Kollha Jigu Għandi.

Din it-tpingija tas-Sagra Familja tilqa' lit-tfal *Down syndrome* issaħħar lil min jaraha, tqawwi l-qlub tal-ġenituri u tferraħ u tagħmel kburin lil kull min għandu *Down syndrome*.

Din l-għotja ġeneruża tas-Sur Camilleri Cauchi hija ferm apprezzata minna lkoll – Kumitat u membri tal-Assocjazzjoni Down Syndrome. Huwa wkoll apprezzat il-ġest sabiħ tal-Gozo Arts li ġentilment poġġew din it-tpingija għal qalbna ħafna ġo nkawtru addatt u xieraq u dan ukoll bħala donazzjoni. Grazzi mill-qalb.



Mons. Laurence Gatt u I-Kav. Paul Camilleri Cauchi waqt it-tberik tal-pittura ‘Hallu t-Tfal Kollha Jigu Għandi’.



L-Onor. Pace Decelis u s-Sinjuri Hignett, il-President u Mrs. Mugliette, mistednin oħra, u membri waqt il-quddiesha li saret bħala tikfira tal-hames sena tal-Jum Dinji tad-Down Syndrome.

Yowanna Vassallo, tfajla li tisraq il-qlub bit-bissima tagħha. Tfajla ta' 22 sena, attiva u mimlija entużjażmu.

Yowanna tagħmel parti mill-iSpecial Olympics Malta – l-ikbar organizzazzjoni mondjali li tagħti taħrif sportiv kontinwu għal sports olimpiku. Yowanna ilha għal dawn l-ahħar 6 snin titharreg f'diversi dixxiplini sportivi fl-abilità tagħha.

Kienet l-ewwel darba għal Yowanna f'2006 li ħadet sehem f'Ruma fid-dixxiplina tal-boċċi waqt kompetizzjoni kbira tal-Ewropa. Yowanna wriet abilità b'eċċellenza għal din il-logħba. Il-kompetizzjoni ta' Ruma kien logħob organizzat għall-Ewropa fejn 58 pajiż kienu qiegħdin jieħdu sehem fi. F'din il-kompetizzjoni, Yowanna spicċat fit-tieni post fejn irnexxielha tirbaħ il-midalja tal-fidda fil-kategorija tagħha. Dan kien mhux biss unur għal Yowanna imma anki għall-iSports Malti u aktar u aktar għas-sapport kbir minn naha tal-ġenituri tagħha.

Is-sena ta' wara, Yowanna marret tirrapreżenta lil Malta fiċ-Ċina għall-akbar avvenimenti sportivi tas-sena 2007. Bħala parti mid-delegazzjoni Maltija, Yowanna reġgħet rebħet għal darba oħra, din id-darba fost 190 pajiż u eluf ta' atleti.

“*Trid tkun hemm u tesperjenza dak li jkun qed jiġi*” qalet Yolanda, omm Yowanna. “*Jien kburija li binti tagħmel parti mill-iSpecial Olympics. Binti kienet waħda minn fost 8000 atleta mid-dinja kollha li kienu gewwa ċ-Ċina.*”

Yowanna kompliet bis-suċċessi tagħha f'diversi kompetizzjonijiet, attendiet regolari għat-taħrif tagħha u dejjem attenta sabiex titgħallem. Ftit tax-xhur ilu Yowanna marret ma grupp ta' atleti oħra f'Isle of Man fejn Malta kienet mistiedna tieħu sehem għall-anniversarju ta' 25 sena. Fost Malta kien hemm pajjiżi oħra mistiedna bħall-Irlanda, Gran Brittanja, Awstrija u Gibiltà flimkien ma' 200 atleta oħra mill-Isle of Man.

Għal darba oħra Yowanna kienet f'forma inkredibli u kull logħba bdiet tagħti l-aqwa tagħha sakemm rebħet il-midalja tad-deheb fil-finali kontra l-atleta Irlandiż. Għal darba oħra Yowanna għamlet success mistħoq. “*Brava Yowanna!!*”

Huwa ovju li Yowanna kienet mħarrja minn kowċiż dedikati u li jaġħtu sehemhom bl-akbar imħabba. Hi tirringrazza lil Odette Chetcuti u lil Maria Zammit, iż-żewġ kowċiż li jgħallmuha kif għandha tilgħab il-logħba tal-boċċi u li jseguwa tliet darbiet fil-ġimgħha. Tirringrazza wkoll lis-sinjura Anna Calleja, Direttur Nazzjonali tal-iSpecial Olympics għal kull opportunità u attivitajiet oħra.

Yowanna bħalissa qiegħda thares sabiex tikwalifika għal-logħob tad-dinja li ser isir ġewwa Ateni. Hi tixtieq lil kull persuna bħalha thares lejha u tagħmel bħalha.

Fl-ahħar u mhux l-inqas Yowanna tgħid grazzi kbira u tagħti bewsa lil ommha Yolanda, lil missierha Vince u lil oħtha Vanessa li dejjem kienet waħda minn fost 8000 atleta mid-dinja kollha ta' l-iSpecial Olympics.



# Dental Care in Children and Adults with Heart Problems and Down Syndrome

## Why is Dental Care Important?

Everyone has bacteria in their mouth which can enter the bloodstream in small numbers, but with dental disease the number of bacteria can increase and in someone with a heart defect they can cause an infection inside the heart (Endocarditis) which is a rare but life-threatening condition. Anyone who has a congenital heart defect (a hole, abnormal valve or blood vessel) is more at risk of getting Endocarditis if they have tooth decay or gum inflation, so good dental care should be a priority. Even those who have had corrective surgery may be at risk so it is important to listen to any advice given by the cardiologist, particularly in relation to the use of antibiotic cover for dental treatments.

## How can endocarditis be prevented?

Endocarditis can be prevented by keeping a clean healthy mouth and taking action to prevent tooth decay as well as taking precautions such as taking antibiotics prior to some types of dental and medical treatments if the type of heart defect is considered to increase the risk of it occurring.

## Antibiotic Cover

It is generally recommended that those at increased risk for Endocarditis should be given antibiotic cover before the following procedures are carried out:

- Extractions
- Fillings that touch the gum margin
- Gum Surgery
- Scale and Polish

Nerve treatment of baby teeth (root canal therapy), should not be undertaken, if the decay affects the nerve, then the tooth should be taken out. However, it is sometimes acceptable in permanent

teeth if carried out in a single visit under antibiotic cover, but if there is any risk of infection, the tooth should be taken out.

When baby teeth become loose and fall out naturally there is no need for antibiotics.

## Accidents involving the mouth

It is not uncommon for children to have accidents which result in minor injuries to the mouth and teeth which will not require any treatment. However, it is always best to check with your dentist or General Practitioner (GP) about any such injury, even if you think treatment is not required, as antibiotic cover may be recommended.

## Preventing tooth decay

- Diet is an important factor in preventing tooth decay and it is a good idea to encourage a healthy and balanced diet with reduced sugars for an early age. When sugar is eaten, bacteria in the mouth turn it into acid and if this acid is present in the mouth for long periods it breaks down the tooth enamel and decay begins. It is best to avoid sweets and sugary foods between meals, but if they are given it is preferable if it is straight after a meal and then if possible brushes the teeth with fluoride toothpaste to help neutralize the acid.

- Fluoride is absorbed into the enamel of the teeth helping strengthen them. It can be given as toothpaste, tablets, drops, mouthwash, gel or in the water (you may need to ask your dentist if the water in your area is fluoridated). As the adult teeth are already forming long before eruption, some dentists may recommend fluoride drops from as early as 6 months of age.

- Fissure sealants are plastic coatings which can be used by the dentist to coat

the biting surfaces of the permanent molars, thus blocking the deep fissures where decay often starts and making the teeth easier to clean. It is important that fissure sealants are applied as soon as the permanent molars erupt before any decay can begin.

- Oral hygiene plays an important part in preventing decay and gum disease. Regular brushing prevents plaque sticking to the teeth allowing bacteria to convert sugars in to the acid which attacks the enamel. Plaque also irritates the gums making them red and swollen which in turn often cause bleeding which can allow bacteria into the blood stream. To improve brushing, provide better control over the toothbrush by using disclosing tablets. Remember that teeth have three surface to clean - the back, front and biting surface - and the gums should also be brushed. Brushing after meals and at bedtime is important to limit the time plaque is present on the teeth - bedtime obviously being the MOST important.
- Prevention is better than treatment so regular dental "check-ups" should be started from an early age.

## Dental development in children with Down syndrome

Children who have Down syndrome may have delayed development of the teeth and jaw with the first (baby) teeth not appearing until the age of two and it may take another two to three years for them all to be present. Similarly the eruption of the permanent (adult) teeth may be delayed with baby teeth still being present at fourteen years; teeth may also present in an unusual order. It is very common for some of the baby and adult teeth to be missing, and for teeth to be smaller than normal.

## Problems associated with dental treatment in people who have Down syndrome

There are a variety of problems that need consideration by the dentist when treating someone who has Down syndrome:

- People who have Down syndrome may be less compliant at the dental surgery so visits need to be carefully planned and the dentist and staff need a clear understanding of when level of communication should be used with the patient. More time should be allowed so that each procedure can be fully explained and demonstrated first: many will respond well to the use of rewards. Ideally checkups would begin at an early age so as to promote familiarity with the surroundings and procedures.
- Often the tongue appears to protrude from the mouth, usually due to the mouth being smaller than normal and less able to accommodate it. This can make it more difficult to clean the teeth because the tongue gets in the way. It can also make treatment more awkward for the dentist.
- Poor manual dexterity may make cleaning and flossing difficult for people who have Down syndrome - electric toothbrushes and floss holders may assist.
- Reduced muscle tone in the mouth may result in less efficient chewing with more food being left on the teeth after eating.
- A small percentage of people with Down Syndrome will have Atlanto-axial Instability (an increase in mobility between the C1 and C2 cervical vertebrae) which is diagnosed by x-ray.

Careful positioning in the dental chair is required for these patients to avoid any potential damage to the spinal cord.

- Small nasal passages may cause mouth breathing which results in a dry mouth and fissuring of the tongue and lips.

*Article with thanks to Downs Heart Group*

This can be a contributory factor for bad breath (halitosis), so patients should be advised to brush their tongue at the same time as their teeth.

## Is-sabiħ li tgħix ma' persuna bi bżonnijiet differenti

Fl-evanġelju ta' San Luqa Kristu jghid lil min stiednu: "meta tagħmel ikla, stieden il-foqra, il-magħtubin, iz-zopop u l-ghomja, u hieni int" (Lq 14: 14). Dan il-kliem juri li kulhadd huwa mistieden biex ikun parti mill-familja ta' Kristu. Li tkun familia tfisser li tkun kapaċi tgħix ma' ħutek u tkun ta' rapport għal xulxin kemm f'mumenti sbieħ u iktar u iktar f'mumenti daqsxejn diffici.

Jista' jkun li certa nies fis-soċjetà mhux dejjem isibuha faċċi li jibnu relazzjonijiet ma' persuni bi bżonnijiet differenti. Dan jista' jkun minhabba xi ideat ħżiena li jkollhom jew anke biżgħat ta' kif għandhom iġib ruħhom magħhom. Nammetti li jien stess, qabel bdejt nagħmilha u sirt naf b'mod personali persuni bi bżonnijiet differenti, ukoll kelli certa biżgħa li minix kapaċi nirrelata magħhom.

Il-bambin però għoġbu jaġħtini l-għażżeja li nsir ħabiba ta' nies b'diversi diżabilitajiet kemm fiziċċi u anke intelletwali. Personalment sibt li relazzjonijiet ma' dawn in-nies għenuni niżviluppa aktar il-karattru tiegħi, saħansitra b'mod spiritwali. Għenuni biex napprezza kemm hu sabiħ li tkun sempliċi fil-ħajja u kemm hu bil-wisq

isbah li tgħid il-verità. Bħalissa qed tiġini f'mohħi ħabiba Down syndrome. Magħha nħossni li nista' nkun jien min jien b'mod shiħ għax dejjem inkun naf fejn qeqħda magħha. Hija relazzjoni sempliċi għall-aħħar fejn l-ebda parti ma trid tagħmel sforz biex tingħoġib mill-parti l-oħra għax it-tnejn li aħna naċċettaw lil xulxin aħna kif aħna bil-limitazzjonijiet kollha tagħna. Din it-tfajla fil-fatt tgħallimni kif għandi ngib ruħi mal-oħrajn jekk irrid inkun tassew kuntenta.

Tul is-snin l-università kellna ħafna lezzjonijiet fuq kif tirrelata ma' persuni bi bżonnijiet differenti, u iktar importanti minn hekk kellna korsijet fejn dawn il-persuni qasmu l-esperjenzi tagħhom magħna. Inħoss li dan kompla għeni biex nifforma opinjoni iktar pozittiva u nneħħi certi biżgħat bla bażi li kelli fil-passat.

Importanti li nżommu f'moħħna li fid-din jaġħid hadd m'h u aħjar minn hadd. Però jekk nidraw ngħixu flimkien minkejja d-differenzi tagħna ikoll nistgħu nagħmlu d-din jaġid post aħjar għal xulxin.

Roberta Farrugia



*Is-Sur Noel Muscat jaġħti d-donazzjoni miġbura mir-Running the Marathon for Charity lill-President Ms Martheše Mugliette fil-preżenza tat-Teżorier is-Sur Patrick Umanah.*

Lill-Kav. Paul Camilleri Cauchi għall-pittura sabiħa "Hallu lit-Tfal Kollha Jigu Għandi" li għoġbu johloq u jaġħiha donazzjoni lill-Għaqda.

Lill-Kumpanija De la Rue għall-ġhotja ġeneruza li taw lill-Assocjazzjoni tagħna.

Lis-Sinjuri Mary Runza u Jessica Curmi u lill-grupp kollu għall-ġħajnuna u s-sopport kontinwu tagħhom. Fiż-żmien tal-Milied dawn ġentilment hadu ħsieb jagħmlu *fundraising* għall-Assocjazzjoni tagħna.

Lit-Times of Malta li tirriklama b'xejn l-Assocjazzjoni tagħna.

Lill-Middlesea Valletta Life Assurance Company Ltd li anke din is-sena kompliet tagħtinna l-appoġġ permezz ta' ħlas ta' polza tal-assigurazzjoni tagħna.

Lill-Commanderjay Music Entertainment għas-servizz li dejjem jaġħtuna kull u meta jkollna bżonn mingħajr ħlas.

Lis-Sinjuri Helen Mifsud, Carmen Umanah u Esther Gauci, membri tagħna, li hietu l-istess purtieri.

Lis-Sinjuri Franco u Joseph Borg tal-Gozo Arts għall-frame li fih tpoġġiet il-pittura u li huma tawh bħala donazzjoni lill-Għaqda.

Lill-KMPG li ta' kull sena jivverifikaw il-kotba u l-kontijiet finanzjarji.

Lill-Association of International Women in Malta (qabel kienu jisseqju AIWA) li taw kontinwu tagħhom. Fiż-żmien tal-Milied dawn ġentilment hadu ħsieb jagħmlu *fundraising* għall-Assocjazzjoni tagħna.

Lill-Kumitat Qlub Ĝeneruži fi ħdan il-Kumpanija Trelleborg Sealing Solutions Malta għall-ġhotja finanzjarja tagħhom

Lill-Commanderjay Music Entertainment għas-servizz li dejjem jaġħtuna kull u meta jkollna bżonn mingħajr ħlas.

Lis-Sur Stanley Mifsud, membru tagħna, li tana l-purtieri tal-Board Room.

Lil Ms Sharon Spiteri li kull ħmistax toffri ħin minn tagħha biex tagħti lezzjonijiet tal-Arts & Crafts lill-membri tagħna.

# Mill-Kalendorju tal-Assocjazzjoni



Mons. Lawrence Gatt iqaddes il-quddiesa tat-tifkira tal-'Jum Dinji tad-Down Syndrome'



Is-Sur Pio Fenech, PRO, jippreżenta plakka ta' tifkira lill-Kav. Paul Camilleri Cauchi bħala ringrażzjament tal-ġest sabiħ li huwa għamel mal-Assocjazzjoni Down Syndrome – l-ghotja tal-pittura sabiħa 'Hallu t-Tfal Kollha Jigu Ghandi'



Membri u mistiedna jipparteċipaw u jgawdu l-briju li kien hemm waqt l-ikla tal-Milied 2009 li saret fi-Lukanda Canifor, Buġibba.



Marthexe Mugliette (President) u Pio Fenech (PRO) flimkien mal-grupp tal-membri li ħadu sehem fil-harġa bit-train li saret f'Novembru 2009 fir-Rabat.



Helen Mifsud (committee), Sylvana Cassar, Ludgarda Cassar, Maria Mifsud, Gayle Mugliette (from left side at back), Marthexe Mugliette (President), Pio Fenech (PRO), Aaron Fenech li hadu sehem fil-Fun Run mtelligha mill-Community Chest Fund fis-6 ta' Dicembru, 2009.



World Syndrome Day 21/2/2009



Membri u mistiedna jieħdu gost flimkien waqt id-disco tal-Milied 2009 li sar fis-sala ta' taħt il-Knisja ta' Santa Rita, il-Belt Valletta.

# Sodisfazzjon

Minn mindu kont žgħira kelli simpatija kbira lejn persuni bid-Down syndrome. Avviċinajt lil Ms Marthese Mugliette u lil Mr Pio Fenech biex nibda nagħti *craft lessons* lill-membri tal-Għaqda. Ma stajtx inżomm bil-ferħ meta sirt naf li aċċettaw il-proposta tiegħi.

Bdejna bil-crafts *lessons* minn Ottubru tal-2009. Dawn isiru kull ħmistax, kull nhar ta' Ġimgħa. Ma kinitx diffiċċi nintegħ mal-istudenti għax huma dħulin immens. L-istudenti jieħdu ħafna gost ipittru u jwaħħlu l-karti bil-glue. Nagħmlu diversi tipi ta' *crafts* bħal finger painting, face masks, fjuri mill-kartun tal-bajd, cards, plasticine, crafts mill-paper plates. Dawn il-lezzjonijiet iservu wkoll biex jingħaqdu l-ġenituri u jiddiskut u l-opportunitajiet u problemi li jiiltaqgħu magħhom minħabba nuqqasijiet ta' opportunitajiet għal uliedhom. Waqt il-

lezzjonijiet inħossni li nkunu qisna familia waħda fejn kulħadd qed jiġbed ħabel wieħed biex intejbu l-ħajja tal-persuni bid-Down syndrome.

Meta nara l-istudenti ħerġin bit-tbissima fuq wiċċhom u meta nerġa' narahom għal-lezzjonijiet ta' wara, inħoss sodisfazzjon kbir għax jidhru li jkunu qeqħdin jieħdu gost bil-lezzjonijiet.

**Ms Sharon Spiteri**



## Down Syndrome International announces World Down Syndrome Day Awards 2010

Tue, 2010-11-23

Down Syndrome International  
London, UK

Down Syndrome International (DSi) is delighted to belatedly announce the recipients of World Down Syndrome Day Awards for 2010 and we apologise for the considerable delay.

2010 is the first year of the World Down Syndrome Day Awards, which are presented to individuals or organisations whose voluntary, professional or scientific activities have strengthened and enriched the lives of people with Down syndrome or contributed to scientific advancement related to Down syndrome.

This year's recipients are as follows:

- **Dr Dennis McGuire and Dr Brian Chicoine (USA)**

Awarded: World Down Syndrome Day Scientific Awards  
Nominated by: Down Syndrome International

Dennis McGuire and Brian Chicoine are the directors of the Adult Down Syndrome Center of Lutheran General Hospital, Illinois, USA, and are co-authors of the widely acclaimed publication "Mental Wellness in Adults with Down Syndrome" (Woodbine House Inc. 2006).

Dr McGuire, a trained social worker, and Dr Chicoine, a physician, have led the Center since its opening in 1992, supported by the National Association for Down Syndrome (NADS), Advocate Medical Group and Advocate Lutheran

Hospital. Today the Center is open full time and to date has served over 3,000 patients aged 12 to 83, offering primary healthcare, annual evaluations and regular follow-ups for specific medical and psychological issues. Patients visit the Center from across the US and their approach aims to address all the issues that promote physical and mental health in adults with Down syndrome.

- **Denisa Stříhavková (Czech Republic)**

Awarded: World Down Syndrome Day Voluntary Award  
Nominated by: DownSyndrome CZ, Czech Republic

A 29 year old woman with Down syndrome, Denisa Stříhavková is the author of several non-fictional and fictional books and short stories published in the Czech Republic and Europe, including one which has been translated into English. Denisa is very well known to the public in her home country, and is an outstanding advocate for people with Down syndrome.

- **Jiří Šedý (Czech Republic)**

Awarded: World Down Syndrome Day Voluntary Award  
Nominated by: DownSyndrome CZ, Czech Republic

A young man with Down syndrome, Jiří Šedý is the author of several books and is a well known artist in the Czech Republic. Jiří also teaches painting techniques to people with Down syndrome and is an outstanding role model and advocate for people with Down syndrome.

### • **Jaroslaw Pieniak (Poland)**

Awarded: World Down Syndrome Day  
Voluntary Award  
Nominated by: European Down Syndrome Association (EDSA)

Jaroslaw Pieniak is a parent, Co-Founder of Zespoldowna.info, and someone who has done a substantial amount of work in his home town of Wroclaw and throughout Poland to improve the lives of people with Down syndrome, in a relatively short time.

His achievements since 2006, when his son Janwasborn, include organising workshops and seminars for parents, therapists and teachers, opening new kindergartens for children with Down syndrome, convincing authorities to accept children with Down syndrome into mainstream kindergartens, contacting parents and organisations throughout Poland, Europe and the world, organising an international conference in 2008, which was the first conference of its kind in Poland, and considerable efforts to raise awareness of Down syndrome through political lobbying and awareness campaigns on TV, radio and other media.

All of this has been achieved in a country where little financial support has been available from government authorities, and negative attitudes have existed towards children and adults with disabilities.

### • **Laufclub 21 (Germany)**

Awarded: World Down Syndrome Day  
Voluntary Award  
Nominated by: European Down Syndrome Association (EDSA)

Laufclub 21 is an inclusive running and sports club for adults with Down syndrome, founded in 2007 and run by Anita Kinle in Fürth, Germany. Anita and her husband were originally inspired by UK runner and DSi Ambassador Simon Beresford, who was the first person with Down syndrome to run the London Marathon.

Laufclub 21 started with 16 athletes and today have trained 30 marathon runners. They offer regular training at many locations in Germany, led by experienced coaches, with training methods designed according to the competency of the individual athletes. They have sprinters, middle distance runners and endurance athletes and can accommodate anyone who is 16 years or older.

They have not only brought a new perspective and self-confidence to a group of young adults with Down syndrome, they have also dramatically changed the popular image of people with Down syndrome in Germany and the achievements of the "marathonis" has attracted substantial media attention.

On World Down Syndrome Day in 2010, Laufclub 21 took on an exceptional challenge when they successfully ran an "ultra" marathon in relay teams along the 156 kilometre (97 mile) boundary of the Berlin Wall. This represented a remarkable achievement and attracted interest and support from the general public in Germany.

### • **Peetje Engels (Netherlands)**

Awarded: World Down Syndrome Day  
Voluntary Award  
Nominated by: DownSyndrome CZ, Czech Republic

A young woman with Down syndrome, who drives her own special car among other achievements.

### • **Pablo Pineda (Spain)**

Awarded: World Down Syndrome Day  
Voluntary Award  
Nominated by: DownSyndrome CZ, Czech Republic

Pablo Pineda is a 35 year old teacher and actor who has Down syndrome. Pablo holds a diploma in teaching and a degree in Educational Psychology, and was the first recorded person with Down syndrome in Europe to obtain a university degree.

Pablo recently played the lead role in the internationally acclaimed film "Yo Tambien", inspired by his life, in which he plays a university graduate with Down syndrome who falls in love with a colleague. Pablo was awarded the Silver Shell at the 2009 San Sebastián Film Festival for his performance.

Pablo's passion though is teaching and this is where he sees his career developing in the future.

### • **Yta Strikwerda (Netherlands)**

Awarded: World Down Syndrome Day  
Voluntary Award  
Nominated by: European Down Syndrome Association (EDSA)

Yta Strikwerda is a well known lady from the Netherlands who has Down syndrome. Yta works for an organisation which promotes the self-advocacy of individuals with developmental disabilities.

Being already well known in her field of work, Yta became a national hero when she appeared on television and put a famous and popular Dutch TV personality in his place, telling him how she wanted him to behave while she was appearing as a guest on his show! Yta's appearance became the Dutch TV moment of the year in 2008, and she appeared on the show again at the end of 2009.

Many people in The Netherlands were impressed by Yta's determination and she has contributed substantially to raising awareness of Down syndrome in her country.

*DSi would like to express our admiration for the remarkable achievements of the Award recipients, who have done so much and continue to help improve the lives of people with Down syndrome and raise awareness of the condition in their own countries and internationally. We are delighted to present these Awards and hope to support their work in any way we can into the future.*

*DSi will be seeking nominations for World Down Syndrome Day Awards 2011 shortly and will announce the recipients of Awards on World Down Syndrome Day - 21 March 2011.*

L-abilitajiet u l-potenzjal tal-persuni Down syndrome tradizzjonalment kienu stmati anqas milli ħaqqhom (*underestimated*). Sa żmien riċenti, kien assumat li, minn barra xi eċċeżzjonijiet, persuni Down syndrome ma kinux kapaċi jitgħallmu ħafna u li kienu destinati biex jgħixu ħajja dipendenti fuq ħaddieħor.

B'sodisfazzjon kbir l-affarijiet inbiddlu. Għat-tfal Down syndrome li jitwieldu illum, iktar milli nitkellmu dwar il-limitazzjonijiet tagħhom, illum nirreferu għall-'potenzjal' u kif nistgħu nissapportjawhom biex jiġi l-potenzjal tagħhom. Madankollu l-potenzjal ma nistgħux inkejlu. Id-dijanjosi tal-kundizzjoni Down syndrome ma tiddeterminax l-iżvilupp jew il-potenzjal ta' dak li jkun.

Persuni Down syndrome għandhom abilitajiet u kapaċitajiet differenti bħall-persuni l-oħra li m'għandhom din il-kundizzjoni. L-anqas ukoll ma nistgħu nippjanaw il-futur tal-persuni Down syndrome tal-lum ibbażata fuq il-ġenerazzjoni ta' qabel u dan għaliex dik il-ġenerazzjoni tista' ma kienetx offruta l-istess opportunitajiet edukattivi u soċċiali, jew inkella c-ċans li turi x'kapaċi tagħmel.

### Għal xiex nistgħu nimmiraw?

Ħafna ġenituri huma sempliċiment kuntenti li jħallu lil uliedhom joħorġu waħedhom il-potenzjal tagħhom, però

aħna nidħru li m'aħniex kapaċi nħallu li jseħħ dan ma' wliedna li għandhom diżabilità.

Ħafna ġenituri jesperjenzaw ansjetà kbira wara li jsiru jafu li t-tarbijs tagħhom għandha Down syndrome, u dan għaliex jippruvaw jaħsbu dwar x'ser tkun kapaċi tagħmel it-tarbijs tagħhom. "Ser tkun kapaċi... ?" hija l-ewwel mistoqsija komuni li jistaqsu l-ġenituri – jekk pubblikament jew fil-privat, bejniethom u ma' tal-familja, u l-istess mistoqsijiet jibqgħu jiġi mqajjma fl-istadji kollha tal-ħajja tal-individwu.

M'hemmx mappa (*blueprint*) dwar kif jintlaħaq il-potenzjal, l-anqas indikaturi standard ta' kif intlaħaq, l-anqas indikazzjonijiet ovvji tal-limitazzjonijiet. Allura l-ġenituri dejjem jimxu fuq ħabel strett bejn l-aspettattivi u x-xewqat għal uliedhom u jridu jkunu realistiċi quddiem in-nuqqas intelletwali.

Kif nistgħu nissaportjaw lill-familjari tagħna li għandhom Down syndrome biex ikunu l-aħjar li jistgħu, mingħajr ma noħolquhom u nimponulhom stennijiet mhux realistiċi:

1. Ara l-persuna qabel id-diżabilità
2. Żomm għajnejk fuq l-iskop ta' 'ħajja ordinarja'.

**Sharon Ford**  
*Down syndrome, Victoria*

*Il-Kumitat tal-Assocjazzjoni Down Syndrome  
jawgura l-Milied u s-Sena t-Tajba lill-membri kollha,  
lill-ħibieb kollha tal-Assocjazzjoni  
u lill-benefatturi kollha tagħna.*

Din il-laqqha din is-sena sejra sservi għal tliet għanġiet. Barra li nsiru nafu il-ħidma li saret is-sena li għaddiet u l-qagħda finanzjarja tal-Għaqda, ikollna l-opportunità li nsemmgħu leħinna u forsi jkollkom l-opportunità li tressqu s-suġġerimenti tagħkom. Din-sena ukoll jerġa' jmiss li nivvutaw għall-membri godda fil-Kumitat biex immexxu l-Għaqda minħabba li terminu tal-Kumitat prezenti sejjer jiskadi f'April. Kull sentejn l-Għaqda trid tgħaddi minn process biex jitla' Kumitat ġdid li din s-sena jrid imexxi l-Għaqda għall-ġħeluq it-tletin sena minn mindu twaqqfet.

Biex inżommu l-Għaqda ħajja hemm bżonn l-impenn tal-membri kollha. Għalhekk kull sena nagħmlu appell lill-membri kollha biex nuru aktar interess fl-ġħaqda, nippartecipaw aktar fi ħdanha u fl-okkażjonijiet li jkollna, biex hekk nagħtu kuraġġ akbar u rieda soda lill-Kumitat biex ikompli bil-ħidma tiegħi ħalli l-Għaqda tkompli timxi 'l-quddiem. L-attendenza tagħkom tkun qed twassal messaġġ ta' rapport u kuraġġ biex inkomplu mmexxu l-bżonnijiet ta' wliedna 'l-quddiem.

Nagħmlu appell lill-membri kollha biex nuru aktar interess fl-ġħaqda, nippartecipaw aktar fi ħdanha u fl-okkażjonijiet li jkollna, biex hekk nagħtu kuraġġ akbar u rieda soda lill-Kumitat biex ikompli bil-ħidma tiegħi ħalli l-Għaqda tkompli timxi 'l-quddiem. L-attendenza tagħkom tkun qed twassal messaġġ ta' rapport u kuraġġ biex inkomplu mmexxu l-bżonnijiet ta' wliedna 'l-quddiem.

Bhalissa għaddejji minn process li nirranġaw l-informazzjoni tal-membri tagħna kemm minħabba l-bdil fl-Istatut li kellna fl-ahħar Laqgħa Ĝeneral, kif ukoll minħabba l-fatt li għandna informazzjoni ħażina u jew nieqsa. Għaldaqstant il-membri kollha qed jiġi mitluba jibgħatu mill-ġdid id-dettalji tagħhom u jekk huwa possibbi anki l-indirizz tal-email. L-idea hija biex inkunu nistgħu nikkomunikaw mal-membri kollha b'inqas ostakli u b'iżjed efficjenza, għax preżentament qed nirċievu

lura mill-posta diversi ċirkolarijiet mibghuta mill-Ġħaqda lill-membri għħax l-indirizz ma kienux tajbin. Informazzjoni korreċta fir-registri tagħna hija ta' importanza kbira biex ma jkollniex ħela ta' fondi, u aktar importanti turi serjetà u organizzazzjoni fit-tmexxija tal-Ġħaqda. Ejew niġbdu ħabel wieħed f'daqqa ħalli nimxu aktar 'il quddiem kif cert li kulhadd jaqbel huma fl-interess ta' kulħadd.

Wieħed irid jagħti ġieħ l-dawk kollha li ħadmu u kkonkludew l-arranġamenti li damu għaddejji xhur biex fl-ahħar l-Għaqda terġa' jkollha s-site fuq l-internet taħdem. Li l-Għaqda reggħet qiegħda fuq il-Web hija ta' certu importanza minħabba kuntatti u informazzjoni li tista' tiġi cċirkolata mill-Ġħaqda fuq l-Għaqda u fuq affarijet oħra li jikkonċernaw il-membri tagħna.

### Attivitajiet

L-Ġħaqda organizzat diversi attivitajiet li dejjem intlaqqi tajjeb mill-membri u minn min jattendi.

Fit-24 ta' Mejju 2009 ġiet organizzata l-ħarġa tas-sena. Quddiesa cċelebrata apposta għalina fil-Kappella ta' Selmun. Wara ikla buffet fil-Lukanda Selmun Palace. Bhas-soltu wara l-ikla, għawma fil-pool jew logħob tat-tombla. U biex nispicċċaw, it-te. Bhas-soltu persuni li għandhom Down syndrome ħallsu prezz issussidjat.

Bhal ma' jsir kull meta Malta jkollha President ġdid, il-Kumitat talab L-Eċċ tiegħi l-President Dr. George Abela biex ikollu l-pjaċir ikun il-Patrun tal-Ġħaqda. L-Eċċ tiegħi aċċetta u aċċetta wkoll jiltaqa' mal-Kumitat kollu u l-familji tagħhom bħala rappreżentanti tal-membri fil-Palazz il-Belt. Fil-5 ta' Ġunju 2009, waqt il-laqqha l-ġħaqda ressjet xi l-menti li kienu qed jolqtu ħażin lill-persuni Down syndrome. L-Eċċ tiegħi ġie mogħti wkoll

ittra fuq l-aspirazzjonijiet personali ta' persuni bid-Down syndrome.

Attività li kellha warajha ħafna xogħol ta' preparamenti, diskussjonijiet u hidma intensiva kien il-proġett tas-sajf mal-Girl Guides għaż-żgħażaq 'One Youth for All'. Dan il-proġett seta' jitwettaq għax kien hemm ħafna kollaborazzjoni tat-tfal li ġadu sehem, il-ġenituri, il-protagonisti tal-proġett, u fondi Ewropej mill-European Union Programmes Agency (EUPA) li stajna nibbenifikaw minnhom.

Il-ġurnata tas-sajf fejn immoru I-iSplash & Fun Park biex niddevertu kienet succcess, wara li s-sena ta' qabel kellha tiġi mħassra minħabba nuqqas ta' konkorrenza jew interess.

Il-Ħadd 22 ta' Novembru ġiet organizzata ħarġa. Il-ħarġa kienet tikkonsisti minn vjaġġ bil-ferrovija fir-Rabat li ġadet lill-partecipanti madwar ir-Rabat u I-iMtarfa. Wara kien hemm quddiesa u mixja żgħira sal-istazzjon tal-ferrovija, fejn kulħadd kiel I-ikel li kien ġab miegħu u wara kien hemm żmien ta' riċċassament u logħob.

L-Ğhaqda, bħal ħafna Għaqdiet u entitajiet oħra, ġadet sehem fil-Fun Run li ġiet organizzata fis-6 ta' Dicembru 2009 biex jingabru fondi għall-Community Chest Fund. Il-Kumitat kien hass li kienet tkun haġa sabiha li I-Ğhaqda tagħna wkoll tieħu sehem, għax barra li nkunu qiegħdin nghinu f'kawża ġusta, inkunu wkoll qiegħdin inqajmu kuxjenza dwar I-Ğhaqda.

Il-party tal-Milied sar fil-Canifor Hotel Qawra il-Ħadd 20 ta' Dicembru 2009. Kien hemm hidma intensiva biex norganizzaw attivitā differenti minn tas-solt u postaddatta għall-bżonnijiet tal-Ğhaqda biex niċċelebraw l-attività f'ambjent pjacevoli. Din id-darba I-Ğhaqda hasbet biex tagħmel ikla fil-forma

ta' buffet. Il-mužika waqt din l-attività kienet ġiet ipporduta minn Commanderjay Music Entertainment. Ma tqassmux rigali u minflok is-sussidju tar-rigal lill-membri Down syndrome ġie mdawwar f'għajnejna direttu billi l-persuni li għandhom Down syndrome hallset għalihom I-Ğhaqda.

Attività oħra fiż-żminijiet tal-Milied u li tkun mistennija ħafna miż-żgħażaq tagħna tkun id-disco. Din l-attività saret fis-27 ta' Dicembru, 2009 fis-sala li hemm taħt il-Knisja tal-Parroċċa ta' Santu Wistin, il-Belt Valletta. Barra d-disco kien hemm ukoll riċeivement żgħir u l-mužika waqt l-attività kienet f'idejn Commanderjay Music Entertainment.

Il-Jum Dinji tad-Down Syndrome huwa jum speċjali u digà ilu ħames snin cċelebrat mad-dinja kollha. Għal dan il-ġhan I-Ğhaqda biex tikkommema dan il-jum tellgħet attivitā fiċ-Ċentru tagħna filgħodu. L-artist magħruf Għawdexi I-Kav. Paul Camilleri Cauchi tana pittura sagra b'konnessjoni ma' dak li taħdem għali I-Ğhaqda tagħna. L-attività kienet tikkonsisti biċ-ċelebrazzjoni tal-quddiesa fiċ-Ċentru minn Mons. Lawrence Gatt u wara sar it-tberik u l-preżentazzjoni tal-pittura lill-President tal-Ğhaqda mill-Kav. Paul Camilleri Cauchi. Għal din l-attività, li spicċat b'riċeivement żgħir, il-Kumitat ha-ħsieb li jistieden xi persuni li għandhom konnessjoni mal-Ğhaqda. In-numru kellu jkun limitat minħabba l-ispażju.

Barra minn dawn l-attività, wieħed ma jridx jinsa' I-Quddiesa ta' kull l-ewwel Ġimgħa tax-xahar fiċ-Ċentru, fejn wara wieħed ikun jista' jieħu l-kafe u pastizzi u jilgħab it-tombla. Wieħed irid isemmi hawn lis-Sinjura Peel li għoġobha tagħti l-bingo li kienet tuża meta kienet torganizza hija stess din l-attività, u li kien tagħha personali, lill-Ğhaqda.

Wieħed forsi jgħid li l-lotterija l-kbira hija l-unika attivitā bl-iskop ewlieni ta' ġbir ta' flus biex I-Ğhaqda tkompli tissussidja s-servizzi tagħha u torganizza l-attività, soċċjali fosthom il-party u d-disco tal-Milied. Biex isiru dawn l-attività, is-servizzi u joħrog il-magazin, I-Ğhaqda jkollha bżonn ferm iż-żejjed fondi għax l-ispejjeż huma kbar u dejjem jiż-żiedu minn sena għall-oħra. Dawn il-flus jingabru minn donazzjonijiet u mil-lotterija li nagħmlu kull sena. Sfortunament hemm problemi biex insibu sponsors għar-rigali, barra li l-konkorrenza għal din il-lotterija qed tonqos.

Minħabba dawn il-fatti il-Lotterija reġgħet ma seħħitx, u dan in-nuqqas qed ikun skorägganti għall-Kumitat, li digà qed jifacċċa nuqqas ta' konkorrenza mill-membri tagħna, issa qed nifaċċċaw nuqqas ta' rigali bħala premijiet.

### Servizzi tal-Ğhaqda

**Lezzjonijiet tal-Crafts** – Dan is-servizz qed jiġi offrut minn persuna żaghżugħha li kienet lesta li toffri ffit mill-ħin liberu tagħha biex tagħti lezzjonijiet tal-crafts lill-membri tagħna li għandhom Down syndrome. Dan il-grupp jiltaqa' fiċ-Ċentru tagħna kull ġmistax nhar ta' Ġimgħa għall-membri li għandhom 'il fuq minn sittax-il sena.

**Aerobics** – Dan isir fl-iskola Guardian Angel, Hamrun u huma miftuha kemm għas-subien kif ukoll għall-bni. Minn dan is-servizz ma jsir l-ebda qliegħ għall-Ğhaqda anzi huma ssussidjat bil-bosta mill-Ğhaqda.

**Computers** – Sfortunament din is-sena il-lezzjonijiet għadhom ma bdewx. Dan għall-fatt l-ir-ripons tal-membri għal dan is-servizz kien żgħir ħafna. I-Ğhaqda ġadmet ħafna biex irnexxielha takkwista l-computers għall-użu specifiku tal-membri tagħna. Is-sena l-oħra kellna ħafna persuni

li attendew għal dawn il-lezzjonijiet u l-feedback mill-partecipanti u l-familji tagħhom kien inkoraġġanti.

### Il-programm 'Reach'

L-adulti li għandhom Down syndrome fl-edukazzjoni tagħhom qiegħdin u għadhom jiffaċċċaw problema. Wara li jispiċċaw l-Form 5 fl-iskejjel regolari, ma jkunux maturi bizzżejjed u aktar minn hekk, għad m'għandhom dawk il-life skills meħtiega għall-ħajja adulta. F'dan in-nuqqas I-Ğhaqda u l-Fondazzjoni Eden/Inspire Eden Foundation kienu kkollaboraw biex jinħolq il-programm 'Reach' li kien ġie estiż fuq medda ta' tliet snin bħala tranżizzjoni mis-sekondarja għat-taħbi fl-impieg.

Is-servizz ġie fit-terminu tiegħi fl-aħħar ta' Settembru 2009 minħabba li l-ftiehem mal-Inspire ma ġġeddidx minħabba raġuni ta' finanzi u responsabilitajiet tal-programm. Skont l-impenn li l-Kumitat kien dahal għali, il-Kumitat issa qed jaħdem biex iħallas lill-ġenituri ta' tfal li kien qiegħdin jattendu għal dan il-programm "Reach" parti mill-miżata li kien qiegħdin iħallsu lill-Eden. Dawn il-flus huma grazzi għall-fondi li bbenifikajna mill-iStrina fl-edizzjoni tal-Milied 2006.

L-Ğhaqda bħalissa għaddejja minn proċess ta' konsultazzjoni biex forsi l-programm ikun jista' jerġa' jibda bħala 'public partnership'. Imma l-proċess huwa diffiċli u t-triq twila.

### I-speech therapy

Sfortunament is-servizz tal-ispeech kelliu jieqaf minħabba li l-konkorrenza kienet ffit wi sqi biex niġġustifikaw l-ispejjeżżej involuti u l-ħin tat-terapisti. Kemm il-fiż-joterapija u l-ispeech waqfu għax għalkemm I-Ğhaqda kienet tissussidja sa' 50% mill-miżata, l-interess mill-membri għal dawn is-servizzi kien dejjem qed jonqos.

## Premises

Il-ħolma tal-Kumitat hija li barra li jkollna Ċentru tagħna, dan jiġi wkoll irranġat kemm jista' jkun malair biex inkunu f'pożizzjoni li noffru aktar servizzi u jkun aktar akkoljenti. Grazzi li għall-permess mill-Awtoritajiet biex Pio Fenech jiġi rilaxxat mix-xogħol tiegħu mal-Gvern u jiġi ssekondat mal-Ġhaqda ġie mġedded għal sena oħra, stajna nkomplu bix-xogħol. Ghalkemm baqa' ħafna xi jsir, żgur li wieħed jista' jara d-differenza anki mis-sena l-oħra 'l hawn.

## Magażin

Il-magażin taħt id-direzzjoni tal-Bord Editorjali tkompli b'determinazzjoni kbira. Nixtieq infakkar fil-bżonn kbir li ježisti biex nircieu xi esperjenzi, ritratti u jew xi artikli sabiex jiġi ppubblikati fil-magazin. Jekk ikollkom bżonn ta' xi ghajnuna, il-membri tal-Kumitat ikunu lesti jghinukom b'xi kitba u/jew intervista, jekk hemm bżonn fid-dar tagħkom stess.

Il-magażin qiegħed jiġi ppubblikat b'diffikulta kbira, anki finanzjarja. Hamsin fil-mija tan-nefqa għall-posta tingħata lura mill-Kummissjoni Nazzjonali Persuni b'Diżabilità wara applikazzjoni. Il-flus biex jitħallas dan il-magażin iridu jittieħdu mill-ġbir ta' fondi, għax reklami, jew ghajnuna diretta jew indiretta biex intaffu l-ispejjeż tiegħu m'għadniex insibu. Fejn qabel il-Gvern kien kull sena jagħti massimu ta' 700 Ewro għall-proġetti żgħar li konna nużawhom għall-ispejjeż amministrattivi, is-sena li għaddiet ma kienx hemm din il-fakulta.

## Laqqħat

Il-President tal-Ġhaqda ħadet sehem f'diversi laqqħat u seminars li kienu ta' interessa jew importanza għall-Ġhaqda.

Fil-5 ta' Ġunju 2009 wara Haqqha mal-Ēċċ. Tiegħu l-President ta' Malta, saret

laqqha oħra fiċ-Ċentru tagħna l-Belt mar-rappreżentanti tal-AIWA. Wara lir-rappreżentanti ġew mdawwra maċ-Ċentru, il-President tal-Ġhaqda ġiet ippreżentata b'donazzjoni biex jithallsu s-siġġijiet tal-injam li l-Ġhaqda kienet xtrat.

15 ta' Ġunju 2009 – Il-President kienet mistiedna mis-Sur St. John fuq il-programm tad-Dee Media ‘Bonġu’.

26 ta' Ġunju 2009 – Il-President itaqgħet ma' Ms. A. Callus, impiegata mal-KNPD, fiċ-Ċentru tagħna u tatha informazzjoni dwar il-bżonnijiet tal-persuni Down syndrome. Din l-informazzjoni kienet bżonnjuża għat-texżej ta' Ms. Callus.

18 ta' Lulju - Seminar organizzat mill-KNPD fuq ix-xogħol. Il-President ippreżentat l-ideat tal-Ġhaqda għar-rigward dan is-suġġett.

29 ta' Awwissu - Seminar imtella' mill-Uffiċċju tal-Kummissarju tal-Ġhaqdiet Volontarji. Il-President u l-PRO/Assistant Segretarju attendew.

30 ta' Settembru - Fuq suġġeriment tas-Sur Glenn Bugeja li kien jaħdem fis-segretarjat ta' Dr Joe Cassar dak iż-żmien Segretarju Parlamentari fil-Ministeru tal-Politika Soċjal, saret laqqha mas-sur Frans Borg, Segretarju Permanenti fil-Ministeru tal-Politika Soċjal biex tiddiskuti n-nuqqas ta' opportunitajiet ta' xogħol għall-persuni Down syndrome u biex l-Ġhaqda tagħna tigi nvoluta iż-jed fid-diskussionijiet u pjanijiet tal-KNPD fuq problemi rigward ix-xogħol għall-persuni b'nuqqas intellettuali.

27 ta' Ottubru - Laqqha ma' Ms Maria Schembri uffiċċjal tal-MEUSAC biex jinstab mezz kif l-Ġhaqda setgħet tgawdi minn fondi mill-Ewropa minħabba l-programm REACH biex l-Ġhaqda tkun f'pożizzjoni

biex tkompli toffri s-servizz. Wieħed kellu jikkunsidra wkoll li l-Ġhaqda jkollha toħrog sa 15 fil-mija tal-ispejjeż kollha indikati fil-pjan tal-proġett qabel ma' tkun tista' tibbenifika minn xi flus.

6 ta' Novembru - Saret laqqha mal-familji tat-tfal li attendew il-programm tar-Reach, preżenti kien hemm il-President, l-Assistent Segretarju u PRO għall-Ġhaqda, Ms Alison għall-Inspire Foundation. Il-familji ġew infurmati li l-programm kelli jieqaf minħabbali ma kienx hemm fondi ġejjin mill-Gvern għal dan il-programm għaliex skont il-Ministeru ma kienx obligatorju li persuni 'I fuq minn sittax-il sena jibqgħu fis-sistema edukattiva. Minflok l-Inspire kienet lesta li toffri wieħed mill-programmi tagħha. Il-familji ġew mħeġġa biex jingħaqdu u jużaw il-fondi li l-Ġhaqda kienet sejra tgħaddilhom mill-flus tal-Istrina biex ikompli l-programm sa fejn iservu dawn il-flus. Minn naħha l-oħra l-Ġhaqda sejra tagħmel minn kollex biex tiprova ssib fondi mill-Unjoni Ewropea għal dan il-proġett.

7 ta' Novembru - Il-President u l-PRO attendew seminar organizzat mill-Inspire u 'The Parent and Client Educational Services' bħala parti mill-aktivitajiet tal-ġimgħa tad-Down Syndrome. Is-seminar kelli t-tema 'Shifting perspectives – Empowering the student with Down syndrome'. Għal dan is-seminar il-President tal-Ġhaqda ppreżentat 'Paper'.

20 ta' Novembru – Laqqha oħra mal-familji tat-tfal li kienu attendew il-programm tar-Reach fejn sar qbil li sakemm l-Ġhaqda tkun f'pożizzjoni li tiprovd l-programm, it-tfal għandhom jidħlu fil-programmi tal-Fondazzjoni Inspire.

3 ta' Diċembru - Pio Fenech u Joe Borg Bonello attendew konferenza mtellgħha mill-KNPD fuq il-politika tax-xogħol.

7 ta' Diċembru - Il-President u Patrick Umanah kienet mistiedna fuq program "Xpress" imxandar fuq Favourite Channel ippreżentat minn Manuel Micallef. It-tema tal-programm kien 'Il-futur tal-Persuni b'Diżabilità'. L-Ġhaqda kienet fost ħamsa oħra li kienet membri tal-Federazzjoni. Il-President tkellmet fuq l-edukazzjoni wara s-sekondarja, ix-xogħol, u l-hajja independenti.

9 ta' Diċembru - Il-President Marthexe Mugliette, Pio Fenech u Joe Borg Bonello attendew il-Parlament għall-persuni bi bżonnijiet differenti li kienet mxandra live fuq il-PBS. Il-President pubblikament talbet informazzjoni imma spiccat bla risposta, fuq il-pjanijiet li ġew ippreparati għall-adulti, li għalkemm kienet jiffuraw parti mis-sistema inkluissiva ta' edukazzjoni u għaddew minn disa' xhur programm preparatorju għad-din ja tax-xogħol mill-ETC, wara ħames snin għadhom fuq il-waiting list tal-ETC jistennew.

## Konklużjoni

Hemm bżonn membri b'ideat ġodda jsibu posthom fil-Kumitat, anki jkunu lesti jieħdu post il-membri tal-Kumitat li ilhom iservu bosta snin. Nies ġodda fi ħdan il-Kumitat ifisser ideat ġodda u dan huwa hafna importanti biex l-Ġhaqda tad-Down Syndrome tkompli tikber, tifforixxi u tkompli tissemma' u tagħmel isem tajjeb frott il-ħidma fejjieda tagħha għall-benefiċċju ta' wliedna.

Nixtieq nagħlaq billi nirringrazza lilkom preżenti talli ġejtu llum u lill-membri kollha tal-Kumitat u lill-helpers għall-ħidma tagħħom fi ħdan l-Ġhaqda.

**Antoine Gauci  
Segretarju**

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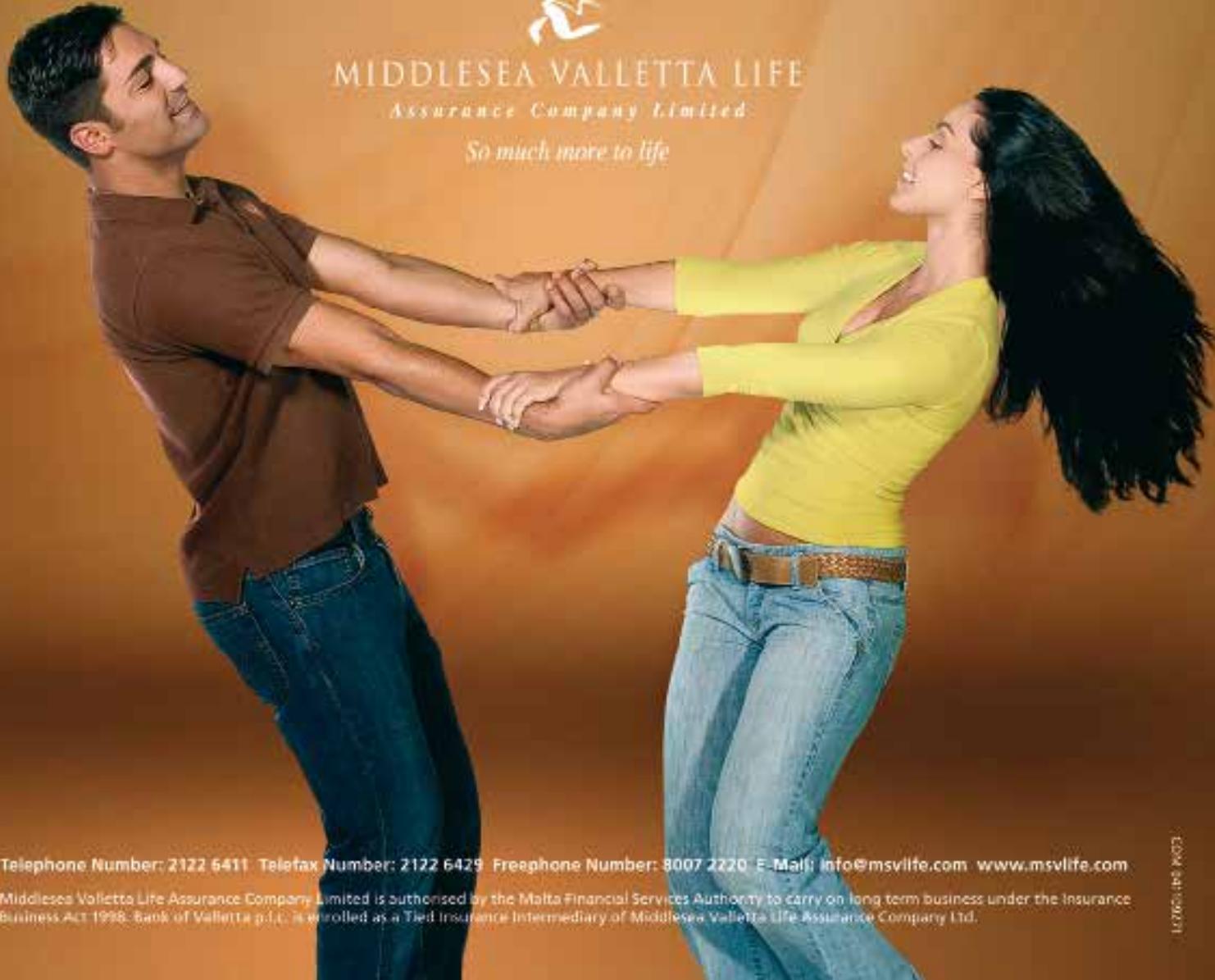
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