

PRESS RELEASE

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EN**TITLE****National Volunteer Award 2014**

The **National Volunteer Award** was organised for the fourth consecutive time by the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector. This year the Award was held under the patronage of H.E. the President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca. This year the National Volunteer was complimented by another three new awards which were the **Youth Volunteer Award**, the **Volunteer Organisation Award** and the **Corporate Volunteering Award**.

The aim of the National Awards is to give broad recognition to the service done by the volunteers and Voluntary Organisations within the community, create awareness of the exemplary values displayed by the volunteers and organisations with the goal of locating role models for youth and wider society; and to recognise the important contributions made in various fields.

The Award Ceremony was held on the 9th of December 2014 at the Presidential Palace where the Awards were presented by H.E. the President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca accompanied by Mr. Nathan Farrugia, Chairperson of the Malta Council of the Voluntary Sector.

The **National Volunteer Award** is aimed to award individual volunteer who has contributed in any field, such as social, humanitarian, health, ecological, cultural, education, sports, etc. The voluntary work must have had a positive contribution towards a particular field and should ideally have served as an inspiration to others. This year's National Volunteer Award went to Ms. Gemma Sirol who has been a volunteer since the age of 11 years. She has been an active member since 1967 and currently she is the Commissioner of St. John Ambulance, serving also as a volunteer in various committees both in her local community and also on Government Boards.

The **Volunteer Organisation Award** which is awarded to a Voluntary Organisation who has been outstanding in the sector in which it operates, being both innovative in its approach and services within the community as well as in its way of recruiting and supporting volunteers, was awarded to Hospice Malta. Hospice Malta provides palliative care services to patients

suffering from cancer, Motor Neuron Disease, end of life respiratory, cardiac and renal disease. Through continual improvement and investment in its resources, Hospice Malta aspires to continue providing high quality end of life care and Bereavement support. Volunteers at Hospice Malta are an integral part of the Organization as it cannot function without the input of the over 200 volunteers who are involved in all sectors of the Organization.

The **Youth Volunteer Award** which is awarded to a Volunteer between the age of 16 and 30 years and is aimed to promote volunteering amongst young people was awarded to Mr. Gabriel Hammet who is a volunteer with the St John Ambulance and who dedicates most of his free time to cover as many duties as possible sometimes attending to more than one duty on the same day even when call on short notice.

The last award was the **Corporate Volunteering Award** which is intended to award that Company or Organisation coming from the Private Sector which has given tangible support to the Voluntary Sector, both by direct support as well as by supporting and facilitating its employees to volunteer. This Award went to HSBC Malta Bank p.l.c who as an employer encourages employees to become more involved in the community as volunteers and supports them in these efforts. It involves creating a work environment where volunteer activity is valued and encouraged, with a belief in community relations, aiming to have a good understanding of community issues and is sensitive to community needs.

During this event, which was presented by Ms. Fiorella Pace, singer Kurt Cassar interpreted three songs, one of which was the song 'Inservi', dedicated to volunteering. Musician Michelle Paris also gave a beautiful display on the Celtic Harp, with a repertoire of music varying from local traditional songs to Christmas carols.

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TITLU

Premju Nazzjonali Voluntier tas-Sena 2014

Il-Premju Nazzjonali tas-sena ġie organizzat għar -raba sena konsekuttiva mill-Kunsill Malti għas-Settur tal-Volontarjat . Din is-sena l- Premju sar taħt il-patronċinju tal -ET il-President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca . Din is-sena Pemju Nazzjonali Voluntier kien ikkumplementat permezz ta' tliet premijijiet ġodda li kienu l- Premju Voluntier Żgħażuġ/a , il-Premju Organizzażżjoni Volontarja u l- Premju għall-Kumpaniji li jsostnu l-Ghaqdiet Volontarji .

L-għan tal -Premijiet Nazzjonali huwa li jagħtu rikonoxximent wiesa għas-servizzi li isiru mill-voluntiera u l-Organizzażżjonijiet Volontarji fi fñdan il-komunità , joħolqu kuxjenza dwar il-valuri eżemplari murija mill -voluntiera u l-organizzażżjonijiet bil-għan li jsibu mudelli għaż-żgħażaġħ u s-socjetà usa' u biex jirrikonoxxu l-kontribuzzjonijiet importanti fl-oqsma varji .

Ic-Ċerimonja tal-Premjijiet saret fid-9 ta' Diċembru, 2014 fil-Palazz Presidenzjali fejn il-Premjijiet gew pprezentati mill-ET il-President Marie Louise Coleiro Preca akkumpanjat mis-Sur Nathan Farrugia , Chairperson tal -Kunsill Malti għas-Settur Volontarju .

Il-Premju Nazzjonali tal-Voluntier huwa mmirat li jagħti lill dak il-voluntier individwu li kkontribwixxa fi kwalunkwe qasam , bħal informazzjoni soċjali , umanitarji , is-saħħa , ekoloġika , kulturali , l-edukazzjoni , sports , eċċ Il- ħidma volontarja għandu jkollu kontribut pożittiv lejn il-qasam partikolari u għandu idealment iservi bħala ispirazzjoni għal oħrajn . Il-Premju Nazzjonali Voluntier din is-sena mar għas-Sinjura Gemma Sirol li kienet voluntiera mil l- età ta ' 11-il sena . Ilha membru attiv sa mill-1967 u bħalissa hija l- Kummissarju ta 'St'John Ambulance , fejn jserviet ukoll bħala voluntiera f'diversi kunitati kemm fil-komunità lokali tagħha u wkoll fuq Bordijiet tal-Gvern.

Il-Premju Organizzazzjoni Volontarja li huwa mogħti lil Organizzazzjoni Volontarja li ilha topera fis-settur li hija kemm innovattiva fis- servizzi tagħha fi ħdan il-komunità kif ukoll fil-mod tagħha ta ' reklutaġġ u ta ' appoġġ lill voluntiera , ingħata lil Hospice Malta. Hospice Malta tipprovdi servizzi ta 'kura palljattiva għall-pazjenti li jsofru minn kanċer , Motor NEURON Mard , problemi ta' respiratorija , qalb u mard tal-kliwi . Permezz ta 'titjib kontinwu u l-investment fir-riżorsi tagħha , Hospice Malta taspira li tkompli tipprovdi l-kwalità tal- kura tal-ħajja u l- appoġġ tagħha. Il-Voluntiera fil- Hospice Malta huma parti integrali hafna fil-Organizzazzjoni li ma tistax taħdem mingħajr l-għajnuna ta 'aktar minn mitejn voluntier li huma involuti fis-setturi kollha ta' l -Organizzazzjoni.

Il-Premju Voluntier Żgħażuġ/a li huwa mogħti lil Voluntiera bejn l-età ta '16 u 30 sena u hu mmirat biex jippromwovi l-volontarjat fost iż-żgħażaġħ, kien mogħti lis-Sur Gabriel Hammet li huwa voluntier mas- St John Ambulance u li jiddedika hafna mill-hin tiegħu biex jagħti daqqa t'id għall dak li jkun hemm bzonn fl-Organizzazzjoni fejn xi kultant jattendi għall-iktar min xogħol wiehed fl-istess jum, anka meta ssejha tkun saret f' qasir zmien.

L-aħħar premju kien dak tal- Premju għall-kumpaniji li jsostnu l-Għaqdiet Volontarji li huwa mahsub għall- dik il-Kumpanija jew Organizzazzjoni li ġejjin mis -Settur Privat li tat l-appoġġ tagħha għas-Settur Volontarju , kemm mill -appoġġ dirett kif ukoll billi tappoġġja u tiffacilita l -impjegati tagħha għall volontarjat. Dan il-prempju mar għall HSBC Malta Bank plc li bħala entità li tħaddem tinkoraġġixxi l- impjegati biex isiru aktar involuti fil-komunità bħala voluntiera u jappoġġjawhom. Hija tinvolvi l-ħolqien ta 'ambjent ta' xogħol fejn l-attività tal-volontarjat hija stmata u mħegġa , fejn temmen ukoll li għandu jkun hemm relazzjonijiet mal-komunità , bil-għan li jkollhom għarfien tajjeb ta' kwistjonijiet tal-komunità u li tkun sensitiva għall-bżonnijiet tagħhom.

Matul dan l-avveniment , li ġie pprezentat mis-Sinjura Fiorella Pace , il-kantant Kurt Cassar interpreta tliet kanzunetti, fosthom il-kanzunetta " Inservi " , dedikata għall -volontarjat . Il-Mużiċista Michelle Paris wkoll tat wirja sabiha fuq il- *Celtic Harp*, bi *repertoire* ta 'mużika li jvarjaw minn kanzunetti tradizzjonali lokali u kanzunetti oħrajn marbutin mat-tema tal-Milied.

Mauro Pace Parascandalo
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