

Review of the Order of Malta Relief Organisation in Lithuania activities in 2017

Program/Service for seniors

"Meals on Wheels" is the oldest project of the Order of Malta Relief Organisation in Lithuania (MOPT), carried out since 1993. In 2017 the project was considerably increased and expanded in new towns. 151 000 servings of hot food were provided to 613 beneficiaries of the project in 22 towns and villages on daily bases.

"Home care at home". The project was carried out in 13 towns and cities in 2017 (Vilnius, Kaunas, Klaipėda, Panevėžys, Kaišiadorys, Marijampolė, Alytus, Druskininkai, Kriaunos, Švenčionėliai, Aukštadvaris, Zarasai, Tauragė). The project involved about 400 active volunteers, attending more than 1749 lonely, sick, suffering from the shortcomings elderly people. MOPT Home care at home paid services were delivered in Vilnius, Kaunas, Alytus. Home care paid service has 5 employees and 33 beneficiaries in 2017.

Clubs for seniors. MOPT had 4 seniors clubs in 2017 (Vilnius, Kaišiadorys, Žiežmariai, Švenčionėliai, Zarasai); 102 elderly people participated in its activities in education, cultural programs.

Special offers and events for seniors. Relief Organisation of the Order of Malta again held its very popular special campaigns - „Malteser Easter" and "Seniors' Day". Dozens of events, concerts and meetings were organized during that time. More than 2,600 fostered people in 35 Lithuanian cities were visited in their homes and hospitals last spring and fall.

Summer camp-training course for volunteers. For the 4th time maltesers organized a 5 days summer camp for Home care project volunteers, to teach them how to work with elderly people. It was held in Šventoji resort near the Baltic sea in August. 58 malteser volunteers from Vilnius, Kaunas, Panevėžys, Klaipėda, Šiauliai, Marijampolė, Druskininkai, Švenčionėliai, Zarasai, Aukštadvaris attended.

"Maltesers' Soup 2017". The fundraising campaign "Maltesers' Soup 2017" was carried out for the 12th time in 2017. Its goal was to draw Lithuanian society' attention to the dire situation of the old, sick and elderly people and to arrange them assistance. More than 220 000 € donations were collected.

Programs/Services for children and youth

Children Day care centers. MOPT maintained 13 children day care centers in 2017 (Kartena, Kaunas, Kriaunos, Kelmė, Užventis, Naujoji Akmenė, Vieکشniai, Šiauliai, Tauragė, Telšiai, Marijampolė, Vilnius. 335 children regularly attended them. Help was provided for more than 200 of their families as well, more than 100 maltesers volunteers took part in this. In 2018 2 more new Day care centers were opened (Klaipėda and Utena). Children day care centers are open 5 days a week and 4 – 8 hours a day.

Youth centers. MOPT maintained two Youth centers in 2017 (Aukštadvaris, Kaunas). In the Youth centers more than 120 youngsters participated from local communities.

Campaign of school supplies collection. The campaign of school supplies and toys collection for disadvantaged children took place in August 1st – September 30th 2017. More than 6 000 € donations and supplies for more than 13 000 € were collected during the campaign. Employees from 20 State Ministries and 30 companies participated in it. The collected items we delivered to poor children in the 33 Lithuanian cities.

Program/Service for disabled people

Transportation service „Let's go“ for persons with disabilities. Special transportation service „Let's go“ for the persons with disabilities has been launched in Vilnius in 2014. The service last year was provided more than 480 times for 996 people with disabilities, the length of the total distance was 21 879 km. We use two specially adapted vans for the service and one ambulance car to transfer disabled people, who can only lie on the bed.

“Let's go” is a Social Enterprise service, where work only 2 paid persons and volunteers. People with disabilities pay for the transportation from the special funds provided from the State. In 2017 the transportation program is extended to 1 new location – Klaipėda.

Active rehabilitation camp “Move It!”. This project for the third time took place in Klaipėda in summer 2017, providing a special 10-day adaptation training for 16-20 young disabled people, in their first few years after suffering injuries that have confined them to wheelchairs. The program includes physical, social and cultural training: wheelchair skills, confidence building, and creative activities. 12 young disabled young people in wheelchairs, 6 instructors with disabilities and 12 Malteser helpers took part in the camp.

International Order of Malta summer camp to Youth with disabilities "MaltaCamp". Lithuanian Maltesers brought 4 disabled young people wheelchairs to "MaltaCamp". They were accompanied by 5 Malteser helpers.

First Aid Program/Service

First Aid Trainings. MOPT First Aid team provided First aid trainings in Vilnius, Druskininkai, Kaunas, Trakai, trained MOPT employees at the MOPT Headquarter in Vilnius.

First Aid delivery in Public events. MOPT First Aid team delivered First aid in various public events (city festivities, music and youth festivals). First Aid at "Sea festival" in Klaipėda was delivered more than 100 times, at music festival "Meska music" – 5 times, youth festival "Būtent" – 20 times. Maltesers First Aid team participated at Firefighters competition and several town events.

First aid teams at schools. In the end of 2015 MOPT launched program of first aid teams at schools. It is for youth volunteer groups that on regular bases learn about first aid (theory and practice). Groups are fully equipped with first aid equipment and during class time or school event provide first aid, if it is necessary. 230 pupils from 22 Lithuanian schools took part in the program. 107 of them passed young school paramedic qualification exam.

Young Maltesers

Young Maltesers. YM unites more than 500 volunteers in more than 30 cities and villages Lithuania. In 2017, it held YM conference in Vilnius (135 participants) and 27 presentations about YM activities (5 400 participants), provided "Good deeds weekend" (200 participants from 8 cities). Last year YM became members of Council of Lithuanian Youth organizations (LiJOT) and Malteser Youth International Network (MYIN). YM were responsible for "Lourdes candles" fundraising campaign, which collected 10 834 € for people with disabilities pilgrimage to Lourdes in 2017.

Spirituality

Participation in pilgrimage trips, retreats and Spiritual Exercises. 47 Lithuanian Maltesers took part at the pilgrimage of the Order of Malta to Lourdes in May 2017. Among them were 9 people with the disabilities and 2 priests. More than 150 Maltesers participated in the Patients' Day during Šiluva feast on 13th of September. The Spiritual retreat was held for one week in the end of October – beginning of November in the island Malta. More than 20 Maltesers participated there.

Events and awards

- On September 2017 high delegation of the Order of Malta visited Lithuania in order to participate in the 25 the anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Republic of Lithuania and Order of Malta.
- President of Lithuania H.E. Dalia Grybauskaitė met with the Sovereign Order of Malta's Grand Chancellor Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager and Grand Hospitaller Dominique Prince de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel to discuss cooperation between Lithuania and the Order in providing social and humanitarian support. The President spoke to team members of the Order of Malta's Relief Organisation in Lithuania and visited the Malteser Day Care Center where she met with children and the elderly and baked cookies together.
- On 4 September, 2017 the Vice-Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lithuania Neris Germanas met with the Grand Hospitaller Dominique de La Rochefoucauld-Montbel and Ingo Radtke, Secretary General of Malteser International, the worldwide relief agency of the Order of Malta. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss cooperation opportunities in the fields of humanitarian aid and development cooperation.
- While marking an anniversary of diplomatic relations, Lithuanian Prime Minister Saulius Skvernelis and the Grand Chancellor of the Order of Malta, H.E. Albrecht Freiherr von Boeselager, signed a bilateral Cooperation agreement at the Lithuanian Government Office. The agreement is a result of close cooperation and, at the same time, a new page of cooperation in areas such as health care, social security and the refugee issues.
- 2017 October 6th Prime Minister of Lithuania H.E. Saulius Skvernelis met Grand Master Lieutenant Fra' Giacomo Dalla Torre del Tempio di Sanguinetto in Rome.