

Hi,

as regards to my experience at the children's wards: i am very appreciative that i was offered such an opportunity. It is satisfying to see the expression on the children's faces when i arrive at the wards. The service offered by the volunteers makes the stay at hospital for a child not so dull

and so the work of volunteers at these wards makes it a pleasant experience for both the volunteer and the child. I enjoyed a lot my visits at the children wards so far and I hope the children enjoyed such visits as much as i did.

Regards
Jean-Paul Zammit

The partnership between Caritas Malta and the Daniel Delicata Association has proved to be very successful indeed. Over the past year Caritas has assisted in the allocation, monitoring and training of youth volunteers to help in the children's wards and this experience has been very fruitful for all parties concerned.

The youth volunteers have benefited from the rewarding experience of making a difference in the lives of sick children – many say that watching their little faces light up during the activities they organized was priceless. On the other hand, this experience has also been an eye-opener as to the important practical skills that young people can gain through volunteering – working in a team, communicating within a group and helping others are all aspects that aid towards one's self-development.

This confirms that in volunteering you really do receive more than you actually give!

I heartily encourage other young people to give volunteering a thought – the experience can be life-changing!

Vanessa Sammut
Head of Volunteers – Caritas Malta

Hi Maria,

Regarding the hospital visits, I can only say that I have enjoyed the experience. I always go with Liz and we normally find children who would appreciate some extra attention, although it is sometimes difficult to engage them as they tend to be surrounded by supportive family members. Nevertheless, I feel that it has been a positive social activity that brings a smile not only to the children's faces but to mine as well. The contents of the wards' cupboards have succeeded in inspiring creative activities among the children, so there haven't been many problems. All I can say is that I am very glad to be taking part in this program.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for giving me the chance to help the younger community in such an enriching way.

Vanessa

Hi,

I just thought that maybe you would like an update on how things are going at the hospital. Vanessa and I have been going recently and really enjoying it . I noticed that somebody added new toys to the cupboards, such as colouring books, pencils and board games. The children absolutely love the colouring books! It is also easy because some of the children are attached to a drip and so we can easily take it to their beds. Last time we played a board game for 2 hours with five of the children from the surgical ward, it was really great to see them laughing and making new friends.

Thank you,

Liz.

Dear Maria,

I just wanted to inform you that I am feeling very useful to these children and their parents and would like to thank you for the opportunity you gave me to attend this voluntary work.

Regards,

Nathalie Gatt

Dear Maria,

I just got back from the voluntary work....

I spent most of my time at Disneyland with two families. Besides playing with the children and feeling satisfied I made them laugh while at the same time provided their parents free time to go out of the ward. I could also talk to the parents, one of which felt she was to blame for her child's disability. I showed her the positive she was doing with her child and it's like she started feeling better about herself again.

I would like to thank you so much for the opportunity you gave me to volunteer with these children, not only because I feel I'm worthwhile but also because the families are appreciating its value.

Regards,

Nathalie

Dear Maria,

I just got home from the voluntary work. At first, I had a fear that I would be unwanted by the parents, as if I were an intruder. But luckily enough all turned out to be very polite with me. I went to the nurse station first, introduced myself, asked which beds I could visit and then asked for the key to see what things were available so then I could ask the kids with which they wanted to play. There were only few patients. I stayed with a one and a half year old. She was shy at first but then I got her the pictures to colour with the brush and she became enthusiastic immediately. After that, we played 'peepo' together and I could hear her laughing. So for this reason I'm very happy I could make

her smile for the hours I spent with her. The mother also could chat with another parent, so she could have a small break in the meantime while I was there.

I'm glad it went well. Looking forward for next week.

Have a nice week,
Cu

Hello Maria,

How are you? I went to the wards today. I really enjoy working in Disneyland. Some of the kids already know me and we are doing crafts all together in groups, which I find much better rather than with one kid at a time.

Thank you,
Rose

Hello Maria,

How are you?

I was there yesterday and with some kids we were doing different figures from plasticin. I do believe it is the most popular with kids haha they all love it more than drawing or reading really.

Thank you and best wishes,
Rose

Hello Maria,

I liked it on Sunday, i was playing with 2 girls, one of 9 and another of 8 years old. I found them very friendly and their mothers liked me as well. They were asking from what kind of an organization i am saying that this is voluntary work.

Best regards,
Rose