

Annual Report

Dar Hosea

2019



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Executive summary

Dar Hosea is licensed by the Social Care Standards Authority to deliver a Drop-in service. It forms part of the Association of the Friends of Thouret, a non-profit organisation within the auspices of the Sisters of Charity. A Management Committee oversees the operations of Dar Hosea. Financial Accounts are audited annually and submitted to the Commissioner for the Voluntary Sector.

Vulnerable women in prostitution experience distressing and difficult situations, including physical and psychological abuse, sexual exploitation, mental health issues, drug addiction, impoverishment, and other forms of hardship.

The aim of Dar Hosea is to support sexually exploited women by offering them a safe environment where they may benefit from a sense of worth, dignity, and fulfilment, which is acquired through respect, love, and acceptance.

The overarching objective is to provide professional support services to street prostitutes. This includes reaching out to sexually exploited women who lead intense and unhealthy lifestyles by creating supportive relationships with them whilst encouraging them to maintain beneficial healthy communicative channels through which they could ease their way back into society.

In order to further achieve standards set by the Social Care Standards Authority, Dar Hosea is working on upgrades and changes to be effected as required.

The main function of Dar Hosea is to provide a Drop-in service for sexually exploited women. The Drop-in offers a welcoming and safe space where service users are able to freely express their narratives without risking any judgment whilst embracing their true potential as women. The service provides a sense of belonging, which would have been absent throughout the lives of these women. Support interventions include basic material and emotional needs, medical aid, advocacy and accompaniment, as well as personal skills development. Each service user is served with a regularly reviewed care-plan.

In addition to the Drop-in service, Dar Hosea staff carry out outreach work, mainly at the Detox Centre, at the Correctional Services Agency, and with *Appoġġ* clients. A Crafts Programme is also run for female inmates at the Correctional Services Agency. Dar Hosea staff regularly network and collaborate with related entities and specialised professionals.

Statistics show that in 2019 there was a slight increase in persons making use of the Drop-in service. The number of interventions has increased considerably.

Services are provided by three paid professional staff and around seventeen voluntary workers, of whom some are warranted in their respective fields. Staff development was consolidated and clinical meetings to appropriately manage casework were regularly held.

Throughout 2019, Dar Hosea collaborated with the Parliamentary Secretariat for Reforms regarding the consolidation of the 'Crafts Programme' and the establishment of an 'Exit Programme' for female inmates in the process of being released from prison. It also collaborated with the same Parliamentary Secretariat by submitting views and giving advice on legislation and a strategy being formulated by the government regarding women trafficking and prostitution.

Its views and position on the proposed legislation were largely disseminated. Dar Hosea has always been a prominent organisation in lobbying in favour of the decriminalisation of women who are prostituted.

Dar Hosea's involvement in raising awareness of the hidden brutal experiences of women in prostitution is continuous. A major event held in 2019 was the drama performances of '*Waħda minnha*'. This drama exposed the harsh reality in the lives of sexually abused women. Other awareness events were regularly held through presentations and interventions in the media.

Encouraging results were achieved in the area of financial resources by obtaining grants from funding sources, making effective appeals for donations and better organised fund-raising activities, including the running of a bazaar.

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The way forward for Dar Hosea is to focus on the consolidation of services and on attracting more sexually exploited women, and their respective children, to services. An awareness programme, especially for young persons, is to be embarked upon. Smoother relations with the Police Force are to be developed.

Dar Hosea: An Introduction

Name

The name 'Dar Hosea' is derived from the Book of Hosea, a chapter in the Old Testament which speaks of the prophet Hosea, whose name means "salvation". God had asked Hosea to marry an adulterous woman, to love and respect her despite her unfaithfulness. In the story, God tells Hosea: "*Go and marry a harlot. Love her and give her back her lost dignity*" (chapter 2). This story was the foundation behind the name 'Dar Hosea' as well as its inspiration and philosophy.

Foundation

Dar Hosea was set up in 2013 by the St Jeanne Antide Foundation, as a component of the Irene Project funded by the E.E.A. Start-Up Fund. Since 2017, it has formed part of the Association of the Friends of Thouret, a non-profit organisation within the auspices of the Sisters of Charity. The Association of the Friends of Thouret is registered with the Commissioner for Voluntary Organisations (Reg: V.O. 1365).

Governance

The operations of Dar Hosea are overseen by a Management Committee. The composition of the Management committee for 2019 was as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Chairperson: | Sr Natalie Abela SoC |
| Members: | Dr Marco Farrugia Dr Anna Maria Vella Mr Frank Mifsud |
| <i>Ex-officio</i> : | Ms Rita Bonello – Manager |

The Management Committee meets regularly on a monthly basis. The Financial Accounts are overseen by the Treasurer of the Association of the Friends of Thouret. The Auditor is Mr Michael Sciortino.

The service is licensed by the Social Care Standards Authority (Lic No: SCSA08/03/01/2019)

Ethos

The ethos of the service is to restore a sense of dignity to the women attending Dar Hosea, as well as to provide empowerment and resilience through unconditional positive regard, support, and a sense of family love. This is done through creating a safe homely environment where breakfast and freshly cooked lunch are served daily. The food, freshly prepared by the volunteers, represents the goodness, love, and nourishment which are usually provided in a loving family ambience. Unfortunately, this would have been frequently lacked in the lives of the women who fall into prostitution. Through the provision of lunch, a sense of bonding is enhanced over conversations at table, which is fruitful and beneficial for these women. Through such interactions, the symbol of a family environment is acquired and experienced by the women attending the home, which in turn provides them with a sense of acceptance and love.

Aim and Objectives

The aim of Dar Hosea is to support sexually exploited women by offering them a safe environment where they may benefit from a sense of worth, dignity, and fulfilment, which is acquired through respect, love, and acceptance. Such concepts are based on the humanistic psychological approach of unconditional positive regard, which refers to accepting and respecting all individuals as they are, without any judgment or evaluation.

The overarching objective is to provide professional support services to street prostitutes. This includes reaching out to sexually exploited women who lead unhealthy, intense lifestyles, create supportive relationships with them whilst encouraging them to maintain beneficial healthy communicative channels through which they could ease their way back into society.

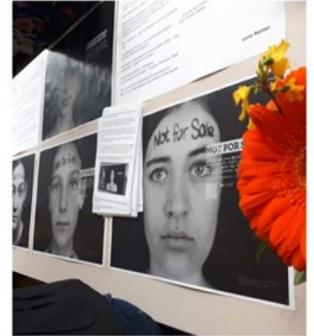


Friends of Thouret
Dar Hosea

Profile of Service Users

Vulnerable women in prostitution experience distressing and difficult situations, including physical and psychological abuse, sexual exploitation, mental health difficulties, drug addiction, impoverishment, and other forms of hardship. They lack a sense of worth, dignity, and fulfilment. Childhood sexual exploitation, physical abuse and emotional neglect, are distinctive underlying factors for trajectories into prostitution.

Early adolescence is the most frequently reported age of entry into any type of prostitution. Some women would have started prostitution in order to maintain addiction, or who would have initiated addiction as a means of coping with other negative impacts which hinder wellbeing due to the psychological distress experienced in prostitution. Due to such exploitative experiences, it is common for these women to engage in abusive and manipulative relationships with partners and pimps who further exploit and coerce them into prostitution. They are then exposed to harsh dangers such as violence, exploitation, addiction, mental health, and sexually transmitted infections(STIs).



Services offered

Operating License

Formal contact was made with the Social Care Standards Authority in order to seek the licensing of the Dar Hosea services. Following the submission of a sixty-seven-page application for a licence to operate a drop-in centre, a series of formal visits were made by officials of the Authority, including Health and Safety experts commissioned by it. A risk assessment inspection was also carried out. A list of upgrades and changes to be effected were subsequently presented by the SCSA, among them the installation of facilities for accessibility, structural modifications, and a 'Change of Use' declaration by the Planning Authority. The Social Care Standards Authority has in the meantime issued an operating license for a drop-in centre at Dar Hosea.

Drop-In

The drop-in centre at Dar Hosea provides support services that meet service users' basic needs. It offers a welcoming and safe space where service users are able to freely express their narratives without risking any judgment whilst embracing their true potential as women. The service provides a sense of belonging which the women would have themselves lacked.

During 2019, Dar Hosea provided the following services:

- Befriending and emotional support;
- Learning of craft work and personal skills development;
- STI screening by a Medical doctor and sexual education;
- Facilitating of art and crafts, reading, drawing sessions, reflective sessions, gardening, cooking, inspirational movies;
- Personal development through one-to-one sessions and group sessions;
- Assistance in seeking employment, including compiling a C.V. and document writing.
- Social Work support and counselling;

Advocacy on behalf of service users with Government departments and other public and private agencies;

- Accompanying clients to hospital visits, psychiatric services, dental check-ups, lawyers, court hearings, sessions with probation officers, parents' day meetings, employment interviews;
- Facilitating re-contact of service users with family members;
- While at the Drop-In centre, service users can make use of a shower, laundry facilities, a small library, an eating and resting area. Hairdressing is also available;
- Service-users are provided with breakfast, lunch, tea and coffee, bus fares, access to non-formal education, mobile phone top-up cards, toiletries, contraceptives, good quality clothing, and second-hand crockery and furniture.
- Assistance to children of service users who, many times, attend Dar Hosea with their mothers. Children are helped according to their specific needs, whether it is in supporting them with homework, or other basic learning skills. (often using drawing, puzzles, games, etc). Mothers are also assisted in basic child rearing skills.

It is pertinent to mention that each service user is served with a regularly reviewed care-plan.

Outreach

A series of meetings to establish channels for outreach were held with a number of collaborating organisations. The outcome of the meetings was positive. A second series of meetings was scheduled to discuss operational processes and ways of referrals between agencies. Agencies where outreach was mainly carried out were: the Detox centre, Correctional Services Agency, Child Protection Services, Youth in Focus, and Probation Services.

Correctional Services Agency

Dar Hosea extend its services to women in prostitution at the Correctional Services Agency (CSA). Once a week, crafts group sessions are prepared and delivered by Dar Hosea professional staff. Such sessions serve for personal skills development and as a form of therapy for inmates. Staff also carry out regular individual sessions with inmates, as a means of providing them with any required and additional support. This service also serves as an outreach for those who are ending their prison sentence term.



Collaborative work

Several meetings were held with the Parliamentary Secretary responsible for Reforms, Citizenship and Simplification of Administrative Processes within the Office of the Prime Minister (RCSAP) to explore and formulate a way forward for service development in favour of exploited women. A Memorandum of Understanding was handed to the Parliamentary Secretary outlining the development of a continuum of services supporting women in prostitution. Emphasis was often given to the creation of an 'Exit Programme' for female inmates involved in prostitution.

Management regularly met and discussed with the Parliamentary Secretary (RCSAP) when the latter sought advice regarding the drafting of new legislation and a way forward in relation to prostitution in Malta.

Dar Hosea collaborated with *Appoggj's* 'Youth-in-Focus' service and supported referred persons through one-to-one medical and/or therapeutic sessions.

Dar Hosea strives for networking and ensures the maintenance of regular professional liaison and collaboration with specialised professionals of other entities, in order to ensure appropriate approaches for the well-being of the service users. These include: Mount Carmel Hospital, the multi-disciplinary team which cares for pregnant substance misusing women and their children, and amongst others, professionals from Probation Service.

Statistical Data

In 2019 the average number of service users making use of the drop-in service was 4 daily. In the first four months of the year the average was higher – 6 service users.

| <i>Persons making use of Drop-in and Outreach services</i> | <i>2019</i> |
|---|-------------|
| New cases - Drop-in, community, MCH and Correctional Services Agency | 30 |
| Re-opened cases - Drop-in, community, MCH and Correctional Services Agency | 12 |
| Service Users served in the community, MCH and Correctional Services Agency | 41 |
| Service Users attending at Drop-in | 30 |
| Hours of attendance by Service Users at Drop-in | 1940 |
| Children accompanying mothers at Drop-in | 9 |

The following table shows the number of interventions carried out by the Manager and the Social Worker at Dar Hosea:

| <i>Interventions</i> | <i>2019</i> |
|--|-------------|
| One-to-one sessions | 198 |
| Group Sessions | 288 |
| Accompanying service users to medical visits, court sessions, employment services, others. | 199 |
| Home visits | 15 |
| Interventions with related professionals: medical doctors, social workers, head of homes, lawyers, officials in Government departments and other entities. | 88 |
| Outreach at the CSA | 75 |

General medical examinations and tests for sexually transmitted infections (STIs) were carried out regularly when service users asked for them (approximately 3 persons per month). These service users were then provided with follow-up sessions to discuss the results and any further required treatment.

During 2019 volunteer Support Staff performed around 2,550 hours of work at Dar Hosea and the Charity Shop.



Drama Therapy

A Drama Therapy project, funded (in 2018) by the Creativity Fund of the MCCF, provided a series of one-to-one therapy sessions to three clients. The drama therapist was Ms Dorothy Singh. Another element of the project was the production and performance of a drama targeting prostitution. The project was supported by the Commissioner for Domestic Violence. The project manager was Dr Lee Ann Montanaro and Mr Malcolm Galea directed the play. The cast was made up of five actors.

Drama therapy sessions offered clients a form of psychotherapy in which creativity, play, movement, voice, storytelling and dramatization hold a central position. Within such a therapeutic relationship the women concerned started exploring their thoughts and giving voice to their fears, needs and wishes through role play, movement and meditation. Moreover they showed remarkable resilience and started exploring their creative sides by taking up new hobbies like reading and art.

The script of the drama *Waħda Minna (No Different)* was based on the real experiences of three service users who had been interviewed by the script-writer and producer Ms Angele Galea. The overall purpose of the drama performance was to raise awareness on prostitution.

Following script-writing, production and rehearsals, four performances were delivered in different venues as planned. The outcome was very positive on all counts, namely: the actors' excellent portrayal of the women, a high public turnout, and more awareness of the difficult experience that prostitutes face.

A final performance followed by a panel discussion was also held in order to elicit discussion and analysis on the subject of prostitution and its legalisation. A local film production company 'Falkun films' plan to produce a short film based on the script of *Waħda Minna* (with English subtitles), with prospects of participating in a European film competition.



Activities

During the Christmas season, activities included the preparation of Christmas crafts and Christmas food. A special lunch was prepared for Christmas, including the distribution of a gift to each of the twenty-seven women and children attending. A Christmas dinner was also held for staff and volunteers in appreciation of their services rendered. Both events were very well attended and appreciated.

During the Easter period, staff and clients baked cupcakes, figolli, and kwarsimal. A prayer meeting was organised on the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows and lunch was offered for Easter.

Staff accompanied service users and children on regular outings. These included visits to Pama Village, Kitchen Garden, San Anton Gardens, and Marsascula Bay.



Human Resources

Staff composition

In 2019 the composition of staff and volunteers was as follows:

- Manager (a warranted Social Worker and Social Work supervisor);
- Medical Doctor (an expert on addiction and sexual health) on a pro-bono basis;
- FT Social Worker (also a psychology graduate);
- PT Social Support Worker (a psychology graduate);
- Assistant Administrator, on a pro-bono basis;
- 17 Volunteers who carry out Care Support.

The salaries of the three paid staff were reviewed and with effect from January 2019, they became equivalent to those offered by FSWS.

A much needed Administrative Assistant was engaged on a pro bono basis. The Administrative Assistant is also responsible for keeping the accounts of Dar Hosea.

Monthly meetings are held between Management and the support volunteers in order to discuss and assess progress, brainstorm ideas, exchange information, discuss client cases and difficulties, resolve any administrative or service provision issues, improve service provision and plan a way forward. These monthly meetings also serve as on-going formation of staff and volunteers.

A clinical meeting is also held weekly between management and staff in order to assess occurrences and maintain a close approach of current situations, whilst providing immediate assistance when required.

Regular supervision is given by the Manager to staff.

Staff Development

As part of their development programme, professional staff at Dar Hosea carry out frequent academic research on issues relating to current prostitution and sex trafficking. This is required in order to keep abreast and maintain competence in the field.

Throughout the year staff at Dar Hosea attended a number of training activities, seminars and conferences organised by agencies such as the Malta Food Bank Foundation, OASI, CRPD and the Malta Health Network.

A European conference on 'Sexual Exploitation of Women and Girls' organised by Europris and held in Mainz was attended by the Manager and another member of staff.

Dar Hosea staff provide educational support to University students who apply to conduct research in the field of prostitution. Due to the sensitivity of the research and confidentiality to be maintained, staff are often involved in the formulation of the research questions.

Supervision was provided regularly to staff by the Manager. Plans are in hand for holding monthly in-house training sessions for staff and volunteers.



Financial Resources

The main sources of income are (i) grants from corporate entities and the Government; (ii) donations from the general public; and (iii) fundraising by Dar Hosea itself. An account of the sources of income is outlined below. Detailed Financial Statements stating both the income and expenditure of Dar Hosea are compiled quarterly and audited annually.

The audited Financial Statements for 2018 were submitted for presentation and approval by the Annual General Meeting of the Association of the Friends of Thouret. Following such approval, the Financial Statements were sent to the Commissioner for the Voluntary Sector.

Grants

Dar Hosea acknowledges the significant grants given by the following donors during 2019:

- A sum was granted by the Parliamentary Secretariat for RCSAP for the consolidation of the Crafts Programme within the CSA. The grant secures the continuation and consolidation of an existing Crafts Programme for female inmates in CSA. The fund started covering staff remuneration, materials and equipment. Committed staff include a PT Social Worker and two PT Social Support Workers. The fund also covers the purchase of a new car, which is due to be acquired.
- The Good Causes Fund has approved a grant to cover, in kind, structural works and refurbishment to be carried out at Dar Hosea. These works emanated from exigencies to achieve standards and obtain an operating license from the Social Care Standards Authority. Funds will be made available once works, currently awaiting permits, are carried out.
- *Konfraternita` tal-Karita`* annually grants a sum that covers the salary of a Social Worker.
- The Community Chest Fund – to cover operations in general.
- Sisters of Charity – to cover operations in general.
- The Arts Council Fund – to cover a Drama Therapy project, including the *Waħda Minna* production and performances.

Events

Awareness

In order to raise awareness regarding the hidden realities of the harms of prostitution, Dar Hosea provided regular presentations and educational talks to various organisations and groups. Several media interventions were made, while participation in discussion panels was regular.

Dar Hosea set up a Facebook page to serve as a link with the general public.

Dar Hosea also embarked on an awareness project through drama performances. The drama *Waħda Minnha* was successfully produced and performed to a sizeable audience. The final performance was followed by an experts' panel discussion on the local prostitution situation and problems to be addressed. Details of this project follow below.

Lobbying on Legislation

A series of advisory meetings were held with the Parliamentary Secretary for RCSAP with regard to legislative changes being envisaged by the Government. Dr Anna Maria Vella, together with other experts, also contributed to the House of Parliament's Social Affairs Committee consultation process regarding legislation on prostitution. Dar Hosea assumed a lobbying role during the public consultation process launched by a Government document entitled 'Strategy on Human Trafficking and Prostitution'. Dr Vella participated in various meetings, television and radio programmes during this consultation, mainly promoting the Nordic Model and the decriminalisation of those who were prostituted. Dar Hosea joined around fifty other organisations who had opted to present a common front of views and positions to the Government. In this stand, Dar Hosea was a leading organisation, together with the Association for Equality (A4E) and the Women's Rights Foundation, in the drawing up of a document presented to the Parliamentary Secretary for RCSAP.

Donations

An encouraging number of persons gave donations totalling to a substantial amount. Gratitude is expressed to these individual benefactors.

Other donations were made by organisations: International Order of St Lazarus (for procuring two computers); Catalogue Solutions Ltd; Gudja Parish; Tarxien *Tal-Erwieh* Church.

A much appreciated initiative was taken by the Parish Priest of Iklin Parish, who gave the opportunity to Dar Hosea to appeal for and collect money during masses over a full weekend. The collections made by Dar Hosea representatives were higher than expected!

Dar Hosea received several donations from the public, including clothes, food items, wax and jars for the candle making project together with other items of use for the women attending Dar Hosea.

Dar Hosea is extremely grateful for all the donations received during 2019, as these are essential for providing an outstanding service to the women.

Fund Raising

A Charity Shop was set up to raise funds and a vacant shop was rented for this purpose. The rental agreement covers a one year period, is renewable, and allows for a one month notice of termination. Volunteers were engaged and trained to run the bazaar which was open to the public every morning subject to the availability of volunteers. The average monthly income makes the enterprise viable. The Bazaar has also assumed a function to support customers in need who visit the bazaar by donating to them items from the bazaar. The bazaar has provided yet another opportunity for family members and friends of the team of Dar Hosea to contribute by volunteering. This sense of commitment was very encouraging and beneficial for the successful outcome of the bazaar and the sense of community within the Dar Hosea team.

Service users worked on candle making to raise funds. The candles were used as souvenirs for special occasions, including wedding and Holy Confirmation events. Items were also sold at a Ta` Qali market stall.

A women's circle convened by a DH volunteer regularly holds functions to raise funds for DH.

Way Forward

WAY FORWARD

As a way forward Dar Hosea will pursue the following tasks:

Service Consolidation

- a. Promote services provided at Dar Hosea so that more women are attracted to the services available.
- b. Conduct informal personalised induction and integration sessions for new service users.
- c. Target the children of prostitutes who mostly lack educational help and effective parenting with the objective of helping them with their school work and support in developing their motor and personal skills.
- d. Increase outdoor activities and outings for service users.
- e. Enhance collaboration with 'Youth in Focus' (*Appogg*) and other entities that work with young persons with challenging behavior with the objective of preventing vulnerable young persons from falling into prostitution.
- f. Develop a more comprehensive Manual of Operational Procedures.
- g. Consolidate fund-raising activities so that financial sustainability is improved.

Exit Programme

Due to the great difficulties which are experienced upon exiting prison, Dar Hosea is in favour of the setting up of an Exit Programme that would assist and help those convicted due to prostitution and their reintegration into society.

The CSA's expression of interest in setting up an 'Exit Programme' for female inmates involved in prostitution has been discussed with Dar Hosea. Dar Hosea's ethos and approach for running such a programme were presented to the CEO of CSA. Should Dar Hosea be entrusted to deliver the programme, then it will be on condition that its autonomy is maintained. The possibility of setting up such a programme will mainly depend on the availability of funds via CSA.

Awareness and Education

Hold educational talks at schools and parishes on abuse and exploitation in order to remove stigma and prejudice related to prostituted women. Such talks will encourage school students to pursue studies in related issues and University students seek placements at Dar Hosea so as to increase the academic knowledge on the subject.

Relations with the Police Force

Develop smoother relations with the Police Force and negotiate the establishment of a specific telephone contact number where one could immediately seek assistance if any safety/security issues occur.

Legislation

Continue to advocate for legislation that decriminalizes the prostitutes; criminalises those who buy sex or act as pimps; funds support services for those who are coerced into prostitution.

Structural works

Structural modifications and upgrading of the premises as requested by the Social Care Standards Authority are planned. An application for a 'Change of Use' of the premises to the Planning Authority was in the process of submission in 2019. The works will cover upgrades in bathrooms, installation of accessibility equipment, asolar heating system and various minor furbishments.

Spiritual Support

Maintain an intercession group of people who commit to praying regularly both for persons who are served and for those who provide a service at Dar Hosea.

Narratives

Susan

Susan has known the streets for more than thirty years. She has five children but four were taken in care by the Child Protection Services. Susan has spent most of her life in prison and institution. Abuse: physical, sexual and emotional are all known to her. She came to Dar Hosea with her Probation Officer and her four-year-old daughter. The latter was strapped to a dirty buggy because she was not allowed to walk. She could not talk and had very poor skills for her age. Susan herself was filthy and had a severe drug problem. The Probation Officer had lost all hope and Dar Hosea was the final attempt to help her.

From the start, Dar Hosea staff helped the child. She was washed daily, given proper clothes and fed. Every day professionals had a session with her to teach her words and play. Within a few weeks the child learned several words and became more communicative than ever before. Susan was moved by her daughter's progress. First, she stopped her prostitution, then her drug use and then started caring for herself. She was very willing to do as advised and soon both her and her daughter's appearance became a lot more physically presentable.

Susan then asked for assistance to find a job. She compiled a CV together with Dar Hosea staff who also accompanied her to employment interviews. Finally, an employer decided to employ her despite her negative Police Conduct Certificate (which was several pages long). Susan showed much pride in the fact that she was now employed as a cleaner with a minimum wage with a uniform bearing the logo of her employment company. She came to Dar Hosea to show staff that she had a decent job and a uniform. Even though she earns in a month what she used to earn in a day, Susan is a dignified woman who is happy to earn money by working regularly.

Jane

Jane had a terrible childhood. She was always being sent from her father's family to her mother's and also her grandparents. Rejection was an integral part of her childhood and she yearned for love and attention. She started abusing of drugs as she got older and fell into street prostitution through the men she met. Because she was completely rejected by her family, she moved in with a younger man who not only used her earnings for drugs but involved her in theft and other crime.

Halfway through her first pregnancy, Jane realised that the Child Protection Services would take her child if she continued living in such a negative environment. This encouraged her to stop consuming drugs, leave prostitution and avoid crime. Her partner also changed his negative habits and they both settled down well. However, when their second child was seven months old three year later, Jane's partner relapsed on drugs and he started being physically abusive and threatening her to start prostitution again. He locked her up for a fortnight in their flat but she still refused to comply. One night he hit their seven-month-old daughter severely fracturing her lower limbs. Jane managed to run away with both children. He was sentenced to prison while she moved to a domestic violence shelter and settled there.

Dar Hosea helped Jane a lot. She came to the drop-in centre daily with her children. Professional help and advice were given to her specifically focusing on the trauma the family had experienced. She received counselling on parental skills and her son, who had become very aggressive, was admitted to a childcare centre where he settled and matured. But most importantly, Jane feels that at Dar Hosea she has a family where she can go every day and feel her desired sense of belonging.

For donations please utilise the following bank account:

Name - Sisters of Charity - Dar Hosea

IBAN - MT14APSB77013000000035388120028

Mosta Branch - APS Bank PLC

or

send cheques issued to Dar Hosea to P.O. Box 17, Birkirkara.

Volunteers are always welcome

Tel. +356 99508954



Facebook address: Dar Hosea

