

# Annual Report Dr KlowN

2017



## Where to find...

### 2017 in a nutshell

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Achievements versus  
Objectives

Our association showed steady and controlled growth in 2017: More KlowN Doctors, improved clown skills, more visits to children in hospital, sound finances, and an active Support Team.

We broadly achieved our objectives set for the year 2017.

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Highlights of 2017

Two events turned out to be unforgettable experiences: Our **Kids' KlowN Parade** involved about 750 young people in a massive show of solidarity with hospitalised children and during **TeamFest** all our volunteers bonded with each other as a large family.

Dr KlowN is a registered NGO  
(VO/0582).

131/2, Spinola Road, StJulians

A delegation of KlowN Doctors grabbed the *once in a lifetime* opportunity to meet Dr Hunter *Patch* Adams in person during a Conference in Padua, Italy.



## Operating Results 2017 in numbers

**Frequency** of Hospital visits: 355, or **6.08 visits a week**

Total **number** of children visited: **3,650** (approx.)

Total **time** spent by Klowndocors in Hospital: **761 hours**

Total **training** time of Klowndocors: **1154 hours**  
(or an average of 38 hours per Klowndocor)

**We visit**

**Every child,  
Every week!**

Compared to 2016, the *frequency* of the visits went up substantially, but the planning and organisation of the visits changed: Klowndocors now usually spend *slightly less time* in Hospital when they do their round of the wards; this means:

- The teams (consisting of 2 or 3 Klowndocors) visit **2 or 3 wards instead of 5** (as was the case previous years) for an average duration of **2,5 hours** instead of 4 hours.
- But, since we have a larger group of Klowndocors available, they can go to Hospital more **often** and divide the 5 wards between them.

The result is a **win-win**: The Klowndocors can stay *longer in a room* if required for the benefit of the child, while at the same time the *total round* of wards is *less exhausting* for the Klowndocors. After all, our volunteers do their hospital rounds after a full day's work.

## Finances

The financial situation of the association is healthy. The expenses for the year 2017 totalled 37,827.78 EUR, which were fully covered by the funds raised during events, the donations, sponsorships and MCCF-grant received.

### Use of funds:

63% to Direct Operations: Training, coaching, props, team-building  
19% to Awareness Building & fundraising expenses  
18% to Administration and running of the NGO (IT, telecommunication, stationery, transport, printing, subscriptions, etc.)



## Achievements compared to Objectives

**Objective 1 set for 2017: *A moment that lasts a week!*** or: Strengthen the quality of our clowning.

In April, the established Klowns (with a minimum of one year experience in hospital clowning) were introduced to new techniques and mindsets during the live-in seminar “**Who let you in here?**” led by John Wright, Director of the *Wright School of Comedy* in London, with a focus on the concept of *playfulness* (see picture above). John Wright is the author of the book *Why is that so funny?*

A further two-day programme about **Contact Clowning**, organised in September, was led by Ton Kurstjens, author of the book *The clown, from Heart to Heart* (see picture on the right). Tom has been working as a clown all his life and trains hospital clowns as well as other interested groups. Special attention was paid to working with the actual situation as it is found in a hospital room, mainly meaning that a lot of importance is given to improvisation.

**Objective 2: Further structuring of the organisation**

In 2017 the association made progress in ensuring its sustainability by registering as a Legal Person to protect the personal liability of the Committee members.

The dedication of the Support Team volunteers also ensures a smooth running of the association as the responsibilities are shared among each other and there's good mutual understanding.



## People matters

We welcome **8 new Klown Doctors** in our midst, who obtained their Certificate on December 2 after training for more than a full year: Artistic skills, improvisation techniques, a live-in seminar on Hospital Clown Skills with Laurence Quetel (France / Netherlands) and a few months of visits supervised by established Klowns. They are now further coached individually on-the-job by a Maltese professional.

*Picture: New group of Klowns at the end of the “Clown Identity” session with their trainers Malcolm Galea and Jean Pierre Busuttill.*



Six Klown Doctors and two Support Team volunteers asked for a temporary suspension or had to leave the association because of developments in their personal life that made it impossible to fulfill their commitment with Dr Klown.

*Dr Freckles - pictured below with Dr Pixie - back in the wards after several months of absence to give birth to a beautiful baby*

Our association has a total of 43 volunteers by end 2017, of which 30 are Klown Doctors



## 15 October: The Kids' Clown Parade



Our sixth anniversary was celebrated with a new type of event. Designed to be a show of solidarity with hospitalized children, about 750 children and their parent(s) walked along the St Julian's – Sliema Promenade dressed as clowns, carrying positive messages of encouragement for the sick.



It was a day of fun, music, dancing and singing. We thank H.E. the President of Malta for Her support and presence during the event.





## TeamFest

Early December our volunteers gathered for a day-long teambuilding exercise involving all volunteers. The aim was to give all a chance to meet the other volunteers with whom they rarely work together, the Clown Doctors, the Support Team and the Committee members. The event was professionally led by Mr John Mallia of Mediacoop.



*“Can’t you stay here?”  
“Will you come back tomorrow?”*

*- are the most common comments  
by children we visit*

## Meeting *Patch* in person

A team of 8 representatives of Dr Clown Malta went on a mission to Padua, Italy, for a weekend to participate in training sessions and meet **Dr Hunter “Patch” Adams** in a Conference attended by 800 Clown Doctor enthusiasts.



They came back with a thousand good memories and a realistic view on the ideas and work of Patch Adams, who has developed more into a symbol of a movement for “love and peace” than a practical example of what we Clown Doctors try to achieve in hospital. Discussions went on till late in the night, and were very enriching experiences.

## Dr Klown in Gozo

The Klown Doctors visit the Gozo General Hospital when called upon by local medical or nursing staff. With the certification in December of two Gozitan Klown Doctors, Dr Kuku and Dr Yippee!! the visits will increase and be more regular, to the benefit of the children in the Outpatients Ward.

Picture: *Dr Kuku and Dr Yippee!!* ready for action!

## Objectives for 2018

For 2018 we plan to have a year of consolidation: Working steadily along the established lines, giving all a time to deepen the quality of their work without new challenges. We will continue to organize training for the Klown Doctors with local and foreign specialists. A Seminar for all Klown Doctors is already planned with Ton Kurstjens for October 2018, following the success of this year's training led by him. We will also continue to organise team development meetings.

We will of course be receptive for new developments coming our way and participate wholeheartedly in events organized for Dr Klown. That will most probably keep us more than busy – but we are very grateful for all the support shown by so many!

## Thank you!

We THANK our sponsors, benefactors and the many schools, organisations and companies who helped us to sustain our services by organising their event for the benefit of Dr Klown, through their CSR activities or by participating in the **NoseOn!** Campaign.

A special Thank You goes to the many marrying couples who chose the Dr Klown souvenirs for their guests to remember their Special Day.

## Quote of the year

***“Daddy, daddy, let's go see if the Klowns are in Hospital”*** repeatedly said by a little girl, who had been hospitalized for a few months a year ago, every time she passes in sight of the Hospital in her daddy's car.



5 January 2018