

Annual Report Dr Klown

2018



Highlights

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Dr Klown awarded the
Premju Nazzjonali
Organizzazzjoni
Volontarja tas-Sena
2018

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Dr Klown Day 2018:
Concerto Buffo

2018 in a nutshell

Operational objectives for 2018 reached:

- 371 Hospital visits by a Dr Klown-Team for a total of 768 hours
- Satisfaction of the Children at 91% and of their parents 96%

New artistic skills developed:

- Integrating (mock) medical instruments in the clowns' play
- How to make use of musical sounds in the children's rooms

All projects and expenses covered:

Organisations sponsored projects such as the acquisition of musical instruments and props, while all costs of running the association were covered by donations of the generous public. Thanks to all for your continued support!



Dr Klown was awarded the *Premju Nazzjonali Organizzazzjoni Volontarja tas-Sena 2018** in December

**National Award for Voluntary Organisation of the Year 2018*

Dr Klown 2018 in numbers

Our core activity: *Send in the Clowns!*

371 **Visits** by a Klown Doctors' team to children in hospital, for a total of 768 hours

712 Hours of **Development** activities: Training, Peer Review sessions and on-the-job Coaching **of Klowns**

4,127 **Hours in total** of voluntary work, of which:

- 1,741 by Klown Doctors
- 2,386 by the Support Team (including Committee members)

Client Satisfaction Survey 2018:

Satisfaction rate of 91% from the hospitalised children, ranging from 96% ("Klowns made me laugh" as well as "I felt better after the Klowns' visit") to 81% ("They let me play with them"). Parents/carers scored our services higher (96% satisfaction). We will analyze the kids' comments and act upon it.

Our actual **team** consists of 43 Volunteers:

- 21 certified Klown Doctors
- 9 Support Team members
- 6 Committee members
- 7 volunteers with specialised tasks

Total **expenses** for the year: 24,746 EUR

- Direct operational expenses: 19,761 EUR (79.8%)
- Organisational expenses: 4,985 EUR (20.1%)



The Support Team

Left to right: Rita Caligari, Linda Zahra, Bernice Bonello, Scott Bruyninckx, Kristel Dekeyser, Christine & Maurice Sleypen; (pictured below) Nadia Verbeken and Valentina Grossano

Support Team volunteers work in the background but they are indispensable for the smooth running of our operations. The fact that they are seldom seen in the spotlight is not the only difference with their colleagues Klowndocors: Their work schedule is of a different nature. They almost daily spend time on Dr Klowndoc, busy organizing events or training sessions, meeting sponsors or benefactors, planning hospital visits, doing the accounts, purchasing props, visiting schools to inform the children about our work in hospital, keeping the Facebook page up to date, designing cards, folders and brochures, answering Facebook messages and e-mails and so much more.

Some others offer their specialized skills voluntarily to Dr Klowndoc, on a "call out" basis, when needed: Website development and update, IT support, serving as an ambassador for Dr Klowndoc, a videographer or photographer at events, etc. Their support is very much appreciated.

A letter from a very young "Supporter"

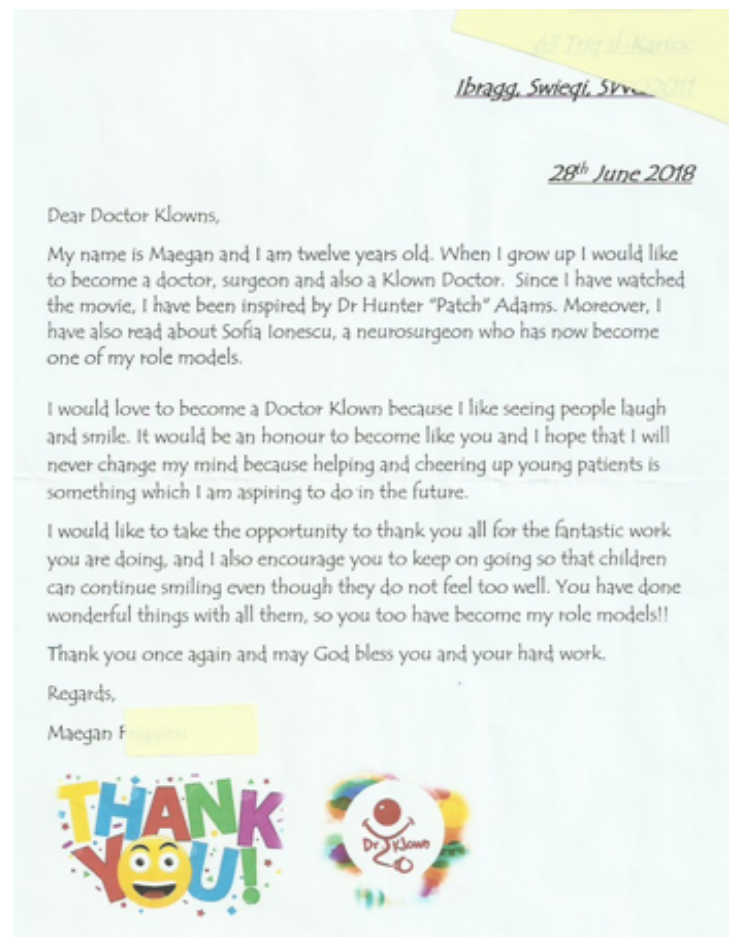


Nadia Zammit-Verbeken



Valentina Grossano

Maegan (letter right) helps out occasionally with wedding souvenir cards or other tasks that require dedication and concentration.



Thanks to a grant by the Hard Rock Café Foundation "Music Heals", the KlowN Doctors could attend classes on how to use songs, simple rhythmic instruments and dance in the paediatric wards. These were organised as preparation for a one-off performance for the residents of Dar tal Providenza, under the project name *Concerto Buffo*. The show was a big success with residents and volunteers alike.



This year's Hospital Clown Seminar was also themed *Music, Maestro, please!* although the use of music took second stage to refining the art of being a caring clown.

Trainer:

Ton Kurstjens, The Netherlands

Dr KlowN Day 2018 – 21 October
Concerto Buffo
at and for Dar tal Providenza
Experience the fun by following this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/196065513804350/videos/581411898974177/>



Contributing by sharing

Dr Corinne Wood, Operations Officer of Dr Klown since 5 years after serving for 2 years as Klown Dr Gimmy5, has been chosen as a member of the Malta Council for the Voluntary Sector. It is an honor to contribute to the growth and quality of volunteering in Malta!

Another contribution was made by **Maurice Sleypen**, President, during the National Conference for Voluntary Organisations by sharing experiences with other NGO's in a panel on **Best Practices for NGO's**.

Involving children in play

Thanks to the continuous support of The HSBC Foundation Malta, EMD Advocates, Miss World Malta, Blevins Franks and The Farsons Foundation, amongst so many others, we were able to circumvent the problem of infection risk by procuring toy props that can be left to the child at the end of the Klowns' visit. No need to thoroughly disinfect the prop handled by the child: Imagine cleaning a stack of 52 "magical" playing cards between two adjacent rooms – impossible! We are planning the same strategy when inviting the child to participate in our musical performances.

We will soon need hundreds of shakers, maracas, flutes and bird whistles, tambourines, xylophones!

Change of strategy

Our two Klown Doctors from Gozo experienced an unusual effect of living in a small community: People kept recognizing them as who they are in daily life, making it extremely hard to stay in clown character to play with the kids as Dr Kuku and Dr Yippie! As Dr Yippie! moved to Malta, the Klown Doctors will continue to serve the Gozo General Hospital from Malta.



GRAZZI HAFNA!

We thank all our benefactors and supporters for their contribution to help donate smiles to children in hospital!





Any mature person who is willing to regularly dedicate a serious part of his/her free time to cheer up sick children as a clown and feels s/he is up to the emotionally challenging task is invited to fill out the application form on our website: www.drklown.org

Objectives for 2019

Klowns-on-Demand

The Clown Doctors are not always there when it matters most... They have jobs to do, family to take care of. This new project "Klowns-on-Demand" is meant to make the Clown Doctors accessible to children in hospital 24/7, at the tip of their fingers, online. The Maltese Clown Doctors will be there for them with ridiculous acts, jokes and pranks, magical tricks, comedy, show – all in *clown mode*: To help forget the pain, the stress and possibly boredom when it hits hardest, on demand. We plan to have the first videos and delivery system up and running by the end of the year 2019, but it will take several years to build a serious *videotheque* to please young and old, boy or girl, wise or naughty...

Recruitment of 6 additional Clown Doctors

Unfortunately, we regularly need to replace volunteers of our team of Clown Doctors, who leave the association because of new challenges in their personal life. It's sad, because one becomes only better by practice over the years.

Because the recruitment process and initial training of potential Clown Doctors takes around 15 months, we are recruiting volunteers who will finalise their training mid 2020 and then be certified to visit the wards.

Recruitment of a Manager

In view of the continuity of the association, the Executive Committee has decided to look out for a Manager to guarantee the daily running of the organisation in direct support of the President and with the help of the Support Team volunteers.

Contact details

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Quote of the Year

From a Doctor in Gozo General Hospital, after the Klowns' visit:

“...It was our pleasure to have you clowning around our ward and along the hospital corridors creating a bright and welcoming atmosphere. Moreover, with your distraction and play therapy, you managed to alleviate the scary experience of our patients undergoing surgery.”...

Thank you for the feedback, Doctor!