The Mosta Scout Group collects money in aid of Istrina

The Mosta Scout Group in collaboration with the Scout Association of Malta took the initiative to raise money for Istrina in an innovative way this year. We came up with the idea of creating a huge human Fleur De Lye at Ta’ Qali National Park on Sunday, the 20th of December, 2009. Despite the very bad weather on the day, around 300 people turned up on the day and the outline of the design was formed. An aerial shot was taken from a light aircraft by Rover Damien Pace from the St Venera Rover crew. Tickets for this event were being sold prior to the event and by
the end we managed to collect €1465 which were presented on the 26th of December during the TV show Strina.

The Mosta Scout Group would like to thank the following sponsors; The Malta flying school, Vassallo Builders Group and the Fire Brigade (Xemxija Branch) for the continuous support shown during this event. Thanks also go to the Chief Scout, the deputy Chief Commissioner, various commissioners, IHQ staff and the Scout Groups that participated.

**Dar tal-Providenza Dingli Scout Group**

Dingli Scout Group contributed in the RTK campaign towards ‘Id-Dar Tal-Providenza’ by two street collections in Valletta, on the 23rd and 24th December 2009. The scouts participated with enthusiasm knowing that they were helping a good cause. On 1st January 2010 members from the Group also helped in the manning of telephones at RTK during the marathon.

**A Disco for l-Istrina Lyceum Scout Group**

L.S.G. Xmas Disco Party in Aid of Strina (D.J. Funky Momo) on 19th December 2009

Following last year’s success of the 100th years National Troop Christmas Disco Party held at I.H.Q. on 19.12.2008 and then organized by the troop sections of Stella Maris College, Birzebugia, Lyceum and Victoria Scout Groups, we have took the challenge to organize it ourselves at Lyceum Hall Hamrun Kullegg San Gorg Prega, Triq Wenzu Mallia, Hamrun. All the funds from the entry tickets were for the aid for l-Istrina. The Lyceum Venture Unit was in charge of the booking and issue of tickets and running a non-alcoholic bar and little selection of fast food and pastries. The new Lyceum Rover Section which is still under a trial period has just started in October 2009 and was in charge of the security. The Lyceum Troop Section was in charge of the fun, music, lighting, decoration of the hall under the direction of the Lyceum Scout Leader Mark Momo (Skipper) which had finally decided to open up himself as a new upcoming D.J. and Artist performer under the name of Funky Momo.

The Lyceum Hall was nicely set up with lighting, sound equipment and few decorations all with the help of Lyceum Scout Group members on Saturday morning. The party was held between 20:00 and midnight. The tickets were sold for the price of €3 and around 50 people attended the disco party and total sum of €170 were collected. We would like to thank all those people who attended the event and participated in the disco party. We promise that that next years will try to organise the party agian all in aid of strina.

On Saturday 26th Dec 2009 together with Scout Association of Malta we presented all the funds collectd from the Scout Groups at l-Istrina event round 6pm at the Lufthanza Technik hangars in Luqa.

**One is not enough St Aloysius College Scout Group**

The St. Aloysius’ College Scout Group organised a number of initiatives in order to help in the fundraising events for L-Istrina on behalf of the Community Chest Fund. The following are the events we organised:

**Wine Tasting Night held on the 12th December.**

This was a well attended event that we organised at our HQ. Attendees, approximately 100, paid an entrance fee and they were able to sample about 18 different types of wines sponsored by Montana Enterprises together with a variety of nibbles and finger foods prepared by our Scouters.
Christmas Card Sale

The young members of our group, and any other artistic individuals within the Group were encouraged to create designs for Christmas cards with a scouting theme. We chose the best 5, printed a number of them and started selling to friends & family and on the streets of Valletta on the day of the President's run for charity. Around 2,000 cards were printed and we managed to sell more than 75% of them.

Weekly Hot Dog Stand:

At the end of our weekly meetings, we sold Hot Dogs for the past few weeks with all proceeds going into the kitty of funds that we had been collecting. It's a relatively small amount each time, but added together it's a tidy sum that has been collected from this simple event.

100Km Hike on the 19th December:

Seven members of our Group took up the challenge, although only one of us, Matthew Catania, managed to complete the full 100Km and did so in record time (this is a Group record not a national record). Our target was to complete the route in 20 hours and he finished it in 16 hours. The other members had to stop at different points along the way due to injury or fatigue. The previous record had been set in 1966 by two venture scouts also from the St. Aloysius’ College Scout Group, and they had completed the 100Km route in 23 hours and 38 minutes.

Halloween Party:

This party was organised for cubs and their friends at the end of October and all proceeds made formed part of our fundraising efforts.

President’s Fun Run on December 6th:

Around 20 scouts and cubs participated in this event either by actually running in the event or helping at palace square in the distribution of fruit to the arriving athletes. Prior to this event we collected funds through the sponsor sheets provided by the Scout Association.

In all we collected €3,000.

05 Crossing the Victoria Bridge
Victoria Scout Group

WE WILL DO OUR BEST!!!! ……. and we certainly did.

The Victoria Scout Group participated in this year's annual fund-raising marathon, l-Istrina campaign held on Saturday 26th December 2009. Leaders of the different sections and members of the Venture Unit met at their headquarters at 7.30 am, packed the equipment needed and proceeded to Independence Square where the activities in Gozo were to be held. During the morning, the Scouts built a suspension bridge and a tower in the square. This bridge was quite popular with children and youths. People who climbed the tower and crossed the bridge gave a donation towards the Strina campaign. Some Scouts prepared friendship bracelets which were sold to the public. Other Scouts
collected money from passers-by in collection boxes provided by the organisers. Throughout the year, the Scouts had also donated money from their pocket money.

Various personalities arrived at the square from time to time. These included the Bishop of Gozo, the Minister for Gozo, various Gozitan MP’s and mayors. In the evening, the President of Malta, Dr George Abela flew to Gozo in a helicopter and paid a visit to the square. Various organizations including Mr Lorrie Saliba, Group Scout Leader of the Victoria Scout Group presented their donations to the President. The President then inspected the tower and the bridge and talked to the GSL and the VSL Ġorġ Said about this project. A live television link provided by Favourite Channel’s outside broadcasting unit aired what was happening in Gozo throughout the marathon. Live entertainment for the Gozitan audience included songs and dancing. The Scouts remained on duty till half past eleven when they started to dismantle the bridge. It was a very long day for those involved but in the end it was certainly worth it. In this way, the Scouts lived up to their promise to think of others before themselves.

The Victoria Scout Group managed to collect the sum of €4586, a sum which certainly reflects the generosity of those who contributed towards those in need. We hope that these funds will provide assistance to people who are going through difficult moments in their lives and somewhat ease their difficulties.

06 Scouts at the Strand . . . . . but not for shopping.
Sliema Scout Group

Sliema Scouts support Dar tal-Providenza

During the days leading up to Christmas, Sliema Group members and leaders went down to the Strand to entice the shoppers passing by to drop a few coins (or maybe even some euro notes!!) in the collection cans in favour of Dar tal-Providenza. This was organised in conjunction with RTK Radio who are holding it's annual campaign which leads up to a live TV programme on New Year's Day to collect funds for this cause. Sliema Ventures & Leaders will be spending the first day of the new year answering call-ins from contributors during the programme. Wishing a Happy and Successful 2010 to all our Scouting friends!

The Group is happy to have managed to collect €900 through this effort and promised to keep this support an annual event.

07 Birkirkara’s Hive
Birkirkara Scout Group

L-Istrina Campaign – Fund Raising Initiative by the 1st Birkirkara Scout Group

L-Istrina Campaign lead by the President of Malta, Dr. George Abela, LL.D. was seen by the Scouts of the 1st Birkirkara Scout Group as an opportunity to put into practice one of the fundamental qualities of Scouting, - Helping Others at all time, before oneself. In the light of this, opportunities to put into practice what is held in Scouting as most noble, these ideals were put into practice on two occasions during the Istrina Campaign, so that from a tender age a good example is experienced, as the Founder of Scouting always expected of Scout Movement’s followers.

Participants of the Fun Run & Walk organized the President of Malta

Scout members of all ages completed the sponsor form of 10 Euros, which were collected by the Scout Association Administrative Office. On the day of the event, a number of scouts early in the morning where in front of the President’s Palace to meet Volunteers of the Istrina Campaign so that they may assist with the setting up of the tables, bottles of water and T-Shirts sponsored by the Banif Bank, in the Square in front of the National Library. Then after this set-up was ready, a number of other scouts assisted with the setting up of the wooden stalls on which two truckloads of fresh fruit was carried from the trucks and put in presentation straw
baskets. Some of the Scouts from Birkirkara Scout Group went back to Birkirkara so that together with other Scouts they walked to Valletta.

The fruit on the stalls and bottles of water, were to be given together with bags made of cloth sponsored by the Ministry for the Environment to each of the participants of the Fun Run which had left from Attard, through Birkirkara Hamrun and other locations along the route.

Since it is was inevitable that on such occasions, participants of the Fun Run and other people in the Valletta, would surely rush in on the helpers of the fruit stalls, the fruit contractor was advised by Scouts to cordon off the stalls with barriers which were in the vicinity. Permission from the Police Officers on the site was asked for, and they approved that these barriers could be used for the safety of the volunteers and scouts on the fruit stalls. As soon as the first athletes reached the finishing line they were directed to the fruit stalls where scouts and volunteers distributed a fresh fruit, a bottle of water and a cloth bag.

After a few minutes especially when HE the President of Malta, Dr. George Abela LL.D. was on the balcony to signify the success of the event, the rush on the fruit stalls increased heavily and the barriers had to be pulled back from the outside by an Adult Scout Leader so that the volunteers, Scouts and the Fruit Provider would not be over-run under the steel barriers because of the pressure caused by fun run/walk participants of all ages.

The Scouts from the 1st Birkirkara Scout Group that took part in the Walk from Birkirkara on reaching the Palace Square joined the Scouts on the fruit stalls to assist with the distribution of fruit and water bottles, since up to that time the supply of cloth bags was exhausted.

After the President of Malta was escorted out of the Palace to his Car, scouts assisted the fruit provider to collect the remaining fruit into the trucks, and dismantle the wooden stalls which were taken back into the Palace courtyard to be collected the next day.

**Fund Raising Activity for L-Istrina at Ta’ Qali – 20th December, 2009.**

A second opportunity had presented itself on the invitation of the President of the Republic for a creative fund raising activity in aid of the Istrina. The idea of the President’s Scout Group, attracted the attention of many Scout Groups on the Island, and the 1st Birkirkara Scout Group was not an exception that was attracted to this innovative idea with a prestigious recognition tag.

Scouts in the Pack and Troop Section were informed about the President’s invitation and members were asked to come forward with ideas. A two week period elapsed and as it happened one of the Scouters came up with the idea of constructing a giant Christmas card depicting the Holy Family with angels on a plywood stand, where people would put their faces instead of the faces one would find in the Christmas Card. The assistance of a professional artist was sought, who immediately accepted to paint a Christmas card depicting the Holy Family, but after about two weeks, had to decline because of other commitments.

A parent of two young adult scouts offered to paint the Holy Family on plywood and cut out the space where the face had to be replaced by the face of a person. The name of this person is Mr. Mario Borg who is the father of Daniel and Caroline Borg. Victoria Galea an adult leader with Cub Scouts, lead this initiative and together with other scouts and parents like Moira and Joseph Farrugia who are the parents of John Paul Farrugia, Troop Scout and Jasmine and Christie, both Cub Scouts, assisted in procuring Maltese Traditional Sweets and Food Specialties’ so that may be sold at a profit at the event that was planned to be held at Ta’ Qali Grounds on the 20th December, 2009. The Group Scout Leader, Mr. George Sillato bought a Father Christmas Costume so that Children could take photos with him on the stand. Mr. Mario Borg also took care of designing a Poster for the occasion. Mr. Chris Zammit, ex-scout of the 1st Birkirkara Scout Group offered to prepare a Maltese Pudina, and other Maltese delicacies such as roasted chestnuts and Maltese Kukudina (Hot Chocolate).

To roast the Chestnuts, 45 gallon empty steel oil drum was obtained and the Group Scout Leader Mr. George Sillato a welder by trade, turned the oil drum into an upright oven on which to roast chestnuts. Mr. Antoine Azzopardi, Troop Scout Leader forwarded the idea of designing a commemorative card for the occasion on which to include photos of families in the cut out giant Christmas card or taking photos with the Christmas Father.

The necessary permits were obtained free of charge, first from Attard Local Council, where we were assisted by Local Council Member Mr. Mark A Spiteri. Then Ms. Victoria Galea approached the Parks Department at Ta’ Qali from whom the necessary permits were also obtained so that on the 20th December, all necessary permits to hold the fund raising activity would be in hand.
The 20th December, 2009, a very cold Sunday, with rain showers welcomed the 1st Birkirkara Scout Group on the plateau of the Ta’ Qali green park area at 7.30 in the early morning. Ms. Victoria Galea was assisted by Mrs. Moira Farrugia while arrangements were done with the Park Wardens so that the rest of the Scout Group would set up the stand. Two canvas tents were set-up to provide shelter from the adverse weather condition. Mr. Chris Zammit assisted by his wife, soon arrived with a truck load of equipment and Maltese Christmas delicacies prepared for the occasion. Other Scouts from all sections gathered at the stand while the rain drizzled on them. Every now and then the rain stopped but the cold wind held every assistant of this event moving around the stand to avoid freezing from the cold weather. Mr. Zammit was quick enough to start serving hot drinking chocolate, which he cooked on the back of his truck. The upright oven prepared to roast chestnuts was put on a wooden pallet and soon everyone was warming their hands over the fire.

Under one of the canvas tents, young scouts were cutting the skin of the chestnuts in the form of a cross so that David Zahra, a venture scout together with other scouts roasted the chestnuts. Sometime later Bertu, Caroline’s boy friend came around, and soon set to assisting Christopher on the Kitchen on wheels at the back of the truck. Christine Buhagiar, a Beaver Scout Leader assisted with taking bookings from families and other people who wanted to take pictures, while Antoine Azzopardi armed with his camera took photos.

The stand was visited by the Chief Scout, Mr. Kenneth DeMartino, the Association’s Administrative Secretary, Mr. Robert Gonzi, the Training Commissioner, Mr. Leslie Bonnici, North District Commissioner, Mr. Pierre Mangion, South District Commissioner, Mr. Martin Bonnici, IHQ Staff Ms. Pat Marsh, Mr. Frank Bezzina, a great supporter of our Scout Group who were all welcomed by Ms. Victoria Galea as the main coordinator of this activity and by the Group Scout Leader, Mr. George Sillato. A number of people who happened to be bravely visiting the new fun park sponsored by Bank of Valletta, visited the Birkirkara Scout Group fund raising stand, during the short periods of time when the rain ceased to fall.

‘Tempus Fugit’, time flies, soon it was three in the afternoon, more clouds were gathering overlooking Imdina, and with barely any visitors to the stand because of the cold wind and continuous rain, the coordinator of the activity after consulting the Group Scout Leader, decided to bring to termination the activity, because it was impossible to continue in that poor weather condition.

However, after taking back all the equipment back to the Group’s Stores, a financial statement was compiled and it was found that after all the expenses were paid, a balance of 300 Euros was achieved. Considering the great effort made, and the small number of people who attended the stand because of the poor weather condition, the sum of 300 Euros was a surprise which was never expected. In the circumstances, the 1st Birkirkara Scout Group is glad that it gave its humble contribution to the Istrina Campaign, and as part of the 5500 Euros presented by the Scout Association of Malta on the evening of the National televised event at the Lufthansa Technique on December 26th, 2009. A big thank you goes to all who participated and supported this activity for the well-being of others.

The 1st Birkirkara Scout Group is looking forward to be again of service next year, and look forward to a bigger contribution which will help the President of Malta and the Maltese Nation in this Noble Cause.

Knock Knock
Xaghra Scout Group

Xaghra Scout Group’s contribution to Istrina 2009

Xagħra Scout Group, Gozo District, was one of the Groups that vowed themselves to support L-Istrina 2009. On Saturday 26th December 2009, our scouters stayed several hours in our village’s main square where people donated money. Radju Bambina, the local parish radio station, also helped by broadcasting that we were collecting money for L-Istrina 2009. Meanwhile the energetic Xaghra Troop went around the village, knocking doors and collecting money. All Xaghra Scout Group members’ who participated in collecting the money were happy and full of pride to have kept at heart of the Scout Law namely that “A SCOUT’S DUTY IS TO BE USEFUL AND TO HELP OTHERS.”
Choc Log, Mulled wine & Chestnuts in St Venera
St Venera Scout Group

This year the Scout Association was deeply involved in the Istrina project. A lot of Scout Groups used their imagination and organized different fund raising activities in aid of Istrina. The St Venera Scout Group did its part as well. We organized 1 main activity and helped in another 2. Our main activity was making a huge Christmas Log which was a wooping 5mtrs in length. this was set up in front of the church on Christmas eve. After the midnight Mass this was cut up and sold to the people there along with mulled wine and roasted chestnuts. This was a success as we sold most of it and the idea was liked by the St Venera people who enjoyed the snack after the mass.

We also gave a hand in the Presidents fun run where we where manning a water station giving water to the runners, mainly those that ran from San Anton gardens. This was not directly a fund raising activity from our side but all the participants gave a donation and in turn took part in the run. In this activity our cubs and some leaders took part in walking the last part in Valletta and 2 of our leaders ran the whole run.

Another fundraising activity we attended was the human fleur de lys organized by the Mosta Scout Group where most of our leaders attended to help form the shape while AVSL Damien Pace had the opportunity to be up in the sky in a plane to take photos of the activity. This was a great success and generated a good sum in aid of Istrina.

Thanks to His Excellency the President of Malta and his encouragement to the Maltese people and especially the Scouts, he encouraged us to organize such activities as the above and in total a sum of more than €5000 were collected from the Malta Scout Association.

Hello, this is a Scout at RTK . . . . . a nice number of Scout Groups

Dar il-Providenza marathon raises record sum.

A record €617,585 were raised yesterday during the 14th New Year’s Open Day at the Dar tal-Providenza held during New Year’s day in Siggiewi.

Director, Fr Martin Micallef, thanked the hundreds of volunteers including numerous scout groups and members who took part in the organisation of the event, as well as the Maltese people, including emigrants, who once again showed their values of solidarity and generosity with the Dar tal-Providenza home. Money that would go a long way towards providing a better life to its home’s physically and mentally impaired residents.

The day included visits by President George Abela, Speaker Louis Galea, Prime Minister Lawrence Gonzi, Opposition Leader Joseph Muscat, Archbishop Paul Cremona, Gozo bishop Mario Grech and Archbishop Emeritus Joseph Mercieca.

Live television broadcasts on all national stations started at 9 a.m. with Mass from the chapel of the home and continued till just after midnight when the total sum collected during the day was announced as a record €617,585.
Dear Robert,

Many thanks to the scouts for your invaluable support. It has surely not gone unnoticed. We are very much grateful. The Scout Association was undoubtedly instrumental in the success achieved. You were always there whenever we needed your support. Many thanks for this.

We now look forward to learn which Scout Group will be declared the President’s Scout Group for this year.

In the mean time, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a Prosperous New Year.

Sincere Regards,

Mark

Capt Mark Mallia MBA (Dist), Dip. Mangt., AFM
Aide-de-Camp to the President

Malta and Gozo expressed their appreciation towards the RTK and Dar il-Providenza home tireless efforts, whilst helping our nation show its true charitable values in favour of the lesser fortunate during the L-ISTRINA Dar il-Providenza Marathon, by contributing strongly to this worthy cause.

Special thanks also go to the numerous Scout commissioners, scout groups, leaders, scouts, volunteers of all ages, as well as their families, that offered their time and services during street collections at Valletta and within their communities, as well as in the manning of Telephone lines at the RTK Station throughout the entire day’s transmission.

Special mention go to the Attard, B’Bugia, B’Kara, Cospicua, Dingli, Gzira, Iklīn, Marsa, Qormi, Qrendi, Siggiewi, Sliema, St. Augustine, Zebbug and Zurrieq Scout Groups, who alongside other members and their families, helped the Scout Association fulfil one of its ideals, that of, “Make a difference …………….we do”

The Fgura Scout Group band also took advantage of the opportunity to entertain the numerous crowds that flocked to visit Dar il-Providenza home, by playing scouting marches and music, throughout the day.

### Correspondence received by the Hon Secretary

Email from the President’s ADC just a week after L-Istrina 2009

| Dear Robert, |
| Many thanks to the scouts for your invaluable support. It has surely not gone unnoticed. We are very much grateful. |
| The Scout Association was undoubtedly instrumental in the success achieved. You were always there whenever we needed your support. Many thanks for this. |
| We now look forward to learn which Scout Group will be declared the President’s Scout Group for this year. |
| In the mean time, may I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a Prosperous New Year. |
| Sincere Regards, |
| Mark |
| Capt Mark Mallia MBA (Dist), Dip. Mangt., AFM |
| Aide-de-Camp to the President |

### Participation at RTK

| Helping out in the street collections: | Birkirkara, Birzebbugia, Dingli, Iklīn, Qormi, Sliema, Zebbug, |
| Helping out on the 1st of January at RTK Radio studios by answering telephone calls | Attard, Birkirkara, Dingli, Gzira, Marsa, Qormi, Qrendi, Siggiewi, Sliema, St. Augustine Air Scouts, Zebbug, Zurrieq, Scout Fellowship |
| Band Display: | Fgura |
Helping other people? . . . we certainly did . . . PROSIT

. . . the Chief Scout

Chief Scout PROUD of the support offered by The Scout Movement

The Chief Scout Kenneth De Martino would like to send a message to all Scout Groups congratulating them for their great efforts in supporting both the L-Istrina campaign and the RTK Campaign for Dar Tal-Providenza. The Movement is proud to have been of service during the Christmas Festivities.

"It is certainly the case that our members have done their best to their country and to help other people at all times" said the Chief Scout. "I am proud to be a member such a Great Movement and I do believe that all our leaders are doing their utmost to instill the right attitude that our members should have towards the needs of others. Well done and I look forward for the Movement to have an opportunity to do even better in years to come"

President's Scout Group 2010

The office of the President last week approved the following recommendation of the selection committee, namely former Chief Scouts Vince Cassar and James Rizzo and former Chief Commissioner Joe Grech, in regards to the President's Scout Group 2010.

"Further to the fund raising events, which scout groups were asked to run in aid of L-Istrina 2009 by H.E. Dr. George Abela, the selection committee has come up with the following recommendation: Given that the H.E. the President of Malta had expressed the wish to reward the Group with the most creative idea, and not solely based on the amount raised, after evaluating all the Groups that took part, the committee recommends the Victoria Scout Group of the Gozo District for this title.

This is based following their creative and yet scouting idea to raise funds by building a bridge at the Independence Square in Victoria Gozo on the day of the Event and asking people to cross it and donate for a good cause. This proved to be an innovative way which is not commonly used to raise funds. They also managed to do so using their own scouting skills. It is only a coincidence that the Victoria Group was also the Scout Group that raised most funds, € 4,606. We also appreciate and praise the effort of all the other Scout Groups that organised other impressive events and all those that contributed towards the impressive total amount donated to the Malta Community Chest Fund, amounting to € 12,324 by the Scout Association of Malta, which amount includes the fun run participants’ donations. We also praise all the support that was offered by hundreds of scouts towards such a good cause."

The Scout Association therefore thanks once again all the members that organised great events in aid of L-Istrina 2009 and congratulates the Victoria Scout Group for the title achieved.

Congratulations Victoria . . . . . . . . WELL DONE

A Summary

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<tr>
<td>IHQ inc Chief Scout</td>
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<p>| Total Participants | 153 |
| Total amount       | 1,590.00 |</p>
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Grand Total Donated: **€12,324**

Over 330 Volunteers offered to take part between all of the events above.

http://www.maltascout.org.mt/SAM-L-Istrina.html

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**We are preparing the next issue of the Bulletin.**

**Please send us information, news, activities and updated calendar of events.**

**Articles and Features are to reach the Editor by not later than the 19th February 2010**

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