



SOUVERÄNER MALTESER-RITTER-ORDEN
GROSSPRIORAT VON ÖSTERREICH

DER HOSPITALIER

Grand Priory of Austria – Activity Report 2020

Preliminary remarks

As the Order was not able to receive new members, the Grand Priory of Austria has by today 469 Knights and Dames, 257 (=54.8%) of them are volunteers in the relief unit MALTESER, operated under the flag of the Order.

The unit MALTESER consists of **six charitable works**, which are run by 2060 volunteers who generate more than 150.000 hours in the fields of care service for elderly and handicapped people, as well as disabled children.

1. **Malteser Hospitaldienst Austria (MHDA)**

Through its 6 divisional offices in the main cities of Austria, MHDA continues organizing regular social work and care services in nursing homes, hospitals and private homes. We have 860 active volunteers (2088 including senior members) and provide about 150 tsd. hours of service per year. This year strong efforts were made in participating and arranging lunch and food distribution together with other organisations. Due to the pandemic, our nursing operation was changed from face to face to digital online assistance. This service was provided in many different ways such as helping out and organizing basic life needs of those in need of care, giving them conversation and online company, celebrating online events, concerts and prayer hours.

All over Austria, we are preparing and offering us for Covid 19 vaccination services. The vaccination procedures are still reserved to medical doctors and highly qualified hospital nursing staff. In order to contribute to a faster implementation of vaccination of the whole population, it is a general target, that also paramedics shall receive the specific instruction and authorisation to carry out Covid 19 vaccinations.

MHDA Vienna:

Our ambulance rescue service and patient transports continues with 24hrs operation under special Covid 19 conditions. During November and December we have started providing our medical staff for 4 Covid 19 testing streets in Messe Wien and flu vaccination service in a mobile unit called “Impfbim”. Presently we are carrying out, together with the other 3 rescue organisations in Vienna, Covid 19 vaccinations in nursing homes. At the same time we operate with Johanniter Orden a so called “Schnupfen-Checkbox”, a container for medical assistance for patients with corona symptoms. Since October we also provide once a week Covid 19 testing service to the ministry of economics.

MHDA Graz:

Since November we run a daily operated own Malteser Covid 19 testing street in the Chamber of Commerce. All members of the Chamber can have their staff tested there and the MHDA extends a recognized and accepted test certificate.

MHDA Salzburg:

Together with the Red Cross we operate a daily Covid 19 test street. Before and during Christmas, intensive online support and assistance was organized for dependent people, including video concerts and small Christmas parties.

MHDA Tirol:

In Innsbruck, where we had the first drive in testing street during lockdown in march we today operate a regular Covid 19 testing service together with the other Help Organisations. A part from online assistance we organize very popular walking services with those in need of care,

Alten- und Krankendienst and Betreuungsdienst the care service unit where the volunteers stay with elderly and ill people in their homes mainly on weekends and holidays was reduced to digital assistance due to the pandemic situation. As physical visits were difficult, help was provided to people in need of care by organizing and delivering their shopping.

Medikamentenhilfe during 2020 this unit as collected and distributed medicines and medical equipment to Eastern European Countries worth over 800 tsd. €

Medical Rescue Services, ambulance services were offered in Vienna, Innsbruck and Graz and Salzburg in reduced way under special conditions. Rescue vehicles are attending accidents and transport of patients on a 24-hour basis, services included also special COVID 19 rescue and transport services and operation of testing streets for PCR and antigen tests.

Disaster Relief, in spite of difficulties through pandemic conditions, we were able to provide refugee aid to Syria and disaster help to Beirut through Malteser International.

2. Haus Malta

Our home for elderly disabled people in Vienna continues with a successful operation giving home to 35 residents who receive a full care service and assistance by a strong and professional team. Through efficient and high quality organization we were able to stay Covid 19 free. We are preparing for this years scheduled moving of the whole home to our new residence, the Malteser Ordenshaus (MOH), presently under construction.

3. Malteser Care (MC)

Is a Case and Care management organisation, which provides daily professional high quality care service to about 300 disabled people in their homes. This service goes from 24 hour care and nursing to selectively required help. A special group of MC nurses also provides a new special family relief service to families with disabled children. This socio-educational service provided relief to 30 children of up to 3 years

4. Malteser Kinderhilfe (MKH)

Is a specialized home for severely disabled children in Amstetten in Lower Austria, organized and managed by members of the Order and sponsored by the private foundation of Mrs. Hilde Umdasch. The concept is to offer Respite Care, Long-term Care, Acute Needs and Hospice. In spite of the pandemic, the use of capacity was at 92% and thanks to the very professional operation we stayed Covid free during 2020.

5. **Malteser Palliativ Dienst MPD**

We continue providing palliative care in Haus Malta, though Corona restrictions have forced us to reduce the service considerably. In view of the unfortunate recent legal developments in the fields of euthanasia and suicide help, we are decided to strengthen and expand these services in the coming year.

6. **Johannesgemeinschaft JG**

Our activities for strengthening spirituality in the Order have been hindered due to pandemic, however one successful retreat was held in December and regular and popular international online prayer evenings could be organized.

Major activities in 2020, such as disaster relief exercises and pilgrimages had to be cancelled and postponed due to Covid 19 restrictions. Also most of planned events had to be reduced to a minimum and face to face meetings had to be replaced by digital online conferences in most cases.

Malteser Ordenshaus (MOH)

As reported already, the construction of the new nursing home for elderly **“Malteser Ordenshaus” (MOH)** will be set up in the center of Vienna on grounds of the Sisters of St. Elisabeth (Elisabethinen). The Sisters of St. Elisabeth run their monastery and their geriatric Hospital “Franziskusspital” at that place since the early 18th century and were happy to find in our Order a competent partner that shares their values and ethics.

In spite of Covid 19 consequences, the construction is on track and we expect to finish the building in autumn of 2021. Soon after, our nursing home **“Haus Malta”** will move into this new home and expand directly to the double of size. MOH will also become the new centre of operations of our case and care organisation **Malteser Care** and other smaller charitable works. Due to revised space requirements, we took the decision, to keep our MHDA centre of operations together with the rescue ambulance unit, at the previous location at Börseplatz 6 in the 1st district. However we stick to our decision that “Malteser Ordenshaus” will create meaning and identity, in accordance with the original charism of the Order and become a new **centre for our charitable works** in Vienna and we expect motivation and community spirit of all members.

Bartolomäus Prince of Khevenhüller-Metsch