



# MALTESER AID SLOVAKIA ACTIVITIES OF 2021

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# YEAR OF CHALLENGES AND HOPE

Dear volunteers, dear friends,

For the second year now, the whole world is struggling with the pandemic that is disproportionately affecting the marginalized groups - whether it is the disabled, the homeless, the abandoned elderly, or many others.

However, I am proud that thanks to you, our volunteers, partners and supporters, we have been able to alleviate at least part of their suffering this year. We distributed more than 25,000 meals to the abandoned elderly, every workday, directly to their homes; and nearly 10,000 hot meals to the homeless. Our volunteers spent many hours making an unforgettable summer experience for young people with disabilities who would otherwise be among the "forgotten".

We welcomed Pope Francis to Slovakia and provided a 'once-in-a-lifetime' experience for 700 attendees with special needs of the Holy Mass in Šaštín, as well as for over a hundred of our volunteers, in whom his messages will resonate for a long time to come.

We have launched a new project - The Roma Community Center - in Topoľčany, whose classrooms will welcome their first students as early as next summer. Many Roma children have been among those disadvantaged the most by the pandemic, and especially by distance online learning, as they have no access to computers and the Internet.

The pandemic has slowed many of us down in our normal daily activities and limited our opportunities for social contact. In isolation, many people have realised that the best way to make meaningful and deeper relationships with one another is by helping each other.

Dear friends, once again, on behalf of Malteser Aid Slovakia and all those we assist, I cordially thank you for your support and dedication. In these difficult times, we can be the hope for people in need that they never dreamed about - and so can they for us.

"It is not a question of being hostile to the world, but of being a sign in the world, Christians who know how to show the beauty of the Gospel with their lives, people who open up dialogue where there are different discourses, who reveal a fraternal life where there is division and discord in society, who spread the pleasant fragrance of acceptance and solidarity where personal and collective forms of selfishness often prevail."

May these words of the Holy Father be a great encouragement to us to continue the 900-year mission of the Order of Malta to help the suffering, regardless of their race, nationality or faith.

I wish you a happy and prosperous New Year 2022.

**JUDr. Július Brichta**  
President  
Malteser Aid Slovakia



# POPE FRANCIS' VISIT AND ASSISTANCE TO THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Malteser Aid Slovakia was actively involved in the organization of Pope Francis' September visit to Slovakia. Our volunteers were active from the preparations phase, through participation in the service in St. Martin's Cathedral to the final Holy Mass in Šaštín.

Before the visit, our young volunteers spent more than 70 hours registering the thousands of participants with special needs, foreign guests, and journalists who attended the visit. In the last days before the visit, volunteers also assisted with the finalization of the volunteer registrations.

Malteser Aid Slovakia provided crowd management and control of Covid passes and invitations for participants of the Pope's meeting with the clergy at St. Martin's Cathedral. Volunteers assisted with checking in at the entrance, with navigating the guests to their seats in the Cathedral. Our volunteer corps were also ready to provide first aid in collaboration with the local emergency medical services. A total of forty-five Malteser Aid volunteers took part in the volunteer service at the Cathedral.

More than 100 volunteers were in charge of the sector for the people with special needs during the closing Holy Mass with the Holy Father in Šaštín. Starting at 4:30 a.m., our volunteers assisted approximately 700 disabled attendees with parking, transfer to their designated sector and back, and attending to any needs during the Mass. Additionally, Malteser Aid Slovakia, in cooperation with the medical team of the Brothers of Mercy Hospital, provided a medical tent for the whole sector.

## RESULTS



**MORE THAN 100 VOLUNTEERS IN SERVICE**



**ASSISTANCE TO OVER 700 PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**



**PROCESSING THOUSANDS OF APPLICATIONS**







# NEW ROMA COMMUNITY CENTER

The Order of Malta already operates 22 community centers in 8 countries in Central and Eastern Europe to help the Roma. We are proud that Slovakia has joined this wonderful network with our first community center in Orechov Dvor. The project was launched in cooperation with the city of Nitra in 2014. The Roma Community Center in Topoľčany will be the second of its kind in Slovakia.

For the Malteser Aid Slovakia, the key issue is not only the construction, but also the long-term operation of the center, with the objective to integrate the Roma and provide platform for an intercultural dialogue. The community centers are one of the proven concepts of how to address the problems of marginalized Roma communities and offer a comprehensive solution. The new center will provide pre-school education and teach basic social and hygiene habits for Roma children, and essential parenting skills for their mothers. These centers also offer space for children's leisure activities, laundry rooms, and a kitchen.

The construction of the center in Topoľčany is progressing well - preparatory and cleaning works are currently underway, and the local Roma community actively participates in the works. The center should receive a building permit in the first quarter of 2022. We expect the first classes to open in the summer of 2022, and the completion in 2024. The estimated costs of the redevelopment are in the range of several hundred thousand euros.

The project is funded by Global Fund for Forgotten People and private donors.



# “MEALS ON WHEELS” FOR THE ELDERLY CONTINUE

For more than 5 years, every workday, our volunteers have been delivering lunches to the elderly in Bratislava. These elderly people are often unable to prepare even one hot meal a day for themselves due to their deteriorating health and/or poor financial situation. More than 120 households benefit from this project, and, in many cases, we are the only company these people have.

Meals on wheels are well organized and are delivered by our three volunteer car crews. Dedicated drivers meet volunteers at the Blue Church in Bratislava's city center. The crews, each consisting of a driver and a volunteer, pick up pre-packed lunches consisting of a soup and a main dish (the elderly can choose from a variety of options), and then they distribute them to the beneficiaries' doors, according to the daily schedule. All meals are of course accompanied with kind words and a smile from our devoted volunteers.

With the onset of the pandemic, we had to adapt the project to the required hygiene and sanitary standards, as most of our beneficiaries are considered at-risk. The delivery follows the strictest measures, including wearing FFP2 respirators, disposable protective gloves, and using hand sanitizers. Volunteer cars are regularly disinfected after each delivery.

More than 25,000 lunches are delivered each year. Our meals on wheels project is possible thanks to numerous foundations and generous donors including The Global Fund for Forgotten People, the Municipality of Bratislava Staré Mesto, Slovenská sporiteľňa Foundation, Berlin Brands Group and Todos.

As the number of the elderly at risk is increasing, we are expanding the project gradually.

## RESULTS



**OVER 25.000 LUNCHES DISTRIBUTED ANNUALLY FOR MORE THAN 120 SENIOR CITIZENS**



**OUR VOLUNTEERS SPENT 251 DAYS ON THE ROAD DELIVERING THE MEALS**



**WORKING ON EXPANDING THE PROJECT**







# THE HOMELESS NEED US MORE THAN EVER BEFORE

Malteser Aid Slovakia has operated an outdoor soup kitchen for the homeless since 2017. With the ongoing pandemic that has disadvantaged this marginalized group even further, the service has become more crucial.

In Bratislava, meals are usually served throughout the whole year on Wednesdays between 12 a.m. and 1 p.m. in front of St. Elizabeth's Church, a spot well-known among the homeless population. During the winter days, the project doubles its capacity, serving meals both on Wednesdays and Sundays. Each day, the soup kitchen can serve about 150 people.

The Malteser Aid center in Nitra started the same service in 2018. This December, we expanded the project to another Slovak city – Trenčín, where the Malteser soup kitchen serves dozens of otherwise unreachable homeless people. The soup kitchen in Trenčín is unique in that it goes directly into the environment where the homeless tend to stay – a parking lot under the bridge.

All meals are served under strict hygiene and sanitary measures. In addition to a warm lunch meal, the homeless are served fruits, vegetables, sweets, bread, and water. Our volunteers also hand out winter clothes, including jackets, sweatshirts, hats, socks and gloves. As the homeless population is particularly prone to Covid infections, Malteser soup kitchens distribute respirators and other personal protective equipment.

It is important to remember, that it is these vulnerable and often overlooked people who should be at the forefront of society's interest. That is why we are proud to be able to run this project with the generous support of the Global Fund for Forgotten People, the City of Bratislava, Berlin Brands Group, ESET, Tesco, and the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family. Our organization also highly appreciates cooperation with the Municipal Police in Bratislava and Trenčín, who ensure the site safety.

## RESULTS



**OVER 10.000 MEALS DISTRIBUTED ANNUALLY**



**THE SOUP KITCHEN SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED IN ANOTHER CITY -  
TRENČÍN**



**REGULAR HOT LUNCHES FOR OVER 200 HOMELESS PEOPLE**





# MALTACAMP 2021 – UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES DESPITE THE PANDEMIC

In 2021 our volunteers organized a local summer camp for the youth with special needs, since the International Malta Camp was postponed to 2022 due to the pandemic. A total of 25 participants headed towards the adventure at the beginning of August and the journey led to the mountains near Banská Bystrica in Central Slovakia.

The mountain lodge offered an outdoor lounge with picnic tables, where the guests enjoyed coloring books, a chat with our volunteers, and of course, some snacks. The volunteers and participants also played games including soccer, basketball, and, sometimes, even dodgeball or badminton.

Almost every night, there was a BBQ party. During these evenings, the participants could dance to the rhythms of the music with floodlights and a smoke fogger adding to the atmosphere.

There was also a leisure room, where table tennis and billiard were played almost constantly. Activities included painting on T-shirts and blowing up balloons. Volunteers would go on shorter or longer hikes with the participants, while respecting their special needs. After the hikes, coffee could be enjoyed overlooking the surrounding countryside in the lodge's foyer. The accommodation also provided the MaltaCamp participants with a wellness area equipped with a swimming pool and saunas.

On Sunday, the main Chaplain of the Order of Malta in Slovakia, Msgr. Tibor Hajdu, celebrated the Holy Mass. The Mass was also attended by some members of the Order who, together with Fr. Hajdu, came to visit the MaltaCamp participants. After the Mass, volunteers prepared the final lunch and said their goodbyes.

However, we hope that we will soon be able to attend the International MaltaCamp again, together with our friends from all over the world!



# THE MOST VULNERABLE MUST BE PROTECTED FROM THE ISOLATION AND LONELINESS

Young volunteers from Malteser Aid Slovakia regularly organize reunions with the youth with special needs at the organization's headquarters in Bratislava's city center. If the weather allows, the youth can also enjoy a barbecue in the garden.

These reunions are in response to the successful summer MaltaCamps, as many participants with special needs longed for being a part of a more regular community. Such meetings provide the youngsters with a space for social activities and building new friendships. One of the basic human needs is to love and be loved, to have friends and peers with whom they can share joys and worries. We are delighted to offer our friends a loving and accepting environment designed specifically for that.

Eight such youth gatherings were held in 2021. Outdoor barbecues, eating, chatting, and singing are a regular part of the program. In case of bad weather, reunions are held indoors, where karaoke, board games, and small kitchen are available. Because of lockdown measures, some meetings were held online, but everyone enjoyed feeling of not being alone.





## NEW VOLUNTEERS

After many hours of devoted service to the ones in need, twenty-one new volunteers have been admitted as registered volunteers of the Malteser Aid Slovakia by the organization's Admissions Committee. Along with the volunteers, H.S.H. Dr. Alfred Prinz von Schönburg-Hartenstein, the Ambassador of the Order of Malta in Slovakia, has been admitted as the organization's honorary member.

The Archbishop of Bratislava, Stanislav Zvolenský, together with the main Chaplain of the Order of Malta in Slovakia, Msgr. Tibor Hajdu, celebrated Mass on 24 June, the feast of St John the Baptist, the patron saint of the Order of Malta, together with a number of other clerics.

In addition to the new registered volunteers, we are extremely pleased to see dozens of interested volunteers who have been attracted by our activities and have started to get involved in our various projects.

We are currently working on the preparation of courses and trainings for both experienced and new volunteers. These courses will involve first aid and crowd management trainings, as well as basics of social work and work with people with special needs. These courses are part of our long-term commitment to provide those in need with a targeted help on truly professional level.





# WE ARE WHERE THEY NEED US

Besides our regular activities, the volunteers were active in other areas as well:

- We have lent a tent to the hospital in Nitra, which now serves as a waiting room for Covid patients.
- We were active during mass gatherings (when the situation allowed it) and organised small socials for our members and friends to strengthen the community.
- We have been helping in the hospice in Nitra and organised lunches for the people in need in local asylum centre.
- We organised a number of clothes collections, the clothes were then donated to the homeless.
- We were distributing small presents on Christmas Day to those serving their sentence in female prison in Nitra.





# DO YOU WANT TO HELP?

## BECOME A VOLUNTEER

Malteser Aid Slovakia is open for everyone who relates to the mission of the Order - to help those in need, regardless of their natinality, race or faith.

If potential volunteer is interested in our mission, he or she can enter into a probation period of one year, participate in our activities and attend the workshops and lectures. This period is to discern whether the volunteer is willing and suitable to dedicate their free time in a long term to serve the ones in need with the Order of Malta.

After the probation period, the volunteer may ask to become a registered volunteer of the Order of Malta. If admitted, the volunteer becomes a member of the Malteser Aid Slovakia and joins the global volunteer corps consisting of of more than 100,000 individuals.



## DONATE

Malteser Aid Slovakia welcomes any help and support, both material and financial.

Our projects are funded exclusively through private donations, public and private grants and through corporate donations from major Slovak companies in banking and insurance sector, financial services and companies from food industry.

To ensure full transparency, our financial statements are annually audited by KPMG Slovakia, a renowned company providing independent audit services.

We thank you in advance for your generosity and support for our charity projects.

It is possible to make single or regular donation, that shall be credited to our bank account:

IBAN: SK14 1100 0000 0026 2314 2055

SWIFT: TATRSKBX



# THE SOVEREIGN ORDER OF MALTA

The Sovereign Order of Malta is one of the oldest institutions of Western and Christian civilisation. A lay religious order of the Catholic Church since 1113 and a subject of international law, the Sovereign Order of Malta has diplomatic relations with over 120 states and the European Union, and permanent observer status at the United Nations. It is neutral, impartial and apolitical.

Today, the Order of Malta is active in 120 countries caring for people in need through its medical, social and humanitarian works. Day-to-day, its broad spectrum of projects provides a constant support for forgotten or excluded members of society.

Founded in Jerusalem in the 11th century, the Order of Malta has a long history of service to the vulnerable and the sick. Since 1834 the Order of Malta's government seat has been in Rome, where it is guaranteed extraterritorial rights.

The Order of Malta operates through 12 Pories, 48 national Associations, 133 diplomatic missions, 1 worldwide relief agency and 33 national volunteer corps, as well as numerous hospitals, medical centres and specialist foundations. It does not pursue any economic or political goal and does not depend on any other state or government.

## ORDER OF MALTA IN SLOVAKIA

In Slovakia, the Order of Malta maintains its mission through its three official institutions:

- Embassy of the Order of Malta to the Slovak republic
- Sovereign Order of Malta - Organization of Members in Slovakia (SOMOS)
- Malteser Aid Slovakia (charity service organization)



PHOTO: First Order of Malta Hospital in Jerusalem, 11th century, Jerusalem



PHOTO: WWII Humanitarian and medical aid



PHOTO: Order of Malta Flag in front of the seat of the European Commission



PHOTO: Current headquarters of the Order in Rome



# MALTESER AID SLOVAKIA

Malteser Aid Slovakia is a non-governmental organization registered by the Ministry of Interior of the Slovak Republic. It is the only official Order of Malta's relief organization in Slovakia.

Malteser Aid Slovakia brings together the members of the Order residing in Slovakia and more than 100 registered volunteers. They are all dedicated to the Order of Malta's mission - helping the poor and sick and alleviate their suffering.

The volunteering, not-for-profit aspect of the service, is essential for our activities and projects. This genuine service of our committed volunteers is accompanied by support of professional workers from various fields when needed.

All the functions within the Malteser Aid Slovakia are honorary and members of the Order hold them without any remuneration or compensation. Activities and projects of the organization are funded from donations and grants. Malteser Aid Slovakia regularly submits its financial statements to financial auditors.

## MAIN ACTIVITIES

In Slovakia we run a number of regular projects:

- Daily distribution of meals to the elderly
- Regular soup kitchens for the homeless in Bratislava, Nitra and Trenčín
- Community centres for the Roma people
- Assistance to the disabled during mass gatherings
- Events and summer camps for the young people with disabilities
- Charity stands during the Christmas markets in Bratislava and Nitra

Besides our regular projects, we always aim to help whenever possible - we were helping during the refugee crisis, we are assisting in hospitals during the pandemic and supplying medical equipment.



PHOTO: Volunteers in service during the Slovak International Airshow



PHOTO: Malteser Charity Christmas Punch, Christmas Markets, Bratislava



PHOTO: Roma children social integration, Nitra.



PHOTO: MaltaCamp for youth with special needs



**MALTÉZSKY RÁD  
SLOVENSKO**  
**MALTÉZSKA POMOC**

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUOUS SUPPORT!

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