

"Social Housing" Project (Supporting families who need it most)

The purpose of this project is to support families living in Melzo and the surrounding area (Italian and non) who are struggling economically and socially, particularly refugee families. The project focuses above all on single mothers and their children who are already known to the social services or the other associations we work with. We aim to provide them with accessibly-priced accommodation and various kinds of support i.e. psychological, career advice, training to help them integrate into the local community and become economically self-sufficient. These activities will be integrated with a communication plan to sensitize and inform the local community and increase understanding and awareness of the serious issues that the project's beneficiaries have to deal with on a daily basis. Melzo is a town of around 18,500 people, located east of Milan. In recent years the economic situation in the town has suffered significantly, with a dramatic increase in unemployment, combined with a huge influx of immigrants. This has led to a scarsity of jobs and affordable housing, meaning that many children are living in precarious conditions and have poor school attendance. This project is designed to alleviate this problem and meet the needs of Italian and foreign families who are at risk of ending up entirely excluded from the job market and condemned to a hand-to-mouth existence, relying on charity and State hand-outs to survive.





Project objectives

objectivesThe project aims to achieve the following objectives:

- Give economic support to 18 families in need (at risk socially and with poor housing conditions);
- Support them in becoming autonomous and self-sufficient by achieving stability in terms of their housing, work and income;
- Achieve full social integration in the local community;
- Increase the level of parenting responsibility for the benefit of the children in the families;
- Contribute to an improvement in school attendance, integration and academic results for the children;
- Educate the community as a whole regarding the problems these needy families face.

Project beneficiaries

- 18 families for a total of 70 beneficiaries.

Project outline: how we plan to achieve our objectives

objectivesTo effectively implement our plans we will:

- Interview all the families to ensure the right approach is taken to meet each family's special needs (advice on services offered by the local council to help with job-hunting and the children's education);

- Involve the beneficiaries in any building or improvement work in the flats allocated to them;

- Give psychological assistence to the families to help them achieve a sustainable level of stability;

- Offer professional dresss-making training courses to the women, in partnership with the area's professional training centres;

- Provide extra tuition for the children and help them to become part of the school/family network

- As well as the above initiatives with the beneficiaries we will also work with the local community to increase their understanding of the problems of these newcomers.

What you can do:



A donation of **€10** buys basic kitchen staples for a family



A donation of **25€** pays for two weeks of a dress-making course.



A donation of **50€** covers some of the costs associated with refurbishing the families' flats.

If paying by bank transfer, please specify that your donation is for the "Social Housing" project.

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