



A Hope in the Dark

A Newsletter From

Maj-Lis Philanthropic Foundation

April 2013



Children in suitcases and boxes are wonderful memories of my first years in other countries. This motherless child I named Moïse, in English Moses. That was fifty years ago! Half a century! And looking back since the creation of the **Foundation in 1988, much has changed.**

Much can happen in a few years. Just see how Moses changed. The LORD appears unto him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush and sends him to go and talk to Pharaoh, but he excuses himself with his difficulty in talking, saying, "I am not a good speaker," Exodus 40:10, but at the end of his life, in Deuteronomy, Moses makes a speech for eleven chapters that would have taken three hours to deliver! What a transformation!

Dear readers and givers:

April 2013

Can we do more in order to have a better world? After forty years with God, Moses was able to lead one million people with his speech. It is ironic and inspiring to see how he has developed into such a verbal man. We can also be transformed; see God for what he is, meet God in person. The process can take time, but it's worth everything to meet God himself. *I am the Lord, your God, is the first Commandment that Moses received. And Jesus said, in Matthew 6:33, Seek first God ... and all these things shall be added unto you.(food, bed, work ...)*

For the Foundation's 10th anniversary celebration we published a yearbook, which **at that point** said: Maj-Lis' work in the shantytown of Portugal has been going on for much longer but the Foundation has existed and supported her for the last 10 years. **Now when the Foundation is 25 years old**, the situation is different. Around 1974, after the revolution, hundreds of thousands came pouring in from the ex-colonies, empty-handed, but healthy and hopeful. Now Portugal is in a social catastrophe, as the TV News described the situation today. Neighbours and friends are contacting us, crying. Their families have had to abandon their houses and try to sell their furniture to buy food, after years without jobs. And to stand in line for the unemployed seems pointless, they think, as there are no jobs anyway.

The leaders of the Unions work hard to save Europe from revolt.

The Foundation is here and **we together with you** want to save children and young people and give them hope for the future by sponsoring camps and programs for the summer months.



The 99 year-old's little note gives 26 children a place at a summer camp.

Ingrid wrote down her wishes 7 ½ years ago.

Just writing what I have been thinking, on my death, a simple coffin. Many homeless children in Sweden and on this earth. Money instead of flowers, also to Children. Ingrid



We have chosen your Foundation as the intermediary. Joel and Monica

Maj-Lis Johansson
Av. Anibal F da Silva 319, R/C
P-2775-692 CARCAVELOS, Portugal

Tel +351 214 560 147
MB +351 936 465 389
www.maj-lis.org

News from Portugal

Letters of thanks

One of those who has contributed to a better life for the **street children in Portugal** is Anita, about whom the Västerbottens Courier wrote. "When Anita's life was set to be shortened with the prognosis of "cancer", she cried out to God and Jesus and experienced a real wonder. "I love to work with my missionary project the "Cheap Shop", she says, "in which the profit goes to children in Portugal and to the Cancer Foundation."

A thank you from a homeless person

*Thank you for these beautiful lines
You to me wrote
and I hope that Father God,
if he writes letters,
cannot find a better goal
with a divine word,
than to you, you great woman
on a sinful earth.* Wiggo



Visiting ACRAS

Associação Cristã de Reinserção e Apoio Social - see www.maj-lis.org

ACRAS is the collection centre for Desafio Jovem and a partner of the Maj-Lis Foundation since its start in the '80s. At the beginning, the first interviews with the needy took place in the garden of the Johansson family.

ACRAS works in Barrio de Condado, **one of Lisbon's poorest areas, if not one of the very poorest in Europe**, says the supervisor Ana Correia. The Maj-Lis Foundation provides most of the clothes and shoes distributed every week, as well as foodstuffs whenever available.

The Center serves about 500 meals per week and gives food and clothes to those who have nothing. Many are addicts but many are also normal people trapped in tough economic situations. What the Center can offer besides food and clothing is a hot shower once a week and the chance to have their clothes washed and /or receive new ones.

• **Why focus on helping drug addicts** who have "chosen" to become addicted and not just focus on those things right but nevertheless are in difficult conditions? The drug addicts are often people who against their own wishes have been co-dependent. The Foundation focuses on the big picture and everyone's equal dignity and rights according to the Christian view of mankind. Continue on Page 4



Each person has their own folder and their own bag .

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The great majority who work here at the collection Centre and also in the treatment homes are former drug addicts who, thanks to the ML Foundation and Desafío Jovem, have found a fulfilled life. They are thankful to be able to stay and help others who are trapped in the same situation as they were. One home is for single, pregnant women and the other for drug or alcohol addicted men.

- **Why are they allowed just one shower a week?** Everything costs money: the shower installation, hot water, gas, laundry and employees.
- **How do you administer those seeking help?** Each person has their own file for recording the family and work situation, health, number of visits, conflicts with the law, state benefits. Once a week a nurse and doctor interview and prepare for admission to a Center, but they also provide support and examinations and will give referrals to hospital if needed.

During the last 10 years more than 120,000 people have been helped. In order to reach more people, there are around twenty coffee bar meetings per week, where those interested can meet people from the Center who can answers their questions.

Karin Johansson

25 Year Jubilee

Established in 1988 the Maj-Lis Philanthropic Foundation has helped thousands of children and adults. The Foundation accomplishes enormous tasks with incredibly few resources. Donors to the Foundation are still needed to give **A Hope in the Dark**. Go to our homepage and click to see an 8- minute clip on today's situation.

Watch the film on
www.maj-lis.org

“We are about to lose a whole generation”, they say. The Foundation wants to give children and young people the gift of initiative and hope for the future by arranging different types of **camp and summer programs**. And the adults who are coming to the soup kitchen are not only the homeless but now also the recently unemployed poor, who live in tremendous frustration as Portugal experiences the worst economic crisis in over fifty years. They need **food and hope** for the future. Stand with us! Join us!

Bank: Nordeabank Sweden
SE 105 73 Stockholm

IBAN: SE1395000099602609004995
BIC/SWIFT: NDEASESS