

# Algarve Network for Families in Need

.....Give a little, help a lot



the heart of the community



## FIN NEWSLETTER - No 10 - December 2022

### Algarve Families in Need.... News

9 January 2022

Firstly, I hope everybody had a good Christmas and secondly, the **Families in Need Team** would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and a prosperous 2023.

Christmas for hundreds of our families here in the Algarve was made so much better thanks to the amazing generosity of so many people and for this we are truly grateful.

Our sincere thanks for the amazing contributions and assistance must go out to all of the extremely kind people who supported our efforts to make Christmas as joyful as we possibly could.....

- Chantelle Kortekaas and every family who created and donated Reverse Advent Calendars. These went out to over 130 Families and homeless people stretching from Praia de Luz to Tavira and Vila Real Santo Antonio.



- Such was the kindness shown for Christmas that some families received 2-4 boxes full of food, toiletries, Christmas goodies and presents. It was humbling to see how grateful the recipient families were. Our hope is that all struggling families will be remembered throughout the year.
- This is the third year that Maggan Einarsson has operated an appeal for new toys and Christmas sweets/chocolate for children in need. This year she operated from her new place of employment at Casa Merame Estate Agent in Lagos.



- As well as inviting people to drop off donations at the town centre office, colleagues also spent time at a number of Pingo Doce stores



collecting from shoppers. The result was absolutely amazing. Following a 'Santa Event' on 16th December, we were able to take wrapped presents to families right across the Algarve and in some cases, brought wrapping paper so that parents who could not afford to buy gifts, could wrap the presents themselves. We are so grateful to Maggan and colleagues at Casa Merame and to Pingo Doce for their co-operation in this initiative.

- As always, **Arm in Arm** gave a generous donation of €1500 for us to buy presents for children. Thank you Ricky and colleagues for your wonderful gift. We are very grateful.



- All those individuals who donated independently and those too, who stepped up to help when needed. The feedback from recipients has been, at the same time, heartwarming and heartbreaking but we are so glad that we were able to help at Christmas... a time for family and celebration and helping Santa to deliver gifts!

Of course, a special thanks must always go to our volunteers who always work so tirelessly. Nadia was busy from October with buying, wrapping and continually watching out for special offers.... buy one get one free, 50% off, etc. This ensured our ability to support as many families as possible. Ultimately, she bought and wrapped 120 presents (with a little help from her mum and a friend).

We received a few notes from some families that benefitted from our efforts.....

"My children said to me , don't worry mummy, Father Christmas will bring for us. I didn't know what to say but cried silently when they were in bed. And then it happened. The next day arrived two large boxes filled with food and good things and we also got gifts more than we could hope for. To the person who did this for us, you gave us christmas, you gave me hope. Thank you."

"Hi, we haven't met, but you have blessed our Christmas time so much with your extremely generous hamper and gifts! We're really appreciative at this time of year, especially with a newborn, from the bottom of our hearts really, thank you. Wishing you and yours a wonderful Christmas and New Year."

"Não tenho palavras para lhe agradecer o que fez por nós! Os meus pequenos conseguiram sorrir e ficarem alegres graças a si!! Obrigada, obrigada!" (I don't have the words to thank you for what you've done for us. My little ones were able to smile and be happy thanks to you!! Thank you, Thank you!")

We now look forward to this coming year and sharing with you news of how we'll continue to support our families in the Algarve.

We hope we can rely on your support.

*Bernadette*