

# Algarve Network for Families in Need

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

the heart of the community



## FIN NEWSLETTER - No 16 - December 2023

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

#### A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS.....

So, it's King's Day, The Epiphany, Twelfth Night! With its many names, on 6 January we heralded the end of the festive season. We hope that you have had a wonderful time and wish you all a very happy New Year.

How can we begin to thank all those who enabled us to make this Christmas season so much better for hundreds of families in the Algarve.

Whilst it's not possible for us to mention every single individual who donated throughout the festive period it would be remiss of us not to mention:

- Our wonderful, donors who regularly help financially enabling Nadia to buy Christmas presents for the children of the families we've supported throughout the year.
- All those who donated by providing a Reverse Advent Calendar - organised by Chantelle Kortekaas.
- We are particularly grateful and encouraged by the participation of schools in this initiative and love the values that are being taught to children in this way. So, thank you to.....
  - Nobel Algarve British International School
  - Vale Verde International School
  - Santa Maria School Lagos
- We hope that their example will encourage other schools to participate in this and other projects throughout the year.
- All those who donated toys and candies through the appeal by Casa Merame Estate Agents in Lagos, organised by Maggan Einarsson - not to mention the incredible help given by Lucy Fox who spent hours wrapping and labelling presents which made distribution so much easier.
- Everybody who donated through Burgau Sports Centre and to Burgau Sports Centre itself for a much needed financial donation.
- All those who donated to our raffle and tombola and those who came out to support our funday at Al-Gharb Coffee Roasters in Albufeira - organised by Laura and Chantell. Thankfully, the weather was very kind to us.
- Those who bought cookies donated by Jessica at Sweet Treats and sold by Laura Pulita at the Christmas market - again raising much needed funds.

- Friends of Nobel International School (Fonisa) who donated vouchers bought with money raised from a school uniform sale (what a great Idea).
- Barbara and Con Sprenger who also donated vouchers.
- Of course we are always eternally grateful to those who continue to donate via our face book page taking Christmas trees, decorations, lights etc to families who otherwise would not have had them.

..... and last but by no means least, our wonderful volunteers without whom we would struggle to get this work done, especially at a time of year when families are so much in need.

We cannot stress too strongly the difference all this makes to families in need at Christmas time whilst remembering that these families struggle throughout the year and we continue to need your help on an ongoing basis.

If you are in any doubt as to the difference you make here are just some of the messages we received from recipients;

*"Good night.. I want to thank the group for the help they gave us.. Thank you for the gifts and the food you offered us!!"*

*"I shocked. A lady gave me Christmas for my childs. I open the box and it is full of food even presents who is this person who has a heart full of kindness. My English is not good I have no words but thank you thank thank you."*

*"Thank you for making a difference in our lives, happy holidays."*

*"Thank you so much for making a difference to families in need. Wonderful people. Gratitude. Merry Christmas."*

*"Queria lhe agradecer do fundo do coração a sua gentileza em oferecer todas estas coisas."*

*"Fiquei sem palavras ao abrir as caixas, é sem dúvida uma enorme ajuda pois neste momento não estou a passar uma boa fase devido ao meu marido não ter um trabalho certo e eu estar com a minha bebe doente em casa, estou muito grata com a sua generosidade sem duvida que me veio alegrar o meu natal."*

*"My children got the Christmas they wanted. Thank you."*

Once again, thank you to everyone who enabled this gratifying Christmas experience.

## **2024!! A NEW YEAR, A NEW GAME AND NEW PROJECTS....**

We are excited to report that after several months of dealing with the necessary bureaucracy, we have completed our re-registration and are now a sole charity under a new name, a new number and with a new committee.

Full details will be available in our next update so please do watch out. We look forward very much to the continuation of our work with families during this year and especially to the additional ways in which we can offer our support.

We continue to rely on your support via your donations and through direct help.

If you would like to help, please do not hesitate to contact myself or Nadia - we will definitely need more volunteers as the need increases along with the level of poverty. Any help, large or small is appreciated - remember, give a little, help a lot!

Once again, thank you and HAPPY NEW YEAR

*With kind regards*

*Bernadette*