

Promoting socio-educational centers in Betania

Apr 15, 2019

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In Itaka-Escolapios, we are growing and advancing in the attention to the little ones in the Province of Bethany, following in the footsteps of St. Joseph Calasanz. If we started 2018 with the Mare project and the Insertion and Coexistence Day centers of the Amaltea project, all of them in Valencia, the year has ended with a new socio-educational center in Aluche, which will meet the needs of the children and young people of the neighborhood and the school.

The Calasanz Socio-Educational Center was born in September to continue to develop and expand the different projects that were already being carried out in Aluche since the creation of the Headquarters in Madrid: Work camps, urban camps, school awareness, coordination with the DAS (Department of Social Action) of the Our Lady of the Pious Schools in Aluche school...

The socio-educational center seeks to consolidate the presence of Itaka-Escolapios in the school and the neighborhood, giving continuity to the work of awareness, cooperation and recruitment, training, volunteering, and communication, among other areas, in which work also continues from the headquarters in Gaztambide, as well as generating more social projects of attention to children and youth.

Thus, five years ago, the Trastevere Project was launched, which continues to offer the little ones leisure activities and free time on Friday afternoons thanks to educators, educators, and volunteers who prepare with care for each of the outings and workshops.

On the other hand, Valencia continues its journey with two projects: the Llum project (formerly Mare project) in Malvarrosa, and the Amaltea project, in Velluters, with the objectives of preventing school failure and absenteeism and accompanying children and their families.

The Socio-Educational Center of Malvarrosa has 27 minors, most of them from Primary Education, divided into three groups. A Secondary school group has also been formed, with eight boys and girls.

Two educators and more than 20 volunteers accompany the children in the school reinforcement and in the workshops of Llum, which have gradually been expanded. In addition, an artistic mediation workshop is offered for Primary children where children will go through different modalities such as percussion, painting, modeling, and body expression. This workshop provides them with tools to express their emotions positively.

In the case of the group of high school kids, they are starting in a computer programming workshop, which will be followed by activities related to robotics, photography, and theater.

For its part, the Amaltea project, formed by the Convivial Day Center and the Insertion Day Center, has been working in the Velluters neighborhood of Valencia for more than 25 years, a trajectory that has been recognized on numerous occasions, the last of them with the Onda Cero Solidarity Award in November.

The Convivial Center serves about 56 children in the neighborhood of Velluters, aged between 4 and 16 years, which is divided by age into six groups that work individually and jointly. Every afternoon, the educators, and volunteers of Amaltea receive the children with whom school support is made as individualized as possible and then move on to the most active part, with workshops, games, and sports, in which the development of social skills is facilitated.

This year, the main novelty highlights the formation of a group of older people, from Secondary, to be able to meet their needs adequately and in a more personalized way. In addition, a greater impulse is being given to leisure and free time. Inclusive sport and a group have been created with these young people from Secondary school to make trips to the mountains on a Saturday or Sunday a month, with the idea of enhancing in them the knowledge of the environment, autonomy, and improvement.

It is also intended to reinforce other activities, such as workshops in which the little ones will start in circus arts and percussion or board games. Not forgetting, of course, the evenings of playroom and fun, and the camps in March and July, as well as the urban summer camp.

In addition to the attention to the children of Amaltea, there is also attention to more than 30 families who are accompanied and guided in the doubts they may have.

Finally, the Amaltea project also has the Insertion Center for 45 young people from 14 to 25 years old, with four programs: the Shared Classroom, the Employability workshop, study groups, and "Espai Obert."

All of them are developed to accompany young people in the training processes, in any option in which they are committed, preventing school absenteeism in Secondary, as well as support for study so that they do not leave the educational system, and increasing opportunities for socio-labor insertion by increasing social and communication skills.

During this course, workshops are being carried out on bicycle mechanics, carpentry and catering, cooking, and electricity, among others, as well as an individualized follow-up of each boy or girl and their families.

