

YBTE - Young Team of Domus Orientalis in Lebanon

There is hope in young people!

The beginnings of YBTE (YoungBestTeamEver)

In April 2021 18-year-old Chloe proposed to activate Lebanese youth by engaging in cleaning up a public beach that was flooded with an from an Israeli ship. But why to clean the beaches when there is no medicine, electricity and basic food in Lebanon? "By cleaning the beach and taking care of the surroundings, we motivate other young people to act for the greater Good," says 18-year-old Chloe.

This is how the idea of YBTE was born :)



Today, when the majority of young people want to emigrate or have already fled the country, the only hope for sustaining integration is in those who stayed in Lebanon. We want them to gain skills, self-confidence and prepare for adulthood, while presenting a civic attitude. They started with a beach cleaning but now they are implementing big projects and create the ideas to be copied in other places in the world, where Domus operates.

YBTE, are a group of Lebanese volunteers looking for a beach cleaning project organized by Domus Orientalis. Due to the big mass of garbage in Lebanon's beach and the oil spill that took place in Lebanon's sea, caused by Israel, our beaches are in desperate need of a big clean, so YBTE is contributing by making baby steps like cleaning areas in the beach, and by doing that we hope we motivate and inspire youngsters like us to do the same. This project as well as other projects that will take place in the future, such as green areas, parks, etc., are a way to teach us peace, love and service among our community, hoping more people would help this movement so we could expand for the greater good.



YBTE mostly carrying a projects in Mar Mkhayel Cultural Center, in Ain el Remmaneh area, Badaroo (Notre Dame des Anges School) and Cherfe („Beit al Fatat")



Friendship, Love, Hope - YBTE!

We learn, we wander, we dream! At YBTE, there is no room for complaints or apathy!

Meet YBTE!

MELISSA:

- Coordinator of „The First Step” programme.
- She studied law, and continuing her education in the field of NGO.
- She loves to work with kids. Through it she wants to teach them the basic values and self confidence.
- She is the one to have the biggest fun during our activities and workshops with kids



HIBA:

- Coordinator of the project "Wojtek Pomaga!"
- Coordinator of the psychological support project.
- BA in Psychology, during the MA in Special Education program.
- Full of love for children, has big experience in working with them. She works in a special school with children with autism.
- Her goal in working with children is to improve their development, communication skills and pour joy into their hearts.



DANY:

- Interior designer
- Coordinator for a w woodworks
- He brings calmness to the Team
- Always smiled, hardworking, full of energy
- Engaged with Hiba, together they created “Craft23” – woodworkt art workshop



MARINA:

- Coordinator of a “Book Corner”
- Studying mechanical engineering.
- She loves basketball.
- Listener, observer, but also full of ideas.



CHLOE:

- Initiator of the Green Projects and whole YBTE.
- Coordinator of „Gardens Of Lebanon”.
- Studying art, dreaming of being fashion designer.
- Wants to develop green projects so the people will live in a more friendly environment.
- Trying to gather young people around her, who cares to make Good.



Support: Marie Benoit, Theresa, Pia, Bob, Anthony, Charbel, Marita, Joe, Chriss. DJ Klara

Meet their projects!

Implementation of the projects created in Poland:

a) **"Wojtek Helps"** - a project created by our volunteer Magda, using the character of Wojtek the Bear to conduct artistic and educational workshops with a side aspect of supporting the projects in Syria and Lebanon.

Magda herself introduced the „Wojtek” in the Mar Mkhayel Cultural Center. After that YBTE conducted 5 subsequent series: in the same place (for girls from "Beit al Batat") in Chiyah Park and in the NDA school for children from "First Step".



b) **"First Step"** - scholarship's adoption which was first introduced in Aleppo in 2019 (currently 320 children in the Project), and than in Beirut in the above-mentioned NDA school in Badaroo, where we have in the project 69 children so far.

YBTE runs various workshops at the school, including two Easter's workshops, and from 2023 coordinates the cooperation of the NDA with the Catholic School from Łódź.



c) **"Gardens of Lebanon"** - 14 Polish artists, inspired by Magda, donate us their works, which we exhibited at the end of 2022 in Chiyah Park and Mar Mkhayel Cultural Center (event included "Dare to Dream" concert).

Then the works were shown in Poland and auctioned. The funds obtained from it made it possible to continue the project.



So in spring 2023, the "Young Gardens of Lebanon" started as an art activities for children from Poland and Lebanon.

We organized 5 series of workshops, ending with an exhibition.



Projects initiated directly by YBTE:

a) **Green Projects:** we've started with a beach cleaning (8 times) and a street in Ain el Remmaneh. This is how the YBTE was formed :)

Then our volunteer Dany started wooden works by making pots and souvenirs from the wood taken from broken windows and furniture, damaged during the blast.

Some of those works were auctioned or gifted but some were used during the workshops f.e. in Beit al Fatat. Other pots we used for planting at the Cultural Center in Mar Mkhayel



b) **The Book Corner:** an unique place created by YBTE in Mar Mkhayel Cultural Center. It is a corner where you can relax, work or read books.

However, what makes this place unique are our monthly meetings, during which we discuss books, invite speakers, or simply discuss selected topics.

We are considering creating a discussion club around this project, which in the future may start working on interreligious dialogue and other social problems.



c) **Other:**

- **Chiyah Park:** 2 times games and fun in Chiyeh Park combined with the distribution of 100 pencil cases for the poorest children and self defence training / support for the Women's Day (twice) and a children's keermese / workshops on the occasion of St. Barbara's Day
- **Mar Mkhayel Cultural Center:** Christmas and St. Barbara's Day workshops / „Elderly Week”
- **„Beit Al Fatat”:** 3 visits in Cherfe with a packages, gifts and kitchen supplies / one visit of the girls in St Michel's Cultural center



- **The Bumblebees/Fightlife Lebanon:** support in covering training's costs for 3 kids
- **Psychological support:** Hiba is working with 3 people, she also finished one therapy of other kid
- **Media:** Anthony and Chloe made amazing photo/video promo materials
- **Trainings:** Mona is providing YBTE with a teambuilding's workshops.



As you can see YBTE completes the entire Mission of Domus Orientalis, which is not only about providing humanitarian aid but also building bridges through the cultural and educational activities. Those activities have also a purpose to create a civil society. A society that will allow everyone to keep their identity, but also teach them to care for the public good. Perhaps this is the long-term way to save Lebanon?

Costs of all mentioned above projects is so far: **15 500 USD + 18 000 EUR** („First Step”), including administrative costs,

To support YBTE use:

www.domwschodni.pl/en (category Lebanon/YBTE)

