

Project Proposal



Title: *The Island - an Annual Retreat*

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Project Overview

Objectives

Organize an annual retreat for Survivors

Survivors and their families live (and may have been living) under considerable tension for a long period of time. They may not have been to work and are living in poverty or forced to break their career caused by physical and/or psychological problems.

Vacation with the family may not be obvious for them.

We realise that and want to offer Survivors and their families the possibility to recover in a trustful and peaceful environment, surrounded by people who understand what they have been going through.

Introduction



Valle Piola - Abruzzo, Italy

The idea for this project developed when we heard of a small medieval village in Abruzzo (Italy) that is for sale for 500,000 Euro. Consisting of 11 houses, of which some still need to be renovated, and a 13th century church (not for sale) on a 6ha rural land.

We immediately liked the idea of creating an “island” for Survivors, a place where they could come to terms with their past. A warm welcome blanket...

A number of our Survivor’ friends offered to come there and hold workshops, help with the renovation or to host the guests. We realised though, that this project apart from the relative low initial investment, will require considerable funds to renovate and maintain.

Then the plan of an annual retreat, to be held very year somewhere in Europe, in a nice and peaceful resort began to take shape: “The Island” was born!

At “The Island” we want to offer Survivors apart from a short vacation with their loved-ones, courses and workshops, therapeutical acupuncture, balanced food: one week of mindfulness which will help them cope with their burden for the rest of the year, maybe even their entire life!

This retreat will offer Survivors a refuge from their worlds. A safe place for frightened, dis-parate people to find solace, connection and a sense of community; an extension to their family, in many cases a whole new family.





Scope

The scope of this project consists of:

Hosting of a group of (max. 15) Survivors during one week

- Free stay for Survivors and their partner and children
- Peaceful resort
- Free travel to and from the resort
- Full board service
- Speakers, workshops and courses
- Supported by therapeutic and clinical specialists



Cost & Your Participation

Cost

The estimated cost for this project is around **10,000 Euro per year.**

Your participation

We need your help to help others in need!

You can make a enormous difference to the lives of Survivors of childhood sexual abuse by the catholic clergy worldwide.

Your donation will offer Survivors the comfort that nobody: not the national health service, nor the catholic church can give them. The hope is that they will return to their homes so much stronger, healthier and with new energy to cope with their lives. Thus creating a better future for their partners and/or children and well prepared to help others.

You will start off a positive chain of events that will reach beyond your imagination!