

## An Italian jo(y)enable and life-changing journey



My name is Zohar, I'm a social worker, divorced and a proud father of two wonderful girls. I had the privilege to be a participant and a friend in the 2015 Italy CIF International Exchange and peace Program. I had chosen to add the friend part since the experience for me was one in which I had received much more than a wide and interesting knowledge about Italy's history, politics, and welfare services - it had given me the opportunity to see the Beautiful Italy from and by its landscapes







Food,





Host families,





Culture,



Differences, but most of all - by its most wonderful and life-loving people and new acquired friends!



Professional agencies,



My personal journey started with meeting Mimmo and Tina Merolla (president of CIF Italy and former CIF international president) in Israel, during his personal effort to choose the Israeli and Palestinian 2015 participants. The peace program is his creation, and for me in person, it was and is a boundary-breaking and heart-opening reality making vision. In our mutual excursion about having Israelis and Palestinians meet, we learned and practiced at our journey - talk, overcome inherited and acquired cultural ways of life and thinking, and seeing the other person with and without his origin, as he and she are at real life. Moreover, yes, even establish and experienced growing good feelings and closeness to the other one - Nasim!





I would like to make a - very short summary on the program so you, as one who's interested in the Italian program, will have a bit more understanding; and of course, from my point of view:

The 2015 program included four members outside of Italy from the human field, psychology and social work; Israeli (me), Palestinian (Nasim), Brazilian (Roberta) and Turkish (Esra).

We started the quest at a 3 days and nights accompanied with the most lovable and kind CIF Italian members in learning about the organization and sightseeing of Rome and its surrounding at their leading - and also slept in a nice place(Sassone) where we all socialized and gotten know each other.

After those days we all stayed in the wonderful little Town of Santa Maria Capua Vetere for one week and at the hoses (and I would like to add - the Hearts) of our Italian foster-families - accompanied and oriented by our CIF Italian colleges.

At this week, we were together and learned ALL about Italy (politics, history, services etc.) s visited for orientation at facilities and organizations at the municipality services and private enterprises. The second week was at the same curriculum only that we, the four - parted, and went to our "posts" at another town and region in Italy.

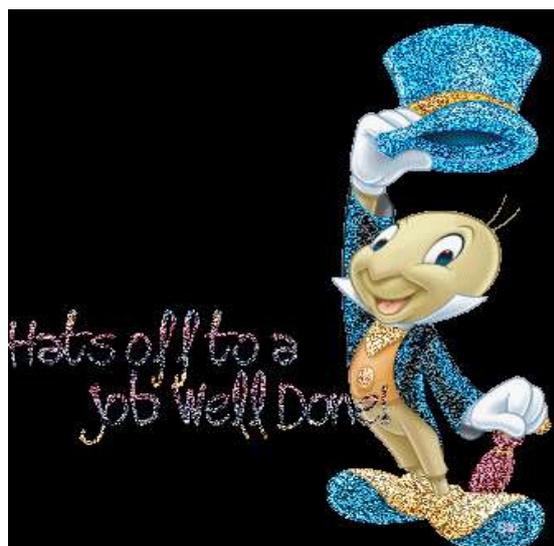
There too, the most lovable and kind CIF members and host families welcomed us with warm hearts. The orientation at the second week was more adequate to the participant own main work and interests. From all of these new ideas and knowledge (we and) I had learned and encounter, I realized that in comparison to my own country, Italy has outsourced the responsibility and funds help to people - But the

good natured, kindness and minded-hearts to help the others - are the same in every human worker, wherever he and she are at the world!

I could really say so much about the learning part, the country and the food;  
But I would mostly want to thank the people in my personal journey - Mimmo and his wonderful wife Tina, my elder brother at hart Sandro and the (his) lovely and beautiful Lilly, my host( and to-be guest) good friend Mikele, And of course the most beautiful at heart and site Barbara: I LOVE YOU ALL :-) !!!



Thank you Mimmo :-)



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