



JOSEFA
FOUNDATION

A charitable foundation

OUR CHARTER

The issue of migration is getting more polarised as the economic, financial, social and identity crises worsen and poverty gains ground in the world and in Europe. Housing is undoubtedly one of the key indicators of this deterioration with an increasing number of persons – in particular migrants – who are homeless.

Therefore how can we forget the asylum seekers and refugees who live on our streets and who sometimes die of cold, loneliness and suffering which goes unheard? This is the founding cry at the origin of **the Josefa Foundation**.

It was born from Annabelle and Gilbert Granjon's stocktaking in 2011. Because of their rich human and professional experience with refugees and asylum seekers, the extent of the crisis which Belgium has experienced concerning the reception of migrants, in particular in Brussels, challenged them. They were convinced of the need for housing which would contribute to social inclusion and to the integral development of people made vulnerable by migration. They wanted to share their experience with others with the will to take action, within the framework of **the Josefa Foundation** which proposes to receive, house and accompany migrants who have decided to live in Belgium.

They wish to implement this project with a team, together with the One who inspired it: "For I was hungry and you gave Me food; I was thirsty and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger and you took Me in; I was naked and you clothed Me; I was sick and you visited Me; I was in prison and you came to Me. [...] Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me" (Mt 25:35-36, 40 NKJV).

Stemming from this inspiration and these roots, **the Josefa Foundation** aims to:

- Recognise and respect the dignity of each individual migrant received;
- Encourage the "integral development" of the person by a welcome which takes into account all his/her aspects – material, psychological and spiritual. Our house, this "home from home" is the sign of this welcoming of the person in their entirety and uniqueness. It offers peaceful surroundings, warm and respectful of each person's tradition, in order to encourage just and lasting social inclusion;
- Subscribe to a momentum of change in perspective towards those who receive the hospitality. Without idealism, the Foundation will attempt to exercise this hospitality in all the complexity and depth of the real world. The challenge of this other perspective – for ourselves and the generations which follow us – is to go beyond fear, which causes resentment, or even rejection of the migrant, towards believing that migration is a source of enrichment on both sides: the abundance of the welcome and all that it makes possible for the migrant; the richness of opening oneself to someone who has left his native land, his family and his cultural bearings to join a host country, a journey which is a sure sign of strength and dynamism. In going beyond our mutual apprehensions, we want to be peacemakers together and, in the meeting of our mutual vulnerabilities, each of us will contribute to the development of the other: to our growth as human beings, manifesting the love which each of us cherishes for our own culture and for the culture we discover in the other person.
- Contribute to the building of a society where there is a just and fair coexistence between all, with the will to raise awareness and challenge the policy towards migrants, in the heart of Brussels, capital of Europe, which is part of everyone's civic responsibility.

The deeply-rooted faith of the founders allows them to have confidence in the work, the experience and the distinctiveness of all concerned; confidence in the active presence of the beneficiaries, which we all are to some extent; and confidence in the support of partners and donors: a whole fellowship which goes beyond what any of us would be on our own.

Together, all vectors of change, we are striving to build **the Josefa Foundation** "on rock".

JOSEFA Foundation - Rue Joseph II 174 - B - 1000 Brussels
Tel. : + 32 2 234 68 18 - contact@josefa-foundation.org

www.josefa-foundation.org