



Associazione per la Tutela dei MSNA

SPORTS AND SOLIDALITY ALWAYS WIN

I am Damiano Marchisio, I am a volunteer of the Italian Association AccoglieRete active in the protection of unaccompanied foreign minors arriving in Sicily by sea through the promotion of the role of legal guardian among civil society.

In the last year I became guardian of two unaccompanied minors, a guy from Mali and an other one from Gambia of 16 years old both. I assisted them since their arrival, for the regularisation process but especially I was for them someone to trust in the new country. The experience gave me a sense of how my presence changed completely, in a positive way, their stay in Italy.

A month ago I was chosen by the association as a representative of the guardian to go in Malta on their behalf and meet the kind Scottish charity, Tartan Army Sunshine Appeal, made by the fans of the Scottish football national team in occasion of the friendly match Italy vs Scotland. I went to Malta together with Abdilahi, a Somali 17 years old minors that, thanks to the support of AccoglieRete, found an Italian foster family that look after him.

Me and Abdilahi were welcomed by the Scottish supports during a boat trip, where we received the cheque donated to our charity. It was an incredible experience, the Scottish people were really kind and welcoming with both of us. For me and especially for Abdilahi to be invited by them and to have the chance of watching the national match it was a dream that become true. In the meantime Abdilahi had the chance to visit the hosting family that was temporary in Malta. It was really a pleasure and an occasion to know the solidarity spirit of Scottish people.

Their donation is an example of the good value that sports can have towards people in need, especially in a difficult moment like the European migration crisis.

While some European governments build walls, people can build bridges!

Thanks again to Scottish people, you made the difference.

Damiano Marchisio
Guardian – AccoglieRete Association