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“HEALTH POINTS” AT THE JUBILEE FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL AND DISABLED – THE FIGURES

Over 1,800 medical services delivered to the homeless by volunteer doctors at the HEALTH POINTS clinics. A huge medical assistance, but the need and the demand are greater still.

More than 1,800 medical services for 600 needy people: these, in brief, are the figures of the medical diagnosis and care “Health Points” set up at St. Peter’s in the Vatican, St. John Lateran Basilica, St. Mary Major Basilica, and St. Paul Outside the Walls, for the Jubilee for those who are ill and disabled.

During the long weekend from Friday 10 to Sunday 12 June, the four Health Points gave homeless people and immigrants free specialist check-ups, preventive exams, and vaccines, carried out by volunteer doctors from the capital’s main hospitals.

This initiative is the result of a collaboration between the Pontifical Council for Promoting New Evangelization and MedTAG, international leader in medical simulation training services for patient care, prevention and safety. The event also marked the successful launch of MedTAG’s foundation, *Science for Life*.

Internal medicine, dermatology, and pediatric checks, pneumonia vaccines, as well as mammograms, breast ultrasounds and Pap tests, to screen for the most common female tumours, were all made available to people who otherwise would not have access to this kind of health protection.

At least one in twenty of those checked was diagnosed with an urgent medical or psychological problem that the person concerned not aware of.

Diabetes, hypertension and cardio-circulatory diseases were the most common internal medicine illnesses found, while the most frequent dermatological ailments to occur were fungal infections, warts and scabies.

Several suspected tumours were identified, and for these people more in-depth in- or out-patient exams were booked to take place the next few days, while the people with chronic diseases were referred as necessary for further checks and tests.

The strong turnout, thanks to word of mouth, required an extraordinary commitment from the specialist physicians, in particular in the senology, dermatology and internal medicine clinics, and from all the volunteers, co-ordinated by Professor Landolfi of the Gemelli Hospital, who made this important initiative possible.

The second edition of the initiative will be on a Europe-wide scale in November, to coincide with the closure of the Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy: the same services will be offered to 6,000 needy homeless people from all over Europe.