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street medicine institute

'Go to the People'

September 2, 2024

To Whom It May Concern,

I am honored to submit this letter on behalf of Associacio Rauxa under the direction of Dra Maria Luisa Marin Puig. I fully support their mission and work in Barcelona. I have known Dra. Marin for several decades in my capacity as founder of the Street Medicine Institute based in the United States. Her presentation at our International Street Medicine Symposium in Boston (2013) on "Suicidal Behavior in Alcoholic Men Treated in Associacio Rauxa" was excellent and contributed to our understanding of the care of this vulnerable population. She is highly respected for her work with those experiencing homelessness.

In 2014 I personally visited Associacio Rauxa, witnessing the care model, their street outreach and especially their community recovery model. Indeed, I lived in the shelter, ate with the men and got to know them. I have remained in contact with Dra. Marin and am impressed with the innovations they continue to institute. What I believe makes their program so uniquely effective is the dedication to creating and healing and supportive community. Very few programs I have seen throughout the world can match Associacio Rauxa in this regard. I am hoping to some day bring our international conference to Barcelona to highlight the good work there.

I sincerely hope that you might be able to keep this important program strong, and I am specifically asking the Barcelona City Hall to maintain their financial contract with the "La Terrasetta" soup kitchen. I know it would benefit your lovely city to do so. I would be happy to speak further on their behalf and appreciate your attention in this matter.

Sincerely,



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