



One Happy Family News

October 2017

„It always seems impossible, until it's done“

Portrait

The Situation on Lesbos

Every day boats are arriving on the Island. Almost 3'000 people arrived on the Island of Lesbos during September. Not as many as in 2015, but the people are not allowed to travel away from the island anymore. Only around 200 people per month are aloud to travel to the Greek mainland. There are around 6700 refugees in different camps, most of them (4'800) in the Camp of Moria. Moria is made for 1'800 people. Moria camp is still in a miserable condition: no privacy, not enough basic goods for everyone, people living in tents. Families have to live in tents on the sides of the street. In short, the situation is getting worse and worse. And winter is near...

The European asylum support office (EASO) is on the island, trying to help with the asylum demands. But people still have to wait for a very long time, sometimes 1 ½ years or more.

At the beginning of September there was a police operation in Moria Camp. 350 policemen entered and closed all the entries. Around 60 persons where arrested, 11 were brought to jail. The reason of the operation is unclear. Supposedly the police searched for Sans Papiers, but also people with legal paperwork were arrested. Because of such actions, people are very scared again.

Many wishes, many dreams, a lot of hope and many actions. Someone who took action when needed, listened if necessary and who was the contact person for many at the OHF is Ralf.

Ralf, we know that you don't want the attention because of you as a person. But your actions inspired many people. Your open heart was and is important for the OHF.

Thank you for your energy, your strength and your inspiration – one love Bredaa & see you soon!



News from the Community Center

Since for month the OHF is working fulltime. A lot has been done: over 3000 visitors were registered. Daily 300-400 people are coming. 19 different projects have been built.

Planning the future of the OHF

We decided to stay and continue the OHF. One of the reasons ist that a lot more people arrive on Lesbos every day (s. section about the situation on Lesbos). So the Community Center has to be ready for the cold season (winterisation, isolation, warm water etc.), to be a warm safe haven.

Future Coordination of the OHF

The current coordination team is changing. Ralf left involuntarily to Switzerland, Fabian stays only until the end of December at Lesbos. Both will work from Switzerland for the OHF. But in Mytilini energetic and motivated people are needed. We keep you updated.

And in other news...

- The School is getting enlarged (two more classrooms).
- The Womens Center (funded by Sea of Solidarity) will soon be finished.
- A garden project started, where the Organization Better Days will give some training on doing gardening.

Thank you!

We want to thank all the good people coming to the OHF and/or are supporting us in various ways.

Without you the OHF wouldn't be the place it is today – a safe haven!

We need you

- **Sharing news**
Share our News about Lesbos and the Community Center, since the Media aren't covering it anymore we need you even more!
- **Volunteering**
We need especially people able to come for a longer period of time (more than one month) & ready take some responsibilities.
<https://ohf-lesvos.org/en/volunteering/>
- **Fundraising**
Any ideas for fundraising? Tips?
Contact us at fundraising@ohf-lesvos.org
- **„OHF Support“ group in WhatsApp**
Join us by using the following link:
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/5r7FeVvUugHJYwrxamyugd>

Picture of the month



„It always seems impossible until it's done“ (Nelson Mandela)

Many people were laughing at us when we started this project. Many people had concerns. Many people thought that we won't survive.

But we succeeded. With the help of so many wonderful people like the one who wrote down this powerful message and put it up under our few rules. With the help of befriended organizations. And with the help of people all over the world, which keep supporting us.

Interesting Links

- Greece: Court decisions pave way for first forcible returns of asylum seekers under EU-Turkey deal:
<http://bit.ly/2wMfFXZ>
- Statistics from the Greek Asylum Service over the past four years:
<http://bit.ly/2w8qwPW>
- UNHCR statistics for Greece:
<http://bit.ly/2o4LEyV>