



One Happy Family News August 2018

“Every human is an artist.”

Situation on Lesbos

Unfortunately, there are not many changes to the situation on the island.

During the month of July the average daily arrival on the Aegean islands is around 80 people. Up to today (25th of July) 1041 people arrived this month on 28 boats on Lesbos. Around 350 people were able to leave the island of Lesbos, being transferred to the mainland. 16 were deported to Turkey.

This has resulted in, according to the Hellenic Ministry of Interior, more than 7,600 people living in Moria and more than 9,700 people on Lesbos.

Situation in Moria

Doctors without borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) reported escalating daily violence in Moria. More victims of sexual violence had to be treated. As stated by MSF “much of the tension is caused by overcrowding and inhumane living conditions. In the main area of Moria camp and in the Olive Grove, an informal extension of the camp, there are 72 people per functioning toilet

and 84 people per functioning shower. This is well below the recommended humanitarian standards in emergency situations.” Read more in the report: <http://bit.ly/2uSSvkR>

Hungerstrike of Mayor of Moria

The Mayor of Moria, Nikos Trakellis, did a hunger-strike at the end of June as a symbolic action. He wanted to draw attention to the conditions on the island. After talks with the Deputy Migration Minister Yiannis Balafas, the Mayor stopped his hungerstrike.

Pikpa

As written in the last Newsletter, Pikpa faces an announced closure of their safe space.

The first court decision in their ongoing trial was ruled. The judge delivered a decision in favour of Pikpa. The court case, initiated by some hotel owners from the neighbourhood and some individuals, is nevertheless ongoing.

The regional decision to close Pikpa, issued after a visit of the Health inspection, is as well ongoing.

The appeal from Pikpa was filed last week. The Region must now reconsider their decision.

You can continue your support by uploading a picture of you with a #safepikpa picture. Post it in this group: <http://bit.ly/2LPIUI5>

European Commission

The Commission awarded €20 million to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to improve the conditions in Greece, especially on Lesbos. According to the UNHCR this money will be used to help manage the reception facilities on the island of Lesbos, to support local community projects and provide emergency accommodation on the islands. It should also go towards improving measures to protect children, to increase non-formal education and to prevent sexual and gender-based violence.

All of this is really necessary and we hope to see an improvement, as there is such a lack of support in all of these areas.

News from the Community Centre

Café

Our Instagram followers (@ohfcommunitycenter) voted that the Café is the most popular project at OHF :-). Our café is a vibrant place where, at the moment, not only coffee, chocolate and tea is served but also cold water (also available at our water-stations) and a cold summer drink with fresh mint and orange.

We hope to be able to keep up these cold drinks during these hot days, we're grateful for any financial support!

Visits at the OHF



We are excited about the great interest in our project and the many visitors coming from all over the world. Since the number of visits from organizations, groups and individuals increased over the months, we have set up a visitor policy to give each interested party an adequate tour and to preserve our principles. All information about registration, opening hours, guided tours and additional rules can be found on our website ohf-lesvos.org in "Contact" -> "Visitors". We are looking forward to seeing you!

New Yoga and Sports Tent



We proudly announce that the new Yoga and Sports tent has been opened. The opening has been celebrated with a stunning show of all the different sport programs. Muay Thai, Karate, Taekwondo, swimming classes, fitness programs, Yoga lessons – there is something for everyone!

Pottery Workshop

Cars, plates, lions, heads and faces, hearts, spoons, cups... This month we had a pottery workshop in the house (cf. head picture). SolidARiTé, a young and creative team of 4, started this workshop at One Happy Family. Doing pottery is not new for many of our visitors. Afghanistan has a long tradition of producing clay items. And for example we met Hamid, an artist from Afghanistan, who impresses us every day with his amazing pottery skills.

One of our helpers is going to take over the pottery workshop after the team from SolidARiTé leave.

“One Happy Podcast”

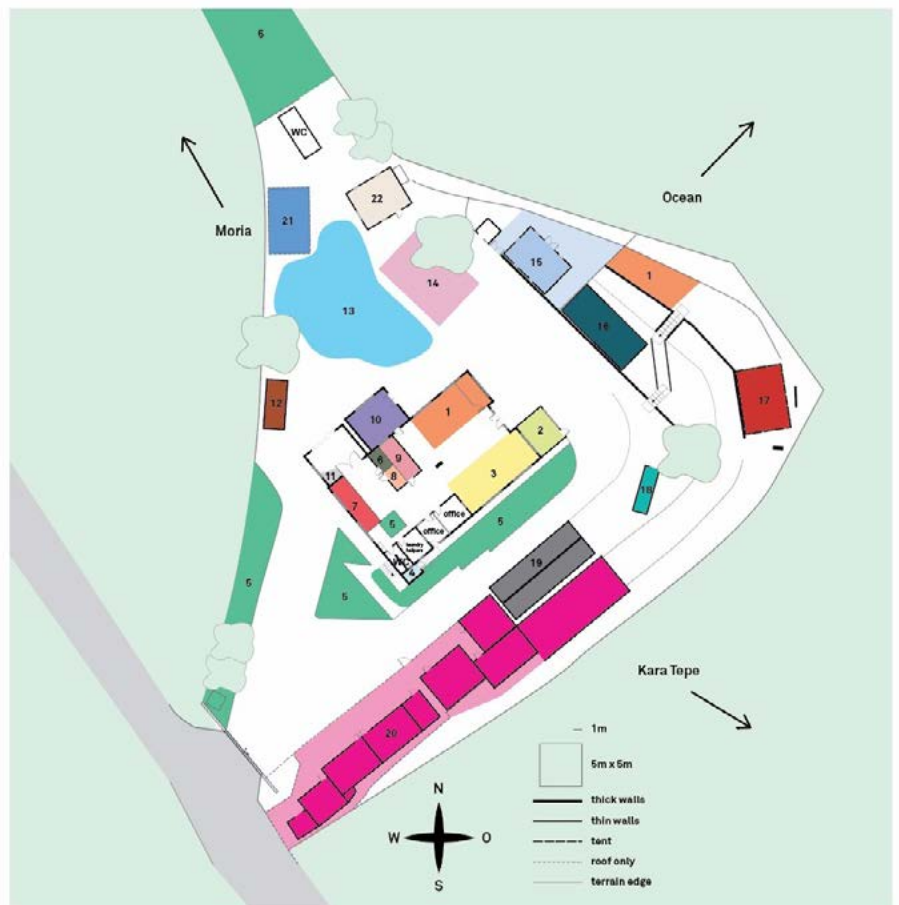
Hello everybody from the radio of OHF Lesvos! Radio and Podcasts are now being made again at our Community Centre. Every Monday a new podcast about different topics will be released, listen to the amazing first podcast, live from our Radio-station, here: <http://bit.ly/2LFUaE0>

This first episode is an overview of who we are, what we do and what we stand for. Also one of our coordinators shares the story of One Happy Family and our guests express what the community centre means to them.

Picture of the Month

This picture, showing the whole area of One Happy Family from above, helps you understand how big our Centre has grown. We have 22 running projects now. Many ideas are coming up for new projects, but we're trying to improve our current projects: Quality before quantity. We are really proud of everyone involved in each of these 22 projects.

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|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1 Cafe and Shisha Lounge | 12 Shop |
| 2 Kitchen (up to 900 meals daily) | 13 Sporting field |
| 3 Dining area with 10 tables | 14 Playground |
| 4 Radio station | 15 Women's house |
| 5 Garden | 16 Training Center (soon) |
| 6 Hairdresser and barber shop | 17 Yoga and sport activities |
| 7 Cinema | 18 Library |
| 8 Tailor shop | 19 Storage |
| 9 Cybercafé | 20 School with 9 classrooms |
| 10 The nest (kids space) | 21 GYM |
| 11 Bank with Drachma | 22 Medical station |



Miscellaneous

Art with Heart Zürich

From the 14.-16. September an art exhibition is taking place to show art pieces of different artists from around Zurich. The total proceeds are going to Be a robin, an amazing Swiss initiative working with refugees and the OHF. We're thankful for every initiative and looking forward to seeing many of you there.

More information on Facebook: "Art with Heart Zurich" or Instagram: @artwithheart.zh

Donations

Did you know that you can support One Happy Family financially using Post Finance, TWINT or Masterpass? There are no charges or fees when you use these methods of payment. In addition, you can set-up donations on a regular basis (e.g. one per month); this helps us in planning the future of our project. Your donation directly benefits the people here on Lesvos. With CHF 25 we can cook 30 meals, with CHF 60 we can serve 200 coffees and teas, and with CHF 70 we can pay the electricity for one week. Support our work now: <http://bit.ly/2mM5Yqb>
Thank you for considering any amount to donate.

Dear Rike...

«In March 2017, I came to Lesvos for the first time. I didn't know what to expect, but I was sure that I wanted to help. I was aware that help in Germany is needed, too. But to support the people here on this island, where they are stuck and their future is so unpredictable, was really important to me. What I found here were wonderful people at a horrible place. People with stories, with skills, with hospitality and people with the wish of a life in future. What I couldn't find in the beginning was an organization that meets the people at eye level. And then I found the OHF. What characterizes this project is that here we can work together and create a space, where people can exercise and renew their skills and escape the hell of the camps. Here, we are a

team and we support each other – together we work for a place where humanity is the core. »
This is why you were here dear Rike, and this is why you will be VERY DEEPLY MISSED!



Many people want to tell you many things, first of all we want to say a huge THANK YOU to you. Thank you for putting your heart and energy into this project, which we all love so much. It will be tough without you, but you'll always be a big part of the Family, staying in our hearts – all of us love all of you!

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