



# One Happy Family News September 2018

*“Together for the better!”*

## Situation on Lesbos

More than 10.000 human beings seeking safety are stuck on the island!

Monthly statistics for Lesbos from the Aegean Boat Report:

- Arrivals: 1535
- Total arrivals this year: 10.193
- Boats: 40
- Total Boats this year: 239
- Transfers August: 868
- Total transfers this year: 7230
- Total refugees on the island: 10.528

This means, there are more than 8.000 people staying in Moria right now! New arrivals sleep wherever they find space – outside in the Olive Grove, or any spare floor space inside Moria.

In the last few days, NGO workers on Lesbos and Samos have been targeted by Greek Authorities

on suspicion that they have helped facilitate the arrival of refugees into Greece.

Read more here:

<http://bit.ly/2wuj9As>

## News from the Community Centre

### Future of OHF

The space “One Happy Family” was created with the thought of “we’re here as long as we’re needed”. With more than 8.000 people being stuck in Moria; it’s needed more than ever, to have a safe space outside the camp. We try to provide daily structures and routines to everyone who wants to come to our space. This results in very high monthly costs, especially for the food we’re providing (meals for up to 1.000 people daily). We don’t want to give this up, since this is what our visitors need the most. BUT (and unfortunately it is a big but!) we need all of you! One Happy Family has at the moment the funds to continue its work, as it is now, for the

next two months. This means quite clearly that we would need to close the Community Centre if no new funds come in by the end of October.

We're trying our best to continue because we see and hear that it's needed, but we need YOU!

### **Professional skills development workshops for helpers and visitors!**

This month we had the pleasure to have Cliff and Danielle as volunteers. They ran professional skills development workshops alongside Doug, Sonia and Tito from 1976km, Rough Cut Media & Think-Film Impact Production. The professional skills workshops took place over 4 days with amazing participation.

Part one involved: knowing your formal and informal work experience, skills exchanges and sharing, volunteering and helping to use skills and gain experience for CV, importance of personal characteristics, digital skills, CV creation, interview role-play practice, setting up and using email addresses.

While the second part included: business skills, concept and characteristics of entrepreneurship, identifying needs and problems in society, finding business solutions and considerations to these needs and problems, presentations of business ideas, 7 ways of adding value to a product or service.

It was an enrichment to have you here Danielle and Cliff. Thank you to everyone who was part of the workshop!

### **End of the School year**

The School of Peace hosted an end of year and Eid al-Adha event on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> of August. Over 400 community members attended with their children, who spent the evening making masks, flying kites, and dancing. The youth leaders ran each activity and helped welcome all of the parents. Each child received their report card and diploma!

Congratulations to all of our students on your

achievements!

<https://fb.me/InternationalSchoolOfPeace>

### **Swimming lessons**

One of the many sport activities offered by our partner "Yoga and Sport For Refugees" together with PROEM - AID are swimming lessons. Teaching refugees how to swim and empowering their relationship with the sea and how to treat it properly is very important. We're thankful to have these amazing partners on our team!

<https://fb.me/sportforrefugees>

## **Miscellaneous**

### **Laughing scars**

We would like to draw your attention to the exhibition "Laughing Scars" of Jojo Schulmeister that takes place in Zurich from the 30<sup>th</sup> of August until the 9<sup>th</sup> of September. Some of his pictures were taken at the OHF and we're really happy about the insights into the life of the people on Lesbos that Jojo shows. More information:

<https://www.my-blackbook.ch/laughing-scars>

or on the Facebook-Event: <http://bit.ly/2PiHL6U>

### **Reminder: Art with Heart Zurich**

From the 14.-16. September "Art with Heart Zurich" is taking place. We hope to see you there!

More information on Facebook:

<https://fb.me/artwithheart.zh> or Instagram:

<http://www.instagram.com/artwithheart.zh>

## Picture of the month



Fitting to the International Youth Day that has been celebrated this month, we proudly announce the opening of our OHF-Youth space.

It's a space reserved for our visitors between 13 and 18 years old. Five group members were strongly involved from the beginning in the planning and building of their space. Their wishes are computer and guitar classes, dance-classes, English courses and to have a safe space for boys and girls in their teenager years.

One of the young team members said: "It was a lot of fun to built this place. I really liked to work in a team. I learned how to build a tent and improve by craft skills." - Hadi

Thanks to everyone who has been involved in putting up this important new space – open Monday to Friday between 14:00-16:00 to all our teenage friends.

## #MeetTheFamily

### This time: #MeetTheBoard

Staring at their phones during their working hours, organising fundraising events and preparing materials, keeping track of money flows, giving interviews, updating the website, coordinating volunteer applications, writing newsletters and press releases, developing creative fundraising ideas and much more...

Who are these people who love the project this much that they use their free time for all of these tasks and spend their holidays on the Island? It's time to introduce you to our board members, mostly based in Switzerland but often seen on the ground.



**\*Fanny:** Our dedicated and reliable Fundraising/ Designer-heart of OHF. Fanny, a graphic designer, is always in search of new and crazier ideas for the OHF and its financial income. She has incredible talent and creativity and sees opportunities in

everything- like transforming a laundry bus into a library. Besides that, she is a driver-genius who joins in for dance moments and fun of all kinds on Lesvos and in Switzerland, never losing her inspiring level head.

**\*Lukas:** Our Website looks professional, thanks to this pokerface. Lukas, our martial artist and very talented programmer, doesn't take much space and is a man of action. He sometimes seems a bit absent-minded, like a crazy professor – but then his deadpan humour and his big ideas fascinate. He is as well a gifted craftsman as well – making OHF safe for the winter for example.

**\*Nina:** Conscientious and faithful volunteer expert. Besides teaching kids in schools around Zurich, Nina is every now and then on the ground at One Happy Family, where she puts smiles on peoples face even at the barber shop. She is ready to take measures if needed, but presents decisions always in a friendly way. She is definitely at ease even while handling shuttle times and stops from Switzerland.

**\*Jael:** Warm-hearted, always good-humoured counsellor for everyone, abroad and in "Suisse"! She is ridiculously patient and has a way of connecting with everyone. Like Nina, Jael is a teacher, but what fascinates us the most is her endless energy. Her passion and laughing heart go into every newsletter and godparenthood report you read. Besides all this, she seems to be in a constant selfie- and dance-mood.

**\*Tamara:** Most talented money-juggler, rocking the tough job of the finances with bravura and always with a smile. She is straight-forward and well-thought-out with a big heart. Before taking care of herself she takes care of everyone else. On the ground you'll recognize her by her amazing overview of everything and her laughing herself to tears.

**\*Nicolas:** Very organised Swiss IT genius who takes care of your finances and technics on the ground and cooperates with our partners and more organisations on the Island. At the moment he is the mouthpiece for the board on the ground and vice versa. His current stay on Lesvos is open ended! Nico also writes reports and programmed our bank app that gives us the statistics to help guide our future needs.

**\*Fabian:** Chaotic multitasking political activist with strong leadership qualities and a small speech disorder. He always has the overview and thinks systematically through future plans for OHF. After volunteering for over a year in Greece he returned to continue his studies in social work. Fabian is always available for deep talks or dance nights (yes, he is a hidden raver and likes to show off his African Beat moves as well). Besides this, he knows bad words (and nice ones too) in all kind of languages.

The whole board loves to invest their energy into OHF, but need support from each and every one of you. You can support the project in various ways, for example:

- tell your surrounding about the situation on Lesvos and the OHF
- make some jelly and sell it, donate the money to OHF
- write letters
- organise a fundraising event (or are you a sportsperson? Then you can run for money as well... :-))
- and, and, and...

Contact the team via [fundraising@ohf-lesvos.org](mailto:fundraising@ohf-lesvos.org) for questions, ideas or compliments ;-)

**Imprint:**  
Jael Tobler (Content)  
Nicolas Perrenoud (Layout)