



One Happy Family News January 2019

Situation on Lesbos

In general the situation hasn't changed a lot, but more than 2,000 human beings have been transferred to the mainland, mostly people with vulnerability status. This results in a refugee population of around 7,300 people at the moment on Lesbos.

Weather

The situation is still very tough for many people on the island due to sporadic heavy rains. This is especially true for those living in the Olive Grove, next to the official Moria Camp. The tents are normally built on earth, which results in a lot of mud, and many people are still living in summer tents.

Winterisation

No winterisation in the official site has been carried out. Organisations are trying to fix tents, so that hopefully no one has to endure horribly cold nights this winter.

Many organisations are working together to distribute winter clothes mainly to the residents of Moria.

News from the Community Centre

One Happy Christmas

This is how we celebrated Christmas at OHF this year: with Christmas tea and coffee for everyone, a snow man, a Christmas tree, decorations and lights everywhere, gifts and smiles. The evening was full of energy and emotions. The guitar class students and several singers gave an amazing performance, which was followed by hours of intense dancing and games. The kitchen team spent all day preparing a wonderful buffet dinner, allowing everyone to have a proper celebration meal. We're thankful that OHF could be open during these Christmas days thanks to dedicated volunteers: it's a real pleasure spending time with this chosen family, especially in these days. Christmas is first of all a time for us to be stronger together, and we believe the goal has been reached.

We need volunteers!

Are you having trouble with the current EU migration policy? Would you like to get a picture of the situation yourself at one of Europe's hotspots? Would you like to deal with people from other cultures and from all walks of life? Are you flexible, resilient and confident enough to drive a 9-seater minivan safely?

In addition to 60 volunteers who still live in refugee camps on Lesbos, One Happy Family depends on the support of 15 international volunteers. The group should cover different areas, for which varied

experience, skills and strengths are desirable, and be as balanced as possible in terms of age and gender.

From Monday, 14 January, 2019, One Happy Family is looking for men (because we have many female volunteers already) over 20 years old for at least 3 weeks who meet the above mentioned requirements.

More information and registration on:

<https://ohf-lesvos.org/en/volunteering/>

Miscellaneous

Revento

We proudly present our next fundraising cooperation with revendo.ch, a Swiss organisation focused on reducing electronic waste, result of the short life span of electronic devices.

Starting on the 9th of January and continuing the whole month the whole month of January, if you sell your laptop to revendo you can choose to donate the money or a part of it to OHF. Besides that, there will be donation boxes in all 7 revendo shops in Switzerland.



We are thankful to everyone and every organisation that supports OHF. There will be an explanatory video at the beginning of the year, thank you in advance for sharing this with your circle.

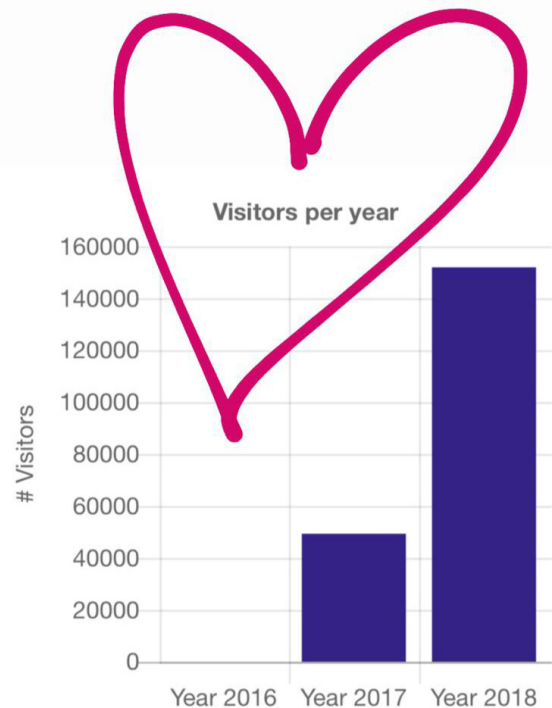
#togetherforthebetter



Picture of the month

Thanks to all our helpers, our volunteers, our partner organizations, we thank all our donors, all the supporters – to all the people that in their heart or on the ground believe and work with the thought that we're all human beings and thus everyone should be treated humanly. Thanks to you we've been able to welcome 153'341 times amazing visitors this year (16'750 individual persons). This means that in 2018 more than three times as many people as in 2017 were able to enjoy the projects at One Happy Family.

**THANK YOU! DANKE!
MERCİ! SHUKRAN!
SIPAS! KHEILY MAMNUN!**



#THANKFUL

#MeetTheFamily: Mahmud

“The first question they asked me, not how are you or you are from where... they came and asked: can you help us to change this case (situation)? So they gave me idea, that I have power to help.” And Mahmud Talli did change the case! With a lot of power, investing energy, heart, good ideas and dedication!

From the very beginning on, he was part of the team on Lesbos, initially spending most of his days in a squatted building, cooking for 300 people in an improvised kitchen. No one could have imagined back then that OHF would become the biggest community center on the island. Since then, Mahmoud and his team cooked more than 250,000 (!) meals. But he was not only active in the kitchen. As part of the coordination team, as founding partner of the Greek association “One Happy Family ΑΣΤΙΚΟΣ”, as an active member of the emergency chat, as fundraiser, as translator, as tour-guide, as chief of logistics and negotiations, as friend and as a core member of the (probably) biggest family worldwide, he plays an important part in the history of OHF!

After two years of volunteering, first with schwizerchrüz.ch-Michael Räber and afterwards with One Happy Family, Mahmoud is now leaving the project and will focus on new ideas for his beautiful restaurant Reem, in Mytilene, and on other new projects.

We wish you, Mahmud, all the best for your future!

Your words and thoughts shall not only stay in our minds, but also in our hearts! “No one came from nothing. We have experience, we have background. Just give me trust... we are the same! We are one human being here, working for human being!”



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