



One Happy Family News Feburary 2019

“OHF has not only taught me to cook for 1,000 people per day, but to cook with a smile and with love”

Sifiso “Fifie” Khumalo, new coordination team member

Situation on Lesvos

There currently are 7,144 asylum seekers and refugees residing on Lesvos. There have been more transfers to the main-land (1,021 persons) this month than new arrivals (640 persons). Nevertheless, Moria still has an overpopulation of more than 5,000 persons, and the weather is not making the situation any better.

Samos

But at the moment we really need to highlight the situation on Samos, where people are living under horrible conditions. There are 4,400 men, women and children trapped on this island, where they are forced to live in deplorable conditions, crammed into a camp (built for 650) and its surronding area. Among the 1,500 children are 300 unaccompanied minors. As on Lesvos, the broken asylum system is denying people their basic human rights. They have no access to what we all take for granted:

shelter from the elements, access to toilets and showers, blankets and sleeping bags to protect their children from the cold, and the right to be treated with dignity and respect. In mid-January, asylum seekers demonstrated against these conditions, which have been steadily deteriorating with the hail, wind and freezing rain of the hard Samos winter. There are some organisations now working on support on Samos, where immediate help is needed.

Death of a young man

On the 8th of January, a 24 year old man from Cameroon died in Moria camp, just 48 days after arriving in Europe. His friends have stated that he died in their container after leaving his tent because of the extreme cold. The official cause of the death has not been communicated officially as of now.

Weather

Currently it's raining a lot on Lesvos. This means that many people are living in tents under the strong rain since several days. The weather forecast doesn't predict improvements: the organisations on the ground try to help the residents of Moria as they can.

The wind damaged as well our biggest tree within the OHF ground, luckily no one got hurt. But the weather remains a challenge: storms and thunderstorms are still happening, therefore Lesvos still faces difficulties with the amount of water everywhere and trees falling down.

Fire in Moria and electricity shutdowns

A big tent burned down this month in the Olive Grove, next to Moria. Luckily no one got hurt. Due to electricity cuts many people need to make fires to keep themselves warm. The situation is thus very dangerous for everyone.

News from the Community Centre

New Year's Eve at OHF

The new year at OHF started with a big celebration of the things we achieved and experienced together as One Happy Family in 2018. During one year lots of things evolved, changed, got better and bigger and even more amazing. And all this, because of all the wonderful people who are spending their hours, days, months and years at OHF as volunteers, as helpers, as partners, as coordinators, as friends and as important parts of the family. All those people and their relatives were invited to join us on this special occasion. The kitchen prepared a beautiful buffet, the construction team weld 5 grills for the barbecue and a group of creative minds made the big hall look like a fancy club in Manhattan. Celebrating, dancing, eating, drinking, talking and enjoying together. That's how 2018 ended at OHF and how the new year started.

Responsibility sharing

To take off a little bit of burden from the coordination team, several responsibilities are now overtaken by long term volunteers: Logistics, Shop, Café and Helpers support such as CV writing, writing certificates and doctor/lawyer appointments. We're thankful for all the motivated long termers we have at the moment, THANK YOU!

New volunteer office

Whoever has been OHF has seen that the offices are always very busy. This is why we have opened a new volunteers office inside the main hall. This new office is the place to store things, and all the keys for the different projects are placed here; there's always a volunteer taking care of this, giving out the keys to the people who need them, giving out games and sport-equipment to our visitors and registering new students for the adult school and workshops.

Makerspace

We proudly announce our new makerspace, an open working space with plenty of tools setup in the former boutique building. Different workshops will take place here, but it's also an open place to use by anyone interested. The approach and main idea is upcycling and recycling used materials. We're very happy to have this new space in the OHF ground! The project is run in collaboration with the French organization Low-Tech Lab.

<http://lowtechlab.org/wiki/Grecce>



Cyber Café

This month we improved our cyber café: it's now well equipped with fixed computers. We're thankful for this donation, and are looking forward to seeing our responsible helpers and the visitors working there even more than they already do. Printing, writing CVs, learning how to use Word, Excel, etc. – this can all be done and learned in our Cyber Café.



International dinner

On Sunday, the 27th of January, the whole team of volunteers and helpers celebrated an international dinner, organized by one of our long term volunteers, Ludovic. Different meals from different regions of the world were cooked by small groups in several flats. Afterwards everyone brought their freshly cooked food to OHF and shared this special dinner. It was a very nice atmosphere, which make our motto "Together for the better" alive.

Miscellaneous

Revendo

Our fundraising cooperation with revendo.ch, a Swiss organisation focused on reducing electronic waste, result of the short life span of electronic devices, is still on. Visit their website or their shops for more information about their great and important work: www.revendo.ch

Competition: Happy socks

The Safe Passage Socks are not just socks! 900 socks have been sent to the whole world. What can these socks do that others can't? Where are these socks worn? Who is wearing them and how? We are looking for the most creative, most amusing, funniest or just most beautiful picture of our Safe Passage socks!

Send us your favorite picture of your Safe Passage socks to fundraising@ohf-lesvos.org or post it on Facebook as a comment and win an original FREITAG bag of your choice!

Picture of the month



The adult school is going very well. The English and Greek classes are well attended: we have around 100 students on a daily basis. English classes are taught in different levels, and separately for Farsi, Arabic and French speakers. Teachers are from the refugee community. Conversation classes are sometimes conducted by international volunteers. Greek classes are offered in two levels, and taught by a local Greek teacher, Anna.

We also have another Greek class, three times a week, for our helpers. They are very busy during the normal class hours, this is why we started this new class specifically for them in the afternoon. Around 15 helpers attend regularly; we consider it very important that our helpers learn Greek, the language of their new homeland.

#MeetTheFamily: Fifie



Sifiso Khumalo (known as Fifie), is our new coordination team member. Fifie's tasks at OHF are the following: center coordination, kitchen coordination, logistics, storage coordination, ordering goods and hygiene items and being a contact person for female helpers.

Find out more about her in the following lines:

"Before I started volunteering in One Happy Family, I was a regular visitor. I always liked the good atmosphere, the warm welcome with smiles in and around OHF, the medical help that is provided and the warm freshly prepared food that all the visitors received.

I needed something to distract me from my troubles and tensions in Moria, and since I didn't want to stay there all day, I started helping in the kitchen, which is something I really like and enjoy.

I am now coordinating the kitchen together with Mohammad. We have full responsibility for the kitchen: cutting and slicing vegetables, preparing our daily warm meals, maintaining order and tidying our beautiful outside cooking area, making sure our food storage is in order and that we always have enough in stock to run the project, teaching and finding new staff members for the kitchen, ordering fresh new food, welcoming the daily deliveries and cleaning as we go, working together as a team of different nationalities but with one mindset, energy and motivation: to cook for around 1,000 people with a lovely smile.

1,000 people per day, which might seem impossible at first, but possible because we are a great team!"

Find out more about Fifie and how you can support her by clicking this link:

<https://ohf-lesvos.org/en/team-member/fifie-en/>