



One Happy Family News March 2019

*“This struck me the most...
The dedication that all the involved people show every day to make
this place to what it is.”*

Felix, volunteer at One Happy Family

Situation on Lesbos

Lesvos has experienced wild weather these past few weeks! We've received some harsh rain, strong winds, and some cold, but sunny days. We haven't seen the end of it yet, with more strong storms on the way.

So far this year, there has been 3'318 arrivals to the Aegean Islands. Specifically, on Lesbos, we have seen a total of 1'461, with 791 arriving in February. There are around 7'400 Refugees on Lesbos with more than 4'500 living in Moria camp and the combined Olive Grove. The majority of the Refugee population on Lesbos is from Afghanistan.

Following the previous year's arrival trends, we are predicting an increase of arrivals once the spring time comes.

Samos

The situation on the Island of Samos has reached a crisis point. We experienced this many times on

Lesvos, so Fanny from the OHF board, together with current and former OHF-volunteers have gone to Samos to see what is needed and what can be done.

To paint a small picture: Vathy - which is the Samos Reception and Identification Centre (RIC), has capacity for 700 people. Samos has had 478 new arrivals this month, with a total refugee population of 5'082. More than 4'000 people are living in appalling conditions, similar to what we see on Lesbos: Many families in summer tents, with inadequate warmth, minimal hygiene options, and exposed to awful weather.

Therefore, Fanny and the team decided to start a project with sports and activities mainly for young men (because many other organizations offer spaces for women and children). This project will be continued after Fannys departure by our partner Yoga and Sports for Refugees.

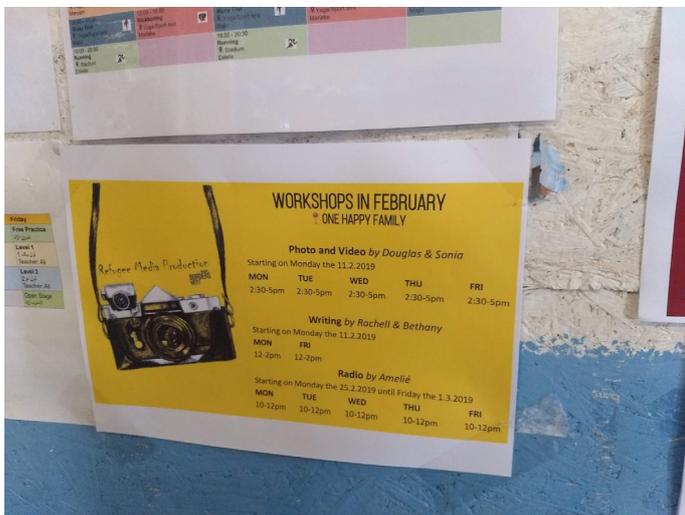
News from the Community Centre

Daily business

Already this year, we have seen around 5'518 people pass through Once Happy Family. We retrieve this number from the people we register at the “bank”. So, on top of this we have to add all the helpers, volunteers, partners and coordination team members.

We are happy that we never had to set up a maximum capacity for our visitors. Back in October 2017, we started to have days of over 700 visitors to the Community Centre and we were overwhelmed then. Now it's very “normal” for us to have days with more than 1000 visitors. This happened already several times this year. They are always big and busy days, but it's feasible and we can manage it.

Workshops



There are many different workshops being held at OHF, to meet a variety of interests and needs. Currently, the media workshops are very popular! We have photo and video workshops by Douglas and Sonia from ReFOCUS media labs, who have returned for another session. Rachell and Bethany continue with writing workshops, while Amélie and Adrien continue with radio making! Thanks for all the effort everyone puts into these workshops.

We strongly believe that the skills learned in these workshops are transferable and extremely useful for each and everyone's future.

Tour of OHF: What is new?

As you know, the space of One Happy Family is never fully complete. There's always new ideas and projects being built. Many things change regularly, and new things are appearing continuously – So Fanny has made a vide tour for you! Jump on and see what's changed and grown in the past few months:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luu-4-iyLk4>

Picture of the month



As mentioned in the last newsletter, we are proud to partner with the French organization Low-Tech Lab (<http://lowtechlab.org/wiki/Grèce>). The Low-Tech Lab's makerspace project aligns with our general idea of using the OHF space: building with the people and not for them. From this need, the organisers came up with ideas what can be done, and how it can be done in the Lesvos project; in this case its the upcycling or recycling of materials into something that is useful and practical for people living in Moria and Kara Tepe.

#MeetTheFamily: Felix

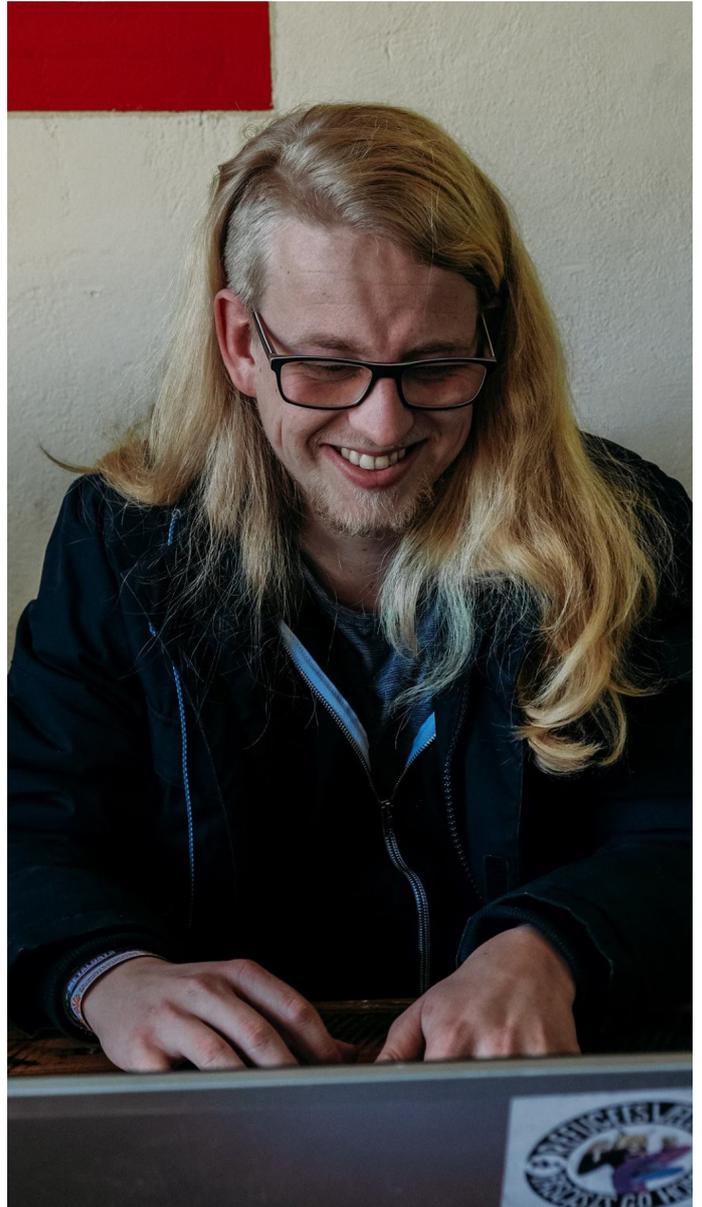
This is our lovely Felix! He is volunteering in OHF on Lesvos since several months.

Felix is a real allrounder. Whether handing out “Drachmas” at the bank, hot drinks at the café, teaching English to our helpers, coordinating the youth space or the logistics; Felix is always smiling! Felix’s hair also was a standout piece of work, that many of our helpers loved. There has been talk that Felix has been the best dishwasher that has ever volunteered with us! (Competition is on!)

Thank you Felix for being with One Happy Family. Thank you for the time, the effort, the energy, the love and the smiles you bring on everyone’s face, we hope you will stay here forever.

Find more articles in our blog:

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



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