



# Activity & Project description 2021

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# About One Happy Family

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## Vision

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"We are a peaceful, colorful and active place, where people can have and achieve goals"

## Core Values

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- Human rights are not negotiable
- Working together WITH the people
- Equality between genders, ethnicities & cultures
- Supporting individual growth
- Non-violent/respectful communication

## Mission

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Providing a safe space for refugees where they can spend some time outside the camps, enjoy various activities such as sports, arts, music, etc., develop their skills and contribute to the community by volunteering, with the aim of supporting their welfare and self-development. In partnership with other organizations we offer much needed services, NFI and activities, and always adhere to human rights and to the principles of humanitarian aid.

## Project Overview - OHF & Partners

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At OHF we have various activities to serve our mission. We also have partner organizations using OHF premises based on Memorandums of Understanding and common values, organizing their own activities independently but in collaboration with OHF and each other whenever necessary. We are putting a focus on life skills training and integration of our community volunteers, ensuring that they receive valuable training in life skills for their immediate and long-term future in Greece and abroad while operating the community center together with local and international volunteers who support the training program.

### OHF Projects

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- Café
- Sitting areas
- “Cyber Café” - computer space
- Gym
- Library
- Information point and games on wheels
- Playground
- Free Shop for hygiene items and clothes
- Sports fields
- Art table
- Public WIFI
- Phone charging stations
- Tailor shop
- Barbershop
- Skills training, integration and transition support for community volunteers
- “The Nest” (Indoor Kids-space) (co-implemented by a partner organization)

### Partner Projects

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- Community school support program (partner project > International School of Peace ISOP)
- Education & Music classes (partner project > Wave of Hope)
- Media skills Program (partner project > ReFOCUS Media Labs)
- Mental health support sessions (partner project > Medical Volunteers International MVI, Intersos, IRC)
- Sports program (partner project > Yoga and Sports for Refugees YS4R)
- Women’s Space (partner project > Low-tech with Refugees – LTWR, Women in Solidarity House - WISH)
- EcoHub Garden (partner project > Sporos Regeneration Institute)
- Makerspace (partner project > Low-tech with refugees, EKO!)



## OHF Projects

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### Café

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Supplied with a professional coffee machine, tea kettles, and an orange juice machine, the Café is the spot where we distribute hot and cold beverages to our visitors. The Café, which is an outdoor space, adheres to Covid-19 rules by separating the preparation area from the guests by Plexiglas windows and offering hand sanitizer dispensers.

In 2021 we are planning to offer a wider variety of drinks, and snacks, to supplement the nutritional needs of our visitors.

### Sitting areas

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There are several outdoor sitting areas around the center, covered by tent roofs or tarpaulins, where our visitors can rest, enjoy a cup of tea, socialize with their friends, read, paint, play board games, etc.

In 2021 we'd like to work on making the sitting areas more comfortable and add protection against the winds in autumn and winter.

### Cyber Café

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In a separate room in our main hall you can find the Cyber Café. It is a computer room equipped with 10 desktop computers, where visitors can use the computers for educational purposes, where people join group classes. It is also used for printing documents and writing CV's. We also have a Media Lab with three computers in a separate space in the main hall, where our team members can work on special software installed in the computers.

In 2021, we are planning to create two printing stations outside Cyber Café with a color laser printer and a copy machine, to make it accessible to more people. We are also planning to offer the computer classes to our visitors.

### Gym

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The gym, equipped with various weights and other training equipment, allows visitors to engage themselves in sports activities. It is operated entirely by people from the refugee camps.

In 2021, we will work on organizing and supervising the gym better and renewing the equipment and training devices. We would also like to work on its use by female visitors.

## **Library**

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In the past, the library was located in an old VW bus that has been converted to a library, which is located outside the main hall. There are books in various languages, and they are organized by language, age and type. There are books for adults as well as children. The library was closed in 2020 because of to Covid-19 restrictions.

In 2021 we are planning to create accessible bookshelves in the main hall, get a better variety of books and simplify the structure of the library.

## **Information point and games on wheels**

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The information point is a place for visitors to borrow games & sports equipment and ask general questions. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, we also created a mobile unit stuffed with games and sports equipment, which we place outdoors, so that people wouldn't need to spend time indoors to borrow these items.

In 2021 we are planning to restructure the information point, so visitors have access to all the information of the activities done by the partner organization as well as in Mytilene in order to provide more information and guidance.

## **Playground**

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The concept of the playground is about three things: stimulate the mind and imagination, learn to play with each other and stimulate physical exercise. To address these points in a good way our volunteers built different kinds of climbing, an adventurous wobbly bridge and a nice sandpit for the infants. In this way the children can enjoy themselves outside, while the parents can have more rest and time for classes or workshops. In 2020, as per our COVID-19 measures, we installed a hand-washing station at the entrance of the playground.

In 2021, we are planning to improve the playground by adding a tarpaulin to protect from the sun, repainting, and by having a standardized training for volunteers running child-friendly spaces.

## **Online Shop for the distribution of hygiene item and clothes**

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Close to the entrance of the building, a ship container has been converted to a mini-market for sanitary products. The shop distributes donated non-food items and clothes via an online order system. The target group of Online Shop is male asylum-seekers and refugees residing on the island, as other groups are served by other organizations.

In 2021, we would like to add dry food to the items distributed via Online Shop.



## **Sports Fields**

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Used for beach volleyball and basketball, the outer area of the community center offers a lot of possibilities for sport. About six tons of sand have been distributed on the floor to provide a pleasant ground for sports activities. In 2020, a ping-pong table was added to the sports offering, which is a major attraction for both team members and visitors. We organize biweekly ping-pong tournaments, which are open to anyone that would like to participate.

In 2021, we are planning to focus on the use of the sports fields more by female visitors, and to offer more sports training.

## **Art Table**

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The Art Table, which is set outside the main hall, is an activity where the visitors can get creative by drawing, painting and doing other handicraft activities with various tools and materials.

In 2021 we are planning to organize the arts table better by assigning a community volunteer, preparing a guide and possibly training more volunteers to run the activity.

## **Public WIFI and Phone Charging**

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Wi-Fi provides connection to the Internet, so people can use messengers and browse websites. Phone charging stations allow people to charge the batteries of their phones as electricity is lacking in the camp. We also provide WIFI to some areas of the camp (medical / quarantine area and a community school), via long-range point-to-point Wi-Fi link.

In 2021, we are planning to install some secure charging stations for phones.

## **Tailor Shop**

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In 2020, we opened a tailor shop, where one of our community volunteers provides clothes repair services for our visitors. He also sews fabric bags, which are then used for clothes distribution, hence reducing the use of plastic.

## **Barbershop**

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One of our community volunteers is providing barber services to the team members of OHF and partners.

In 2021, we would like to extend this service to include the visitors, via an online booking system.

## **Skills trainings for community volunteers**

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We are organizing Greek, English and IT classes for the community volunteers of OHF and partners, by volunteer teachers every day after the closing of the community center to the visitors. We also offer soft-skills training such as communication, team work, job search, CV preparation, etc.

In 2021, we would like to expand our offering both in terms of variety and target groups.

## **Integration and transition support for community volunteers**

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OHF provides support to our community volunteers with their integration to the host community as well as their transition to their lives after OHF and after Lesvos. To this aim, we offer guidance for bureaucratic processes, including accompanying them to the relevant offices when necessary and organizing workshops on several topics such as how to make a tax declaration. Additionally, OHF supports community volunteers who are granted asylum to apply to the HELIOS programme. Also, in 2020, we started a new branch in Athens to support our community volunteers who move there to navigate the city and the system there.

In 2021, we are planning to strengthen further our integration support programme both on the island and mainland; by making it more structured and by organizing information sessions about Greek society and culture in collaboration with the locals.

## **The Nest (Indoor Kids Space)**

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Thanks to the Pedagogical Institute of Los Angeles (PILA), children under the age of seven can enjoy themselves in our kid friendly space called 'The Nest'. With different toys, art supplies, engineering and construction materials, a play kitchen and dolls, The Nest provides a safe place where young ones can have a good time and express themselves. It also gives the parents the chance to sit back and relax for a while. In 2020, we improved the Nest by providing better lighting and heating.

In 2021, we are hoping to provide more structured activities for our little visitors and create more collaborations with other organizations to make sure the space is used by those who need it most and in the most efficient way possible.

## **Projects of Partner Organizations:**

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### **Community School Support Program (International School of Peace ISOP)**

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The International School of Peace is providing support to 7 community schools who are running educational activities inside RIC Lesvos. The schools are supported by providing material for teachers and students, educational and learning materials, supervision and trainings for directors and teachers.

### **Education & Music classes (Wave of Hope)**

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Wave of hope is providing English, Greek, German, music and art classes for adults. They work closely together with people from the community,

### **Media Skills & Citizen Journalism program (ReFOCUS Media Labs)**

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ReFOCUS media labs is offering various media-skill workshops for the people living in RIC Lesvos and in Mytilene. Their classes are facilitated at OHF and Gekko school in Mytilene. ReFOCUS also offers a citizen journalism program, where people from the community are learning skills to become future journalists.

### **Mental Health Support Sessions (Medical Volunteers International, INTERSOS and IRC)**

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Our medical partner, Medical Volunteers International (MVI) is running their psycho-social support program, both for kids and adults, in their clinic at OHF premises. Additionally, INTERSOS and IRC are running some of their individual and group sessions at OHF.

### **Sports Program (Yoga and Sports for Refugees - YS4R)**

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In the Sports tent at OHF and the sport/gym space near Kara Tepe, a wide range of activities are offered. Trainings for team sports are held at a sports club in the neighboring village. The running group trains on trails around Kara Tepe and Mytilene several times per week and attends various competitions.



## **Women's Space**

### **(Low-tech with Refugees – LTWR, Women in Solidarity House - WISH)**

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The Women's Space is a safe space for our female visitors, where various activities such as sewing and knitting workshops, info sessions, casual gatherings where the women can just relax and enjoy a cup of tea, etc. are organized by volunteers from several partner organizations.

## **EcoHub Garden**

### **(Sporos Regeneration Institute)**

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The garden offers vegetables, herbs and relaxation spaces. The team at the garden is conducting regular and popular workshops for team members and visitors. The space is also used for PSS sessions of MVI.

## **Makerspace**

### **(Low-tech with refugees, EKO!)**

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The Makerspace currently offers a bicycle repair station, where people can learn to fix their bicycles as well as phone repair services for visitors. They organize several workshops for upcycling and skill-development and their carpentry team offers their services to other organizations on the island.

## **COVID-19 Measures**

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OHF has developed and implemented Standard Operating Procedures and a policy for team members, in consultation with EODY, Medical Volunteers International (MVI), Doctors without Borders (MSF) to adhere to the government regulations and scientific recommendations regarding COVID-19. These include:

- mandatory use of masks on OHF premises
- installation of additional hand-washing stations
- installation of hand sanitizers around the premises
- limiting the number of people indoors
- mandatory checks for vaccine certificate or rapid test for any indoor activities
- making sure that social distancing rules are followed
- strict contact tracing and self-isolation for travelers coming from abroad as well as confirmed and suspected COVID-19 cases and close contacts

OHF keeps reviewing and updating these documents regularly, in accordance with the new regulations.