

Frankfurt, 22. November 2000

**Dear Benefactors and Friends,**

We want to thank you for your donations as “adopted parents for holidays” in the program “Vacation from War”. Last summer about 1 500 children from all parts of the former Yugoslavia could recover on the sea-side and wherever possible together with children of former „enemies“. Altogether In the last seven years more than 12 000 children could participate in this reconciliation-project of high symbolic importance, organized by the “Committee of Basic Rights and Democracy”. Next summer the camps will take place again and we’ll ask you for a donation in the spring. With this letter is attached a report from Stephanie Perrott about this year’s summer-camp.( Stephanie is now working in Mitrovica/Kosovo ).

Three members of our group went to Tuzla in September to join the official party to open the peace-center. Afterwards we had five visits with children and their families and five times we heard the same tragedy: The court decided that they have to leave and they don’t know where to go. In addition to that we were shaken, seeing women and children, who were very sick and don’t have money for treatment.

That’s why we request further help from our donors. We want to help in some individual cases:

Semir is ten years old and attending the fifth grade in school. His family was evacuated from Zvornik, East Bosnia, now the Serb Republic. The father is out of work. The family lives on 50 Marks monthly, earned by the mother doing handiwork for our help project. The family lives in a damp garage, water running down the walls in winter. There is no electricity or running water. The boy has a serious physical problem. (Geroalna Hipoza Lopatice). His left shoulder is bent. He should get regular physiotherapy and have a place for swimming, up to now out of reach for financial reasons. Lacking appropriate health care now, he will in the future most probably have serious problems with his carriage and physical development.

Mevla is a refugee from Krizevici near Zvornik. The family has four members; both father and mother are out of work, with no regular income. They live in an occupied house owned by other refugees living abroad. The mother is ill, having gynecological problems ( a possible cancer ) that should be treated, but she has no money to get to the doctor and pay for the treatment. In addition to that she has heart problems. Again there is no money to pay for an exact diagnosis. In Krizevici the family has cleared the foundations of their house which was totally destroyed during the war, but there is no building material yet. Next spring the family will most probably have to get out of the occupied house.

**We also thank all donors who supported the Tuzla-Project -House.**

With your help we could finance the „Peace Center Simin Han“, now owned by the humanitarian organisation „Priateljice“. We changed the name as a symbol so that in the future the house should not only be a social center for the displaced women from Eastern Bosnia but also for the original inhabitants from Simin Han, mostly Serbian Bosnians, who lived abroad for years as refugees. There is a strong conflict of interests now, because most of the refugees abroad were forced back „home“ by the European countries ( more than 250 000 from Germany) and -if they own a house, of course, they want to move in again. Therefore they have to force the internal refugees (mostly the women and children from Eastern Bosnia Zvornik/Srebrenica ) to leave their accommodation.



**In the new peace center in Simin Han there is, open in the morning, the only Kindergarden of the town and, in the afternoon, a service for school homework. Six refugee women care for the children, being paid a fee of 80 German marks, often the only income of the family. On the ground floor of that house the women members of the club „Priatejice“ meet. Once a week neighbours are invited to an open café, and in the evening there are lectures and conferences.**



**In the school of Simin Han computers are installed paid for by Frankfurt donors; in the evening these computers are used in courses helping refugee women to get paid jobs.**

**For five years our initiative has paid for rations of cabbage and potatoes enabling 100 refugee families to survive in winter time.**



**Thank you for your support  
Helga Dieter**

**Elke Klee**

**Peter Gärtner**