

Bosnien-Initiative

c/o Cyriakusgemeinde
Informationen:

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Dear Donors, Frankfurt,

1st of December 2003

As we do every year at Christmas, we would like to inform you about the Center for Peace in Simin Han and ask you to support this project for next year.

We visited our partners in Simin-Han Tuzla two times to get information about how your donations were spent. We are sorry to realize that eight years after the end of the war life for the people in Bosnia is still hard, especially for the refugee women and their children. All the other NGOs are gone now, the situation in the hospitals is desperate, and most of the people cannot afford medicine. The widows do not get their pensions in time, and they and their children react with various kinds of illness to the desperate situation. Therefore it is very important for these people to see that our help continues and that they can rely on it.



Jasminka is coordinator in the Club for refugee-women in Simin Han. Her "salary" is \$ 50 a month and the only regular income of the family. If they are lucky her husband sometimes entertains wedding-parties with his guitar and earns some money. They had to leave a refugee-camp and built this "house" with one room.

In the Center for Peace five women are working for a small salary (40-50 Euros) in the only childcare center in the town. For the refugee women we provide psychological counseling services and job training. Even though there are very few jobs for the women, the training helps the women to gain self-confidence and to manage their lives.

Blazenka, who worked for our project during the last few years has found a regular job with our partner organization, Amica/Prijateljice. We therefore asked two young people to join the project. Fatima, who has already worked at the organization of the "Vacation from War" will take over a part of Blazenka's work. She will organize a special group for girls, because Bosnian society is dominated by men, and there are very few projects for girls.

To produce the local monthly newspaper, which we publish in cooperation with the school in Simin Han, we asked Ilijaz, a student from the journalism school in Tuzla, to join the team. To continue with all these projects in Simin Han (The Center for Peace, the girls' group, a club for refugee women, the newspaper, an ambulance, and the loans for starting a business) we ask you for a donation. Concerning the campaign "Vacations from War" we'll ask for your generous contribution in spring again.

With many thanks for your support,

Helga Dieter

If you want to support the "Peace Center Simin Han" please make out a check to „Bosnian Initiative“ and send it to Katha Pollitt c/o The Nation, 33 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003 Or to Bosnian / Cyriakusgem. Nr. 4109767 bei Evang.Kreditgenossenschaft. BLZ:50060500