

Bosnian Initiative and Committee for Basic Rights and Democracy
Responsible for the Project "Vacation from War"
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APPEAL FOR DONATIONS 2005

Frankfurt, Dec. 6th, 2005



Elke Klee burnt a signed 50 € note and afterwards pulled the same bill out of a lemon-fruit. But more donations even the Magician couldn't produce.

Dear Donors,

A few days ago, the Frankfurt Bosnia-Initiative celebrated its tenth anniversary with six invited women from Tuzla Simin-Han and many guests, mostly donors. In the program dramatic memories of the refugees from Eastern Bosnia (Zvornik, Srebrenica) changed with cheerful performances.

This reflects the aims of the project: Humanitarian Aid, psychological and social therapy, empathy with the suffering of the others, analysis of political interests and propaganda and becoming able for reconciliation with the former enemy – but also finding back to vital functions, making up plans, celebrate festivities and just having fun together

From the beginning, it was clear that the Initiative should not be a short-term aid action. We did not know then how difficult the economic situation in Bosnia was and how desperate the living conditions of the refugees would be even 10 years later. For many people, the conditions are worse than they were immediately after the war, as the caravans of aid organizations have long since moved on to the new war-zones. Precisely because of this, we are very happy that many of you have remained true to our project.

Over the last 10 years the work of the Initiative has been supported by 606,000 Euros in cash donations, in addition to many donations of goods and in-kind services.

Projects in Tuzla – Simin Han have been financed with this money including the renovation and equipping of the Clinic;

furniture, books, bicycles, and science room equipment as well as computers for the school; individual assistance in cases of acute illness; the project „Looking Through and Looking Beyond“ provided eye care for children; a monthly newspaper for the district; small business credits. The centerpiece of the project is the women's club



Elke Klee, Peter Gärtner, Helga Dieter und Jasminka Salkic, Šuhreta Omerovic, Jasima Dardagan from the Club in Tuzla Simin-Han.

Suhreta told how important the meetings in the Club are for her. She often walks there 6 miles one way because she has no money for the bus.



„Priateljice“ (Friends) in the „Simin Han Peace Center“, for which a house was purchased five years ago.

Around one half of the funds was applied to activities in Simin-Han, the remaining half was reserved for the „Holiday from War“ project. 97% of the funds were given by private donors. Among these, citizens of Frankfurt contributed the largest share, but there are more and more supporters from as far away as the United States, where Katha Pollitt asked for donations in her column in “The Nation”.

Many thanks for your donations, especially for the increasing number of standing orders that have made a long-term perspective possible for us.

Our initiative has strongly supported the project „Holiday from War“, through which, to date, 19,000 children and youths from crisis and war regions have lived together under one roof with their supposed enemies.

For this project, coordinator Helga Dieter was recently awarded the Panter Prize. A German newspaper “tageszeitung” = “taz.” published the conditions for a special ‘election’ --an award for “Heroes of Everyday Life.” Somebody proposed Helga Dieter. Among 324 proposals the “Taz jury” chose 12 candidates and published portraits and reports about their work. Helga had some difficulty posing as a “hero” for a photographer. She tinkered with a garland of plastic grape leaves on her head and insisted on a quotation from the German poet Bertolt Brecht from his play Galileo, “Unhappy is the land that needs a hero.” In September the readers of taz and supporters of the projects could vote on the Internet, and Helga was the prize winner, the readers’ choice with a big majority! We got a donation of 5000 €.



We will return to you in the Springtime with requests to sponsor individual camperships for “Vacation from War”.

Our Christmas campaign is dedicated primarily to the work of the Simin-Han Club, individual medical care, and aid to women who have been more or less forced to return to „home villages“. In addition, the previous projects will continue to be supported.

We thank you for your further support for this work!

Elke Klee

Rev. Elke Klee
Cyriakus Church

Helga Dieter

Helga Dieter
Courage Against Racism

P. Gärtner

Peter Gärtner
Peace Initiative

If you want to support the project in Tuzla 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-Init. c/o Cyriakusgemeinde, Alexanderstr. 37, D-60489 Frankfurt Most donors succeeded to get tax deductions for charitable giving with the German certificate, we’ll send in Jan. 2006.

Bank: Evang.Kreditgenossenschaft.: BIC:GENODEFIEKI, IBAN: DE61 5206 0410 0004 1097 67 Account: Cyriakusg.. Bosnien No. 4109767,

There also is the possibility to send a grant to an official US-ID CAFAmerica, King Street Station, 1800 Diagonal Road, Suite 150, Alexandria, VA 22314, www.allaboutgiving.org/america

“Courage gegen Rassismus” is proved and accepted by “CAF” for the campaign “Vacation from War”. (CAF charges an administration-fee therefore we prefer the direct way)