

"MISS STONE" NEWS

ISSUE 17

SUMMER 2020



Dear Friends of the Miss Stone Outreach Center,

Who would have imagined, at the beginning of the year, that 2020 would be such a difficult one?

The Covid-19 pandemic has changed a lot of things throughout the world. The Miss Stone Center as well is deeply affected and is still struggling with the consequences of this crisis.

Because of the great commitment of the staff and generous donations which arrived just in time, the Miss Stone Outreach Center was able to continue its service to the poorest people in Strumica and Radoviš.

With respect for this accomplishment and gratitude for our donors, we can say that our clients have been provided with food and much more without interruption. This outreach to our most needy meal recipients was and continues to be essential for their survival. Unfortunately, the end of the crisis is not in sight, because the number of newly infected has increased steadily in the last few weeks.

In these special times we feel special gratitude for all who gave us help in times of greatest need. We are grateful to God who has mercifully helped us through this time so far and has kept us safe. We will be very happy if you could support us even more through your prayers and donations.

Meals on Wheels



At the beginning of the Corona crisis, the Meals on Wheels project faced massive problems. The work had to be organized differently. We stored as much food as possible, but it was never enough, because we have to feed 210 people daily.

The first six months of the year we didn't have so many problems getting food, but now, with the increase in food prices, and the ad-

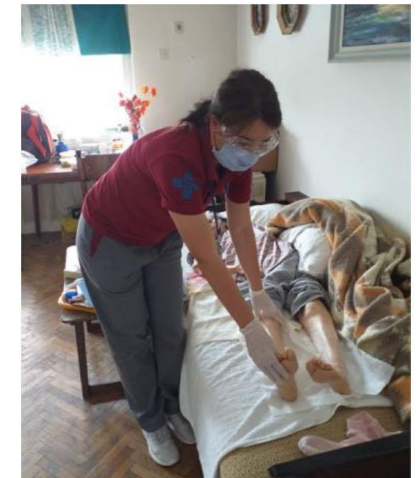
ditional expense of buying disinfectant and protective clothing, as well as disposable tableware purchased for safety reasons, our budget is devastated.

At the beginning of the pandemic, for Meals on Wheels to continue, we produced masks, ordered protective clothes and disinfectant, and disinfected not only the Miss Stone Outreach Center several times a day, but also the house entrances of the food recipients. All these needy people in Strumica and Radoviš, who - despite all the difficulties - are still provided every day with a warm meal are very grateful, knowing that this is not something you can take for granted, especially in this crisis.

Home Care Project

The Home Care Project recently had its third birthday and in these difficult times, it is essential for our clients, because they are all in the high risk group and especially affected by the ban on going out and other restrictions. For that reason it is so important that the Home Care team on a regular basis visits with them, does their necessary errands and continues taking medical care of them under special protective measures.

These elderly people get help in their household, assistance with personal hygiene and much more - whatever they individually need most at the moment.



Our team to a certain degree replaces family for them. Together they overcome illness, grief and sadness. Together they celebrate birthdays and important holidays.

In these three years many prejudices were overcome and the relationship between the people in need of help and their care givers is much more friendly than official. The three years history of the Home Care Project is a history of success. For that we are grateful to God.

Individual cases of people who benefit from the Home Care project



Kostadin T. is 87 years old. He had a wife and two daughters. Several years ago, his younger daughter died. Soon afterwards, his wife also died. Since then he has been living alone. The older daughter lives in another town and doesn't visit him very often. He has chronic health conditions like heart disease and rheumatism.

He is always very happy when our team visits. In addition to giving him medical care and helping him with housework, they take him to the doctor and cheer him up when he is sad.

Warm meals for Radoviš



This project also had to be adjusted to the new Corona reality, but we are very grateful that the very poor people there can regularly get a warm meal.

Every recipient comes at an assigned time, to get his meal outside of the building. In that way, crowds of people and direct contact can be avoided.

Donations from Europe to the Miss Stone Center: Sparkasse Banka Makedonija ad Skopje
Dijakonija Makedonija IBAN: MK07250008000416842 BIC: INSBMK22

Donations from USA: donate to Advance #00220A and designate it for "Miss Stone" Center.
<https://www.umcmmission.org/Give-to-Mission/Search-for-Projects/Projects/00220A>

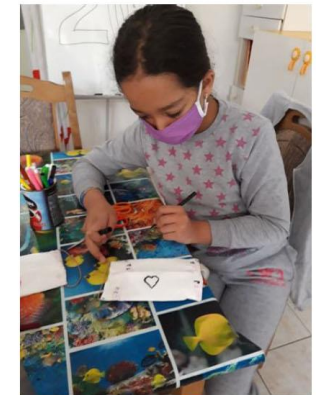


The people also get advice about how they can protect themselves from the virus and where they can go if they have special symptoms.

School for Roma children in Ohrid

The projects most affected by the Covid-19 crisis are our Ohrid projects. The school for Roma children in Ohrid, as well as the counseling center for Roma girls had to be locked in the middle of March. The children are all from socially endangered families and were suffering the most under the shutdowns, especially because some of the children are living in one-room social apartments together with their parents and many siblings.

They cannot catch up in regular school because none of them have laptops with internet access or even a cell phone.



Because of this situation and many other reasons, the children were really happy when the summer school could start at the beginning of June. The school follows all hygiene and safety regulations. The children are divided into five groups, have a class and afterwards their lunch. Before the next group comes, the rooms are disinfected. The youngest children crafted wings they can wear at class, so they won't come too close to one another. Masks are also mandatory. The children will have to catch up with their class material this summer, which they all missed because of the epidemic, but there is still some time left for fun and games also. Please pray for the children and their teacher Julijana in these difficult times.