

Project: Roma school in Ohrid

At the end of the school year on June 9th, our summer school started again with the admission of new students - and with it, new joy and new challenges.

As there is a very high interest in accepting children from the earliest possible age, we changed our rules and admitted four new pre-school children who are only 5 years old.

This is a good innovation, because these Roma children do not have the opportunity to attend

kindergarten or preschool because of the cost. Our summer school prepares them for regular school over the course of the summer. They are very interesting and cute, but they are also more difficult to work with than older children because they have to learn to stay seated, concentrate on tasks and follow certain rules.

There is a new program for children aged nine and over. They can become Scouts. We have worked out a program with the Scout Club in Ohrid. The children who want to participate receive a weekly lesson and other training to be Scouts. There are also practical lessons in nature. The children are overjoyed.

As they do every summer, they are eagerly awaiting the field trip that we take with them once a year.



Project: Counseling Center for Roma Girls in Ohrid

The older girls have all successfully completed the school year and some of them are working as chambermaids or waitresses in the hotels during the summer holidays. We have selected good jobs for them ourselves so that they are not taken advantage of. In this way they are earning a little money of their own.

The younger girls between 11 and 15 attend summer school every day. Handicrafts are popular, which they can sell via a national platform of entrepreneurs at a booth by Lake Ohrid. We are expecting good things from the connection with these entrepreneurs. They have given some of our girls the prospect of an apprenticeship as a beautician and also promised to give free lectures on various topics of interest to the girls and young women in our counseling center. Once again there are good experiences and progress with the girls, for which we are very grateful.

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Dear Friends of the Miss Stone Social Outreach Center in Strumica,

In these summer months we are again confronted with a heat wave. Cooling down and rain are rare - except for the occasional thunderstorm with heavy rain, which often leads to flooding. We're used to that.

What we are not used to, however, is the wave of inflation that has swept over us in recent weeks and months. Unfortunately, we're not the only ones affected, it's a global phenomenon. But here it is particularly problematic because many of the people we are dealing with were already living below the subsistence level. We have seen sharp price increases (between 100-250% compared to last year) for many staple foods, electricity and petrol. These increases could not be foreseen in the 2022 budget, and we can pass them on to the food recipients only to a small extent.

The good news is that we have not had any corona restrictions in the last few months. Nevertheless, we continue to be careful and wear masks when we are in contact with the needy and sick people, especially since the number of people in the country infected with corona is increasing again.

Thank you to everyone who, despite the many trouble spots in the world, has not forgotten the people of Macedonia. Your prayers and support of our work mean so much to us and are vital to the survival of our projects.

Visit from Albania

In March, a group of pastors and church workers from the UMC Albania, led by Jean and Wilfried Nausner, visited us so that we could get to know each other and our work better and strengthen our cooperation and friendship.

We had a very good, fulfilling time together and were able to personally introduce our friends from Albania to our projects.



Project: Meals on Wheels

This project continues to work very well. However, we had to increase the number of food recipients from 170 to 180 because there are more and more people who urgently need help. Since the kitchen's capacity is exceeded, we have to improvise daily to be able to cook the extra meals.

In the last issue of the Miss Stone News we mentioned that we were able to order a new vehicle, mainly thanks to help from the UMC Waiblingen (from the former Bulgaria Aid). It was delivered in February and we are very grateful that we now have a much more secure food transport and delivery. A special advantage is the built-in air conditioning, which makes delivering food in the heat much more pleasant than with the old vehicle, in which the temperatures sometimes reached 45 degrees C (113 F) or more.

A special thank you to all the donors! (photo of the new vehicle on the front page).



Project: Warm soup for Radoviš

Here, too, the price shock has had a negative impact on our annual budget. So donations - also in the form of food - are a great help.

A woman from Radoviš, who has been living in America for a long time and recently visited her hometown, heard about our project, contacted us and donated a real Radoviš specialty - a kind of meat pizza - to all 50 food recipients. Our food is very tasty, but of course the people really enjoyed this special meal.

Thanks also for the support of the Radoviš project.

Project: Home care

The home care project has been hampered by the fact that both young women employed in it are now pregnant. Allowance for time off during the pandemic has been generous, especially for pregnant women, so neither woman is available to work.

Fortunately we found a good replacement; however, she has to do all the work on her own, as it is extremely difficult to find nursing staff. (Many nurses have left Macedonia for higher pay in Western Europe.) We are doing everything we can to rebuild a fully operational team. Here, too, there are extra costs that were not included in the budget, especially since the costs for medical materials have also risen.



Individual cases of people who benefit from the Home Care Project



Rajna V. is 77 years old and lives on the lower floor of her house. Her husband died many years ago. Her son lives upstairs, but he doesn't take care of his mother at all. She gets a minimal pension, which is sometimes not even enough to cover necessary medications. She has Parkinson's disease, diabetes and very high blood pressure, which led to a stroke a few years ago that left her bed-ridden. Rajna is unable to get out of bed to meet her physical needs, forcing her to change her diapers by herself.

As soon as we heard about her condition, we immediately enrolled her in the home care program, where she receives medical and nursing care.

In addition, food is brought to her and her diapers are changed and disposed of. She also receives help in personal hygiene and cleaning her room.

She had bad bed sores (pressure ulcers) from lying, and these have almost healed, thanks to the care she is receiving from our nurse. A big problem last winter was the cold in her room. But we were able to get firewood for her, put the wood stove near her and stacked logs in front of her bed so that she could put wood in the stove herself. In that way, her room stayed warm.