

ZHARITY NEWSLETTER

January & February 2021

President's Corner

Looking back at all the incredible things that have been done by Zharity in 2020 I am amazed, especially in the midst of a pandemic. To write it all down in detail would take several pages. I do think it is important that we recognize the hard work and determination of an incredibly talented and dedicated team of volunteers, donors, corporate sponsors and partner agencies.

Here are the highlights of 2020 activities:

- 50+ donors
- 30+ volunteers
- Corporate Sponsors, Partners and Friends: Alix Partners, Decathlon Zurich, Ebay Switzerland-Zurich, Homegate, On Running and Veeam Software Group GmbH
- Blanket drive for refugee camps in Greece (400 blankets shipped - with more going out this month)
- SOS Kinderdorf Coin Drive
- COVID support of small businesses including: co-hosting a seminar and coordinated consultation of 2 small businesses
- Adult clothing drive for Streetwork, a Zurich based group that helps homeless youth
- Children's toys (500+), clothes, shoes and other needs to local agencies including AoZ, ARCHE, Caritas Dubendorf, Frauenhaus (several sites), and HPF
- Clothes/toys and kitchenwares support for international groups including: Hungarian organizations that help elderly and families in transitional housing and GZ Riesbach for Spendendepot
- Virtual Run that raised 1000CHF for sleeping blankets for refugees in Greece
- Virtual Scavenger Hunt (and a children's version) for members and blanket drive donors

This only represents a fraction of the time spent supporting the projects, the technology support, the meetings and the connections made between the Zharity efforts. Looking forward, we have already been planning the next 6 months' activities.

Here are only some of the upcoming 2021 Highlights:

- GA Meeting on January 18
- Wellness January
- Personal Care and Newborn Collection for Refugees in Greece
- Toy/Clothes Drives for local agencies
- Used Bicycle Collection
- Virtual Hike

2021 will bring many new fresh opportunities to Do Good, Connect and Have Fun. We hope you will join us by becoming a [volunteer](#), becoming a [member](#) and by [donating](#)!

I am so thankful to each of you for being involved in Zharity. I am looking to paying it forward together in 2021!



- Emergency assistance for clients of the local agencies through clothes, shoes and other essentials, such as strollers
- Technology enhanced: Update Website, Social Media and added GSuite

Collections & Events



General Assembly Meeting

January 18, 19:00

Please join us for our General Assembly on January 18 at 19:00. We will summarize our activities in 2020, talk about plans for 2021 and vote on a new budget and treasurer. Join us to learn more about our past, present and future! Please sign up below and we will send you further details.

We would like to announce that Nehal Mittal will be officially stepping down as Treasurer. She accepted a full time position that is keeping her extremely busy. Thank you Nehal for your time and ideas.

We are putting forward Jyoti Krishnan as the volunteer as Treasurer. [Jyoti Krishnan](#) has been an active member of the Zharity volunteer team. She has lots of financial experience and is dedicated to helping the community. We will vote on Jyoti Krishnan as the new treasurer at the GA meeting. Thank you Jyoti for accepting this nomination.

SIGN UP



Wellness January

Our team recognizes that this winter is not going to be an easy one.

We continue to wish we could do good, connect and have fun side by side.

However, we realize we need to continue to do activities



Virtual Yoga

For Wellness January Marta Padyasz, our Visual Art Coordinator and a certified yoga instructor, has agreed to lead three virtual sessions.

Yoga sessions:

- 13.01 Yoga for Gratitude
- 20.01 Yoga for Self-Compassion



Newborn/Personal Care Kits for Refugees

In February we will be collecting personal care and newborn items for refugees in Greece. The items will include gently loved/new towels, newborn onesies and sleepers.

virtually. So, our team members wrote down things we are doing or wish we were doing to keep motivated during the pandemic (especially during winter).

We decided to share these ideas and resources in hopes to inspire you. If you have other ways - send an email to info@zharity.ch and we can add it to the list.

Special thanks to the team that researched this section: Rebeca, Vicky, Marta and Sam!

To get inspired this winter, follow the link below!

WELLNESS TIPS

27.01 Yoga with Intention

Time: 19:00

Registration is limited to 20 participants so please be sure to register early.

Cost: 25CHF per session (20CHF for paid members)

Level: Beginner and slow-paced but all would enjoy

Participants have ready:

- A space for practice (ideally without distractions)
- Yoga mat or blanket to sit on
- A notebook and pen
- Water

The funds raised will go toward the February Personal Care and Newborn Kit we are putting together for the Greek Refugees.

SIGN UP



In addition we will be collecting Personal care items (unopened), such as: soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes (manual) and feminine hygiene products.



Details will be announced as we get closer, but this collection will be happening through the entire month of February. Check our [Facebook](#) page for more details.

Updates & News

More about the Nominee for Treasurer: Jyoti Krishnan



I am a US citizen from San Ramon, Northern California. I lived in the San Francisco Bay area since 1998 and worked in Silicon Valley for over 20 years as a software developer. I was born in India and after finishing my college degree in India, moved to the US in 1990. I have a Masters degree from Virginia and lived in the US till late last year. In December 2019, my husband and I moved to Zurich, Switzerland with

Virtual Run Wrap Up

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for joining us on our virtual run. This was the first time we organized a virtual run. We didn't know how things would turn out. However, we are pleased to announce that we had 42 Runners (including youth runners!) and we raised 1000CHF. That does not include the corporate matches still to come. Which means that 50 sleeping blankets will be sent to the refugee camps in Greece in our January order.

Special thanks to:

- The participants
- Decathlon Zurich for their gift voucher and for the discount on the sleeping blankets
- Ansam Zedan, the Virtual Run Coordinator and the rest of the Zharity team

the intent of travelling and experiencing different cultural environments.

I have been volunteering with Zharity as the Humanitarian Effort Coordinator, including organizing the successful blanket drive and coordinating the Decathlon sponsorship. I will continue as Humanitarian Effort coordinator and also take the responsibility for the Treasurer position at Zharity.

I've volunteered in raising funds for Middle and High Schools in the US. I was Treasurer for the Education Fund at Gale Ranch Middle School, San Ramon CA from 2010-11 and Treasurer at Dougherty Valley High School Education Fund from 2013-15. I was a committee member of a cultural fest - a fundraising event for the Education Fund.

One virtual runner took lovely photos as she went along! Thank you Michelle for sharing these photos.



Toy and Clothes Collections

We had such an overwhelmingly wonderful response to our Holiday Toy Drive that we will be spending time distributing some items that donors graciously held at their homes. This allowed us time to distribute over 500 toys and children/adult supplies to 5 local and 2 international partner agencies in a short amount of time. Our cellars, flats and cars were full of items that we sorted, repacked and delivered.

We want to thank the 50+ individual donors, Ebay Switzerland-Zurich for us being the recipient of their toy drive, the 10+ volunteers that hosted the collections, sorted and delivered and finally to our agency partners - thank you for trusting us.

We will be doing callouts for agencies' special requests for the next couple of weeks. (Please be sure to sign up to our [Facebook](#) page to see these requests). We will host toy and clothes drives as agencies get ready for spring and summer. Some agencies have already asked for some very specific items: laufrad (children's balance bike), Tripp Trapp (highchair that becomes a chair) and a toy store. if you have any of these items, please contact our Collections Coordinator: claudia@zharity.ch.



L-R: Amanda dropping off warm men's clothing to GZ Riesbach for a collection to Bosnia via Spendendepot, Pick-up from various collections sites, Claudia's sort and check to make sure all toys were working

Meet the Zharity Team

This issue we would like to introduce you to Marta Padysz, Zharity's new Visual Art Coordinator!

How did you get involved in Zharity?

I've been following the Zharity activities for quite

I'm from Poland and before settling in Switzerland I lived also in London and Dublin for a couple of years.

"Love to travel, love to create" became the essence of my life.

It's hard to say what was the first or which triggers which. Those two seem to be good companions for each other and there is no reason to stop mixing them.

Before I began my visual and photographic profession, I worked in the Digital Marketing Communication field. This is where I learnt the importance of branding and communicating a brand's message to reap the business rewards. Fast forward a couple of years later, my inspiration to create art through the camera became my fundamental purpose. Deeply passionate about visual art, I became fascinated with capturing moments, and more importantly, providing a different perspective on the simplest of things.

What personal experiences drew you to charity work?

I believe in small, everyday actions. So far I've been involved in events such as owl heritage protection or book festivals back in Poland. Both experiences brought me back to fundamental values such as listening to and hearing those more vulnerable.

And it's true that charity organizations are filled with passion and good will. This combination is enough for me to jump in and get involved.

some time. It's been a pleasure to see how donations can be raised through fun activities. When I saw a position opened for visual part I didn't hesitate to apply.

Now when I'm in and after meeting other Zharity team members, I know that it all makes sense because of the inner energy of the organization.

I'm happy to support Zharity with my creative and strategic skills.

What projects are you working on right now?

I'm working now on an annual communication strategy with the Social Media team.

I also support a mindfulness month and a [series of yoga classes](#).



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