

ZHARITY NEWSLETTER

July &
August 2021

President's Corner

One year ago, I was fortunate to be elected as the Board President at Zharity. With incredible donors, community partners and team members, we have continued the work of the founders. Zharity began in 2015 by a small group of friends. Over time, more people joined, including the most recent past president, Amanda Hunsaker. Amanda heads to Canada this summer and will be sorely missed. Personally, I want to send a special thank you to Amanda this month. She helped me transition into this role and made me feel confident knowing she was there for me.

Zharity continues to grow in terms of volunteers and agencies served. This year alone, we have reached over 25 Swiss-based agencies serving the local community. In addition, we participated in six different international efforts in Bosnia, the Canary Islands, Greece, Hungary, a program that serves Eastern Europe, and a program in Africa.

Each month when the team checks in and we go through the activities accomplished, I am astonished by the dedication and generosity of this community. Since our last newsletter, we accomplished so much that it is hard to summarize. But to highlight the past two months:

- Completed two major collections, reaching our goals and beyond
- Participated in two partner workshops with a local network
- Completed over 25 deliveries of donations
- Hosted a team virtual summer send-off
- Continue to hold virtual team meetings to develop, support and improve our efforts
- Received a generous charitable donation from a private virtual run
- Brought in new volunteers and donors

As we grow, we are working hard on the sustainability of the organization. This summer we will be taking a breather from collections and working on internal infrastructure. We will begin to implement a database to help the team be more streamlined. (Thank you Vicky, our Secretary and newsletter editor, for leading us through this process). We will also work on our incredible plans for the fall, including re-introducing Zharity Earth in September.

Most importantly over this summer, we wish all our donors, volunteers and community partners time for rest and summer fun. Have a safe and enjoyable summer. And we hope you will join us in the fall for all the wonderful activities planned.

We hope to see you soon and you will join us in paying it forward by becoming a [volunteer](#), becoming a [member](#) and by [donating](#)!



Thank you Amanda!

Amanda Hunsaker has been a long-time volunteer, Collections Coordinator, former President and dedicated member of Zharity. Amanda could always be found volunteering at every event, offering her time, knowledge and storage space for Zharity.

Amanda is moving to Canada and we want to not only wish her well, but let her know that we will forever be grateful for all that she has done for Zharity. Safe travels, come back and visit!

Thank you Amanda!



Amanda's Bon Voyage!



Pop-Up Collection

The pandemic has had a huge impact on all our local agencies and their ability to distribute items and to even conduct their regular programming. During the lockdown many were not even able to provide services to their clients, no less give them items that were not necessarily in their realm of priorities. In response, we have started "pop-up" collections. Almost every week, 2 small deliveries have been occurring since the beginning of the year. The smaller deliveries allow for agencies to absorb and distribute in a more timely and efficient manner.

This summer we shall not be taking in items. We are giving our agencies a chance to absorb donations and our volunteers a chance to recover from the very busy and successful Spring/Summer collections! Thank you all for your support so far - stay tuned as in the fall we will be back and need your help!



L: Items for a new Frauenhaus Playroom, R: Items headed for a Playgroup for children learning fine motor skills



Thank You POLARIS and Axiom Asia

We are very proud to have been chosen by POLARIS and Axiom Asia to organize their first virtual charity run. Between 15th and 30th May, the POLARIS and Axiom teams ran/walked between 3 and 5km in aid of Zharity and SHINE, a Singapore-based charity supporting vulnerable children, youth and their families.

Zharity chose viRACE as our partner platform for the run. viRACE is an app that enables runners to take part in a running competition in real time without having to be physically present. A special thank you to viRACE for partnering with us on this run.

Thank you also to Zharity volunteer Marta for her designs. A very special thank you to Zharity volunteer Selene for organizing this event!

About our Sponsors:

POLARIS Investment Advisory AG is a Zurich-based company specialized in marketing and business development for alternative investment managers within liquid alternatives and private markets.

Axiom Asia Private Capital is a leading private equity investment firm focused exclusively on the Asia Pacific region.



Some of the race winners from POLARIS and Axiom Asia



Zharity held a bicycle collection for 6 local agencies:

- ARCHE: provides support services to families
- Heilpädagogische Frühberatung (HPF): provides early intervention to children in Winterthur.
- Velo für Alle: provides bicycles to individuals in emergency aid camps in Zurich, giving them independence and transport
- Durchgangszentrum Volketswil (AOZ): refugee housing facility for refugees who have newly arrived to Switzerland/Zurich. They also provide housing for families with kids
- Brokids: local program that works with teens to learn how to repair various items
- Kinderheim Klosterli: a children's facility in Aargau

Campaign Summary

- 28 Adult Bikes
- 22 Children's Bikes
- More than 35 Donors
- Helmets, Training Wheels, Baskets and Bike Seats

Thank you to all our donors who helped us exceed our goal!

- Thank you to the staff from Man Group, Michael and Nicola
- Thank you Flavio from Velo für Alle for picking up the last of the bikes
- Thank you to Jyoti for organizing the adult bike donations
- Thank you to Claudia for organizing the children's bike donations
- Thank you to Ansam, Ivana, Jyoti, Nick and Rebeca for being at our two drop off days
- Thank you to Ivana and Rebeca for holding most of the adult bikes in your storage rooms for the final pickups!



L: Volunteers at a Collection Site, R: Bicycles Drop Off at a Local Agency



Volunteering in Switzerland Workshops

Thank you to Kamini Patel and the Spoogler's Professional Network for allowing us to co-host two Volunteering in Switzerland workshops presented to the network. A big thank you to Amanda Hunsaker, who was the coordinator for Zharity and moderated both events. And a shout out to Sheena D'Souza, our CSR Coordinator, who spoke so eloquently on what it meant to volunteer (and continue to) both while looking for work and while working.



Putting the Pieces Together Collection

Thank you to everyone that supported our June collection for RampToGo and the Children's Hospital School, with a special thanks to:

- All our donors of craft items and building block toys
- Our volunteers that were drop-off sites
- Eva U for coordinating with RampToGo
- Selene for coordinating with the Children's Hospital School
- RampToGo and the Children's Hospital School for being such wonderful partners!



Thank You GoogleServe

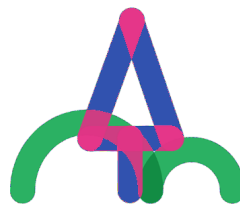
We want to thank the Google staff members for donating to our Gift a Bike Collection and Putting the Pieces Together campaign through GoogleServe. Your generous donations helped us go beyond our goals! Velo für Alle is now ready for the year and can focus on their good work of distributing bicycles and helping individuals in four local refugee camps in the Canton of Zurich.

In addition, with your help we were not only able to send building blocks to RampToGo for their effort to build wheelchair ramps, but also Google staff donated many items for the hospital school collection. And in several cases, we were able to take additional donations directly to programs that serve children in need. We would also like to send a special thank you to Jagoda for reaching out to us and starting this wonderful new partnership.



One of the many great bicycles from Google staff!

Coming in the Fall...



Zharity Earth

We are pleased to announce that starting in September Zharity Earth will be back! We know that central to the formation of Zharity was the idea of making environmentally friendly choices. We want to honor that. We will have more to share in the September/October newsletter. However, here are some highlights:

Switzerland's Birds Workshop

Save the Date: 11 September

Long-time Zharity volunteer and former President, Hermina Olah Vas, will lead some family-friendly Zharity bird workshops. This will be an educational and interactive workshop, where she will also talk about her experience in the annual BirdLife Switzerland Bird Race.

In this exciting race, Hermina and her team will join over 40 other teams to spot as many bird species as they can within 24 hours. This year, Zharity is pleased to announce that we will be sponsoring Hermina and her team.

Further details to be announced in the September/October

Swiss Clean-Up Day

Save the Date: 18 September

Zharity is excited to announce that we plan to once again take part in Swiss Clean-Up Day. On this day every year volunteers all over Switzerland combine their efforts to free this country from litter.

If you would like to volunteer with us and help clean the city we call home, please keep an eye out on our social media and for our September/October newsletter for further details including how to sign-up.

Waste-Free Walk

Save the Date: 25 September

Have you ever looked at your groceries after a shopping trip and wondered how you can reduce the amount of packaging that ends up in the trash?

Zharity invites you to join us as we take a walk through Zurich to learn more about how we can live more sustainable lives, visiting shops with sustainable practices/ethos.

Further details will follow in our September/October newsletter including how to sign-up.

Meet the Zharity Team

This issue we would like to introduce you to Rachel Thibodeaux, Zharity's Website Manager!

I am an American who grew up in Louisiana, but lived almost nearly as long in Seattle. I worked in the tech industry there for many years as a quality assurance engineer, data analyst, and project manager before moving to Zurich. I love travel, libraries, wandering, and am always on the search for my next great meal.



What personal experiences drew you to charity work?

My parents were always involved in some form of charity work and community service, so I was too, from a young age. It's a habit I've never stopped, no matter where I live. I can always find a cause to support. I've also discovered committing to this sort of work develops deeper friendships.

How did you get involved in Zharity?

I saw a call go out for a volunteer to maintain the newly-redesigned Zharity website in 2018. I was new to the area and looking for a way to get involved. I inquired, signed up, and have been updating the site ever since.

What projects are you working on right now?

My primary focus is the website, but I love supporting the collection drives!



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