

ZHARITY NEWSLETTER

March & April 2021

President's Corner

I am writing this on the last day of February. This February felt particularly long this year. The combination of the continued pandemic, interruptions to our normal schedule and quite a few cold days challenged us all. The pandemic has made it hard for most and for Zharity we miss the in person interactions.

I hope that you all found ways to keep busy and take care of yourselves. The month of January we focused on wellbeing. One way was to put together some [tips](#) to help us all through this time. We also offered several classes of virtual yoga. In February, we held a Valentine's Day fundraiser with HATO Restaurant. The funds raised from the HATO dinner will be used to support the work of [World Bicycle Relief](#).

Behind the scenes, we sent the last 150 sleeping bags off to refugees with the help of our transportation partner, GAIN Switzerland. In addition, we spent the past two months distributing items we collected and we were not able to distribute. We responded to 13 local agencies and their specific needs. One in particular, we were thrilled to provide the toys and yoga room set-up for a new Frauenhaus location. We are grateful to all our donors that continue to supply such incredible gently loved items - allowing us to distribute those items to their new homes and purposes.

In March and April we will continue to respond to local needs and will be posting on our Facebook page for specific requested items, especially children's rain gear (boots, trousers and jackets). Internationally, we will be collecting items for personal care kits for refugees.

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](#)!



Collections



Personal Care Kits for Europe

Collection: March 15 - 25

Zharity is holding a collection drive for refugees in Greece. The Refugee Camps in Greece are in need of personal hygiene items.

Personal Care Items Collected:

- New or Gently-Loved Bath Sized Towel
- Unopened Large-Size 300ml Shampoo
- Unopened Normal-Sized Toothbrush
- Unopened Adult Size Toothpaste
- Unopened Block Soaps

If you would like to donate any of the above items, please sign up via the link below to be connected with a collection point near you!

Don't have any of the items listed above but still want to be part of the collection - no problem! You can make a [donation](#) to Zharity to help supplement the personal care collection.

[SIGN UP](#)



Rain Gear for Local Children

April showers bring May flowers.

Zharity will be holding a collection for local children during the month of April. We are collecting rain boots, trousers and jackets. We are accepting all children's sized rain gear.

- Rain boots
- Rain jackets
- Rain trousers

We also have other items on the list that local agencies are in need of now. Please sign up via the link below.

Don't have any of the items listed above but still want to be part of the collection - no problem! You can make a [donation](#) to Zharity to help supplement the rain gear.

[SIGN UP](#)

Updates & News



Recap: General Assembly Meeting

January 18, 2021

Thank you so much to all that attended our General Assembly in January. We had a wonderful meeting and it was great to update our attendees on our successes from 2020 and share our exciting plans for 2021.

We would also like to congratulate Jyoti Krishnan, who was voted in as Zharity's new Treasurer during our meeting.

If you would like to catch up on the General Assembly, please have a look at the notes [here](#). Have any other questions? Contact us on info@zharity.ch.



Local Artist Supports Zharity

Sara is a local artist and is partnering with Zharity by donating 10% of each item's proceeds. So if you're looking to add a Boho-Chic charm to your home, check out these unique handcrafted Macramé pieces. Thank you Sara!



Knots by S

Instagram: [@knots_by_s](#)

Facebook: [@KnotsbyS](#)



Special Thanks to Stefanie Schiller



Special thank you to [Stefanie Schiller](#) for this incredible donation of yoga supplies that we were able to give to a Frauenhaus that was setting up yoga for the women they serve!



Virtual Yoga - Thank you!

As part of our "Wellness January", we were thrilled to put on some Virtual Yoga sessions at the start of the year and provide some much needed mindfulness, with all funds raised going towards the Personal Care Kits that we are putting together for the European Refugee Camps.

Special thanks to:



Eat, Give, Love with HATO Restaurant

Zharity would like to express its deepest gratitude to HATO Restaurant Zurich for participating in our Eat.Give.Love Valentine's Day Campaign.

We were delighted that so many couples and families took part and not only enjoyed a gourmet take away but gave generously towards a great

- Our participants - we loved your feedback and were so glad that you had such a calming experience
- Marta Padysz, our wonderful certified yoga instructor, who has also created a one-page reminder for self-wellness which you can find on our [website](#)
- Ansam Zedan, Sports Coordinator, who led the event organisation team
- The rest of the Zharity team who helped organise this event

cause. With your support, the money donated by HATO will go towards the hard work of the [World Bicycle Relief](#). They work to provide the power of bicycles to those in need. Their work reaches 13 countries in Africa.

Thank you again to HATO for being such a generous corporate partner and for giving us the opportunity to dine deliciously and donate to a worthwhile cause at the same time. And, a big thanks to volunteer Rebeca Denny for coordinating this wonderful and delicious event.

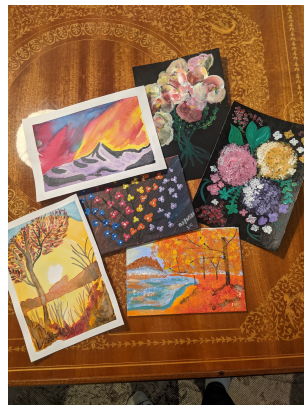


Pictures for The Netherlands

Thank you Annemieke for bringing our attention to such a wonderful project for Zharity members and donors to participate in.

Unfortunately the home for disabled elderly in her home town had to go in lock-down due to an outbreak of Corona. The patients now have to stay in their rooms. They feel completely disoriented and have no understanding of the situation. The nurses have asked for drawings and postcards.

We were overwhelmed with joy by the pictures that so many of you and your children donated and know that the home will be equally thrilled when they receive them - Thank You!



We Couldn't Do Good Without... Decathlon-Zurich

Over here at Zharity, we couldn't do what we do without our many supporters, donors, volunteers, partners, clients and sponsors!

As such, we thought it time to shine a light on the amazing work they do, starting with Decathlon-Zurich. Based in Gesserallee 3/5, Zurich, Decathlon-Zurich sells a wide range of sports equipment, accessories and clothing for over 140 sports. They are also a proud partner of Zharity, supporting us in our mission to Do Good!

The start of something great

It's October 2020 and the Zharity (Virtual) HQ is busy fundraising to send blankets to the refugee camps in Greece. We're beyond grateful to have surpassed our goal to send 100 - but we know there is more to be done. Ansam (Zharity Sports Coordinator) is in the midst of planning Zharity's first ever virtual run with proceeds supporting our refugee relief effort. In the meantime, Jyoti (Zharity Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator) has learned that the camps desperately need sleeping bags and asks if our Virtual Run can raise money for those items.

Of course, we say yes. And the search begins for cost-effective, quality sleeping bags that can weather a Greek winter. A search that proves trickier than expected... Until one late October morning when Jyoti calls Decathlon-Zurich and store leader Pascal invites her in for a meeting later that day.

Less than an hour after the meeting starts, Jyoti and Zharity President Alicia leave beaming with joy: Pascal and his team have not only offered a generous discount on some durable sleeping bags, but have kindly agreed to sponsor the Zharity Virtual Run, providing a gift for the first 100 participants.

Our partnership so far

So far, Decathlon-Zurich and Zharity have sent a total of 250 sleeping bags to Greece with the final shipment scheduled in March 2021.

And the collaboration continues with our new effort. As part of Zharity's March Personal Care Kit campaign, Decathlon-Zurich has already offered to provide us with towels at a discounted rate.

Both teams are thrilled with the collaborative effort and look forward to continuing to Do Good together.



"Decathlon-Zurich has been an amazing partner to achieve our goal to supply sleeping bags to refugees in Greece. Pascal Gut was very helpful and provided great customer service." Jyoti Krishnan, Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator, Zharity

"We are a proud partner of Zharity and very glad to help many people with our Decathlon products." Pascal Gut, Store Leader, Decathlon-Zurich



Top Left: Zharity's Virtual Run had 42 participants and raised over 1000 CHF; Top Right: Pascal holds the sleeping bags we're sending to Greece; Bottom: Decathlon-Zurich, Zharity and GAIN Switzerland sorting the sleeping bags

Meet the Zharity Team

This issue we would like to introduce you to Rebeca Denny, Zharity's Fundraising Coordinator!

I was born in Colombia, grew up right outside of New York City and have spent many years living abroad in England, Australia and now, Switzerland. My husband and I moved here three years ago for a

How did you get involved in Zharity?

My friend Kamini Patel kindly introduced me to the organization and its president, Alicia Altmueller. I was looking for volunteer opportunities in Zürich but knew that my lack of German language skills (a work in progress!) might be a barrier. Alicia and my fellow

project that turned into an official relocation in September 2019. We could not be happier and count ourselves very lucky to live in such a beautiful part of the world. My career in Communications has allowed me to travel, meet and work with so many diverse and interesting people over the years and so Zurich's unique international community offers those same rewards.

What personal experiences drew you to charity work?

My father is a minister and my mother is a nurse so their community-driven professions certainly encouraged my charitable spirit. From a very young age, my siblings and I were involved in humanitarian, refugee, and charitable efforts that aimed to bring about positive change in the world. This continued into my adult life when I volunteered at food banks and homeless shelters as well as provided career planning for ex-convicts and citizenship preparation for immigrants coming to America. The opportunity to help others brings me great happiness.

Zharity volunteers have welcomed my enthusiasm and I have been grateful for the opportunity to get involved and do social good.

What projects are you working on right now?

I am currently working with the team on Zharity's 2021 programming and am specifically focused on developing partnerships with local businesses and entrepreneurs to create fundraising initiatives which support the important community outreach we do.



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