

ZHARITY NEWSLETTER

May & June 2022

President's Corner

Thank you to all our volunteers, donors, members, local agencies, and corporate and school partners that worked together to respond as a community to Ukrainian efforts. We began our support at the end of February and within one month, we sent five international aid deliveries: three to the EU-Ukrainian border and two to within Ukraine. In total, we shipped more than 2000 personal care (hygiene) kits, sleeping bags, towels, clothes, food, diapers and more, across more than 400 boxes.

Alongside this international support, we responded to local agency and refugee needs for Ukrainians arriving in Switzerland. This included shoes, socks, toys, clothing, food, suitcases, and personal hygiene supplies. Moving forward, we will continue to support local needs, including the needs of refugees. We will announce these donation requests via our social media, so please stay tuned.

Throughout May and June, we will also hold activities and collections in support of other local and international causes. Please read on for more details!

We hope you will join us in paying it forward by [becoming a volunteer](#) and by [donating](#).



Upcoming Collections

Baby and Child Care Collection

Zharity is hosting a Baby and Child Care Collection from **May 11 to 25**. We will be distributing the items listed below to partner agencies who support local families in need. Our local agencies are feeling the financial strain of supporting an increasing number of children and families, especially newly arrived Ukrainian refugees. The need is great and your help is deeply appreciated.

For the full list, please check the [sign-up](#).

Pet Food Collection

From June 8 to 18, we will be hosting a pet food collection. Our goal is to distribute 100 packages of cat and dog food to partner animal agencies, including animal shelters and agencies that support local individuals who need additional help providing for their pets. Some of these agencies will be supporting animals that have been brought by refugees.

In addition, we will be hosting Yoga in the Park to raise additional funds for animal needs and have fun at the same time.

Sign up for the collection will begin in June. Please keep an eye on our social media and website for more details.



Upcoming Events

Zero Waste Talk

Join us online on **Tuesday May 24, from 5:30pm** for a meaningful conversation about the impact of Zero Waste. In this free online talk, find out more about:

- What Zero Waste means
- The impact our choices have
- How to reduce our own waste
- The recycling options in Zurich

Confirmed presenters:

- Andreas Lindau, Head of Circular Economy, Entsorgung + Recycling (city of Zurich)
- Esther Falgate, Coordinator for Region Vaud, Zero Waste Switzerland
- Ana Amorim, Business Development Manager, Granel GmbH

[Sign up here](#)

Yoga in the Park

Hosted on **June 12, 9:30am to 10:30am** in Zurich.

Zharity is excited to host Yoga in the Park once again. Enjoy a wonderful yoga session led by Victoria Artola, a certified yoga instructor.

The class is designed for all abilities. So come, have fun and support a good cause.

The funds raised will go towards the purchase of pet food and supplies for local animal shelters.

[Click here](#) to sign up



Hof Narr Farms

Join Zharity for a half day (morning) of service at Hof Narr Farm on **Saturday, June 25th!** This organic farm is a sanctuary for animals and for everyone who wants a closer connection to nature.

Our day will begin with a welcome tour of the farm, after which participants will roll up their sleeves and get to work! Projects will depend on the weather, but may include harvesting cherries, tending the garden, cleaning out stables, and caring for the animals, including goats, horses, rabbits, and more.

Children ages 7+ are welcome to join us and help!

At the end of our morning, we will enjoy a delicious homemade lunch featuring fresh, seasonal ingredients from the farm.

Cost, including lunch: CHF 30 per adult (ages 15+) and CHF 15

per child.

[Sign up now](#) - space is limited!

COVID Announcement

We closely monitor the rules and regulations around COVID and tend to be extra cautious so that we can all enjoy more events together in the future. As such, when signing up for an event, please note our COVID requirements and please follow these guidelines when participating. (As the regulations are constantly changing, please also note that our COVID requirements can change at short notice.)



Ukrainian Effort Update

International Effort

At the start of March, we began our Personal Care Kits Collection to support refugees on the EU-Ukrainian border. At that time, we hoped to collect personal hygiene items, sleeping bags, blankets and towels for those fleeing the war in Ukraine. However, we quickly realized that the need was far greater and expanded our effort. Since March 1st, our donors have helped us to collect and send to Ukraine and the EU-Ukrainian border 428 boxes containing:

- 900 Personal Hygiene Kits for Children
- 691 Personal Hygiene Kits for Women
- 395 Personal Hygiene Kits for Men
- 337 Sleeping Bags
- 597 Towels
- 40 Mats
- 214 Blankets
- Clothes and Shoes for Men, Women and Children
- Food and Baby Supplies
- Plush Toys delivered to children in Ukraine

Local Effort

Additionally, we responded to local agency needs. We have already supported hundreds of Ukrainian refugees at different refugee centers and individual homes in Switzerland. Whether it be bringing toys to local centers (including a bunker), suitcases to temporary housing, volunteers to help find support for deaf refugees, or connections along the way, our volunteers continue to strive to do the most that we can.

Our work is not yet over. We shall now focus our efforts on providing local support to agencies by responding to individual requests and distributing items locally. Thank you to everyone that has helped us provide this support. We will continue to keep you updated on our work via our newsletter and social media.

[Click Here for the Full Story](#)



Hellos and Goodbyes: Zharitty has a new Treasurer

Thank You Jyoti!

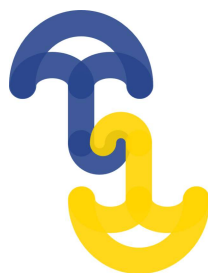
We would like to take this time to thank Jyoti Krishnan, who has been both Treasurer and Humanitarian Coordinator for Zharitty for the past 18 months.

We are so appreciative of her dedication. As Jyoti prepares for her return home, she is stepping down from her leadership roles. Thank you Jyoti for all your hard work!

Welcome Katie!

Katie Vieyra has agreed to take over as treasurer and was voted in by membership on May 3. Katie has been working with Zharitty on different aspects, including organization, packing and sorting, and planning new projects.

We are so grateful for her willingness to step into the role of Treasurer. She has lots of organizational experience and is dedicated to helping the community. We know she will make an incredible addition to the board!



Get involved

Zharitty Sports

As we are getting Zharity Sports into gear once again, we invite you to come along to our informal coffee meeting on Wednesday 25 May from 10am at Bridge on Europaallee.

We will brainstorm on new events and activities for Zharity Sport to host or join. All ideas are welcome!

Please send an email to mette@zharity.ch if you would like to come.

We look forward to seeing you!

Zharity Earth

Our next virtual Zharity Earth planning meeting is on June 2 from 3:30pm to 4:30pm. If you would like to learn more about our Earth activities and how you can get involved on a regular basis, come along, listen in and ask your questions! We are looking for volunteers to take the lead on some of our Fall activities.

Please email alicia@zharity.ch if you would like to come.

Meet the Volunteer

This issue we would like to introduce you to Katie Vieyra, our new Treasurer.

I am an American, born and raised in Wisconsin; I moved from one land of cheese to another! Between Wisconsin and Switzerland, I lived in Sydney, where I met my husband, and San Francisco. My husband and I moved to Zurich in 2017, and we feel so lucky to live in an international city with such easy access to nature. On the weekends, you can find me hiking in the mountains, working on a new design project, or walking around the city in search of a good coffee.

What personal experiences drew you to charity work?

I first started volunteering as a member of the National Honor Society in high school. This turned into a passion that I continued pursuing throughout university as a Badger Volunteer. With that organization, I helped children in under-resourced schools learn how to read, served meals to seniors with the South Madison Coalition of the Elderly, helped with after school programs at the Boys and Girls Club, and tutored at local middle schools. Prior to moving to Zurich, I also worked as a caregiver to a young girl with special needs.

As an Anthropology major, I was taught to actively try to understand life from another's perspective. I believe my passion for volunteering drew me to anthropology, and my understanding of anthropology continues to draw me back to volunteering.

Volunteering allows us to teach, learn and practice empathy. It helps us feel a sense of belonging in our communities, and it creates lasting social impact. Now in Switzerland, I look forward to making an impact with Zharity!

How did you get involved with Zharity?

I decided to tag along with my husband to help pack Personal Care Kits with Zharity in the Google office. I really enjoyed working with the group, and I have been actively participating ever since!

What projects are you working on right now?

Currently, I am developing a financial planning and organization system for Zharity. I have also been coordinating a few clean-ups for Earth this summer and helping the Collections team.





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