

# ZHARITY NEWSLETTER

November & December 2020

## President's Corner

This fall has been an exciting one for Zharity and all its volunteers and contributors. We have seen a lot of our summer planning come to life.

First, let's talk about our blanket drive. We have already sent off 300 blankets via our transportation partner, GAIN Switzerland. We started the blanket drive prior to the horrific fire at the Greek Refugee Camps and now feel an even deeper commitment to helping the situation. We will continue to work on supplying blankets throughout November. In addition, any remaining funds from the Blanket Drive and those funds raised through the Virtual Run will go toward another shipment in January.

To all our members and the blanket drive donors we were so pleased to offer a Virtual Scavenger Hunt that allowed households to explore Zurich on their own time.

The other big project that we completed was the September and October gently loved collection. Clothes for all ages, toys and kitchenwares were collected and sorted. The response was greater than we ever could have imagined. The three main groups that received these donations were: [Streetwork](#), [HPF](#) and a Hungarian collection. Based in Zurich, Streetwork helps adolescents and young adults between the ages of 14 and 28 who need short-term or long-term support. HPF is based in Winterthur and helps children with special needs. The Hungarian group brings the donated items to several different facilities for elderly and transitional homes. The remainder of the items will be distributed to several local charities, including the Caritas Gift Exchange, ARCHE and AoZ and the American Women's Club of Zurich Frauenhaus collection drive.

And we are not done with the year! Read on to see all the great work planned for the remainder of the year.

As the holiday season approaches, we hope you will consider making a [donation](#) to Zharity so we can continue to provide these opportunities and more in the new year. All of these efforts are led by volunteers. We hope you will join us by becoming a [volunteer](#), becoming a [member](#) and by [donating](#)! By getting involved in Zharity, we can pay it forward together!

In closing, we wish everyone a happy and healthy new year. Let's hope that 2021 brings many new fresh opportunities to Do Good, Connect and Have Fun.



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# Collections & Events



## Zharity Virtual Run

**November 21 - November 28**

Are you running somewhere?

**STOP** for a second and run along with us for charity.

### How can we do this?

Well, here is the catch: it's a virtual run.

### How do you participate?

Our Virtual Run can take place at any location, pace, inside on a treadmill or outside. All you or your virtual team will have to do is enter your kilometers in the form you will receive after you register. We will send a suggested set of trails or you can pick your own. Then you submit your times and photos via an online form.

We will share times submitted and photos on our social media over the course of the run week. Don't forget to use hashtags: #zharity #zharityvirtualrun #virtualrun

Every registration will go to supporting our efforts in sending new sleeping bags to refugees in Greece. Our first blanket drive was so successful they are asking for sleeping bags.

In addition, the first 100 runners (in Switzerland) will receive a gift voucher from our new corporate sponsor, Decathlon Zurich, for participating after the run.

[REGISTER](#)



## Holiday Toy Collection

**Friday, November 20 - Thursday November 26**

As every year, Zharity is hosting a holiday toy drive for children in need. Please check your toy box and see if you have any gently loved or new items that you might be able to donate.

**Items in Need:**

- German books for children (0-12)
- Wooden toys (blocks, cars, dollhouses, train sets)
- Dolls, Duplo and Lego sets
- Electronic toys (please make sure there are working batteries)
- Puzzles (please make sure all the pieces are there)
- Games (all types and ages)
- Plush toys - if they are clean and not worn

The items that we are collecting will be distributed to several groups based in Zurich and surrounding areas. The groups include, but are not limited to: ARCHE, Caritas, HPF and Streetwork.

We only accept toys in good condition.

We have a number of drop off points across Zurich. Please sign up via the link below and we will connect you with your nearest volunteer.

[SIGN UP](#)



## Call for Gently Loved and Used Items: Success!

From September-October we collected used clothing (of all ages), toys, backpacks and kitchenwares. The response was tremendous!

We want to thank everyone that was involved in the September/October 2020 Collection:

- Claudia Signer-Weninger for being our collection coordinator
- To our volunteers that had their homes as drop off locations: Ansam, Amanda, Claudia, Iwona, Jyoti, Sheena and Shruti.
- To our volunteer drivers: Eva and Claudia
- And to our donors: Eszter, Toni, Maja, Thuy, Edita, Kathy, Carrie, Alkinoi, Namrata, Magdalena, Leonie, Maryam, Avila, Dana, Johanna, Marie, Selena, Nermin, Teresa, Mihai, Natalia, and Gillian and to the many other people that were neighbors of our collectors that dropped off items! Your donations were beyond our goals! Thank you!



## Thank You!

We would like to thank all our fantastic donors, volunteers and collaborators who have supported the Blanket Drive including:

- Our donors: Tasha Consiglio, Nicolas Planel, Kim Borsboom, Chloe Manzanares, Ansam Zedan, Alicia Altmueller, Brenda Pederson, Amy Challenger, Foteini Theocharopulu, Rachel Thibodeaux, Johannes Neumaier, Dmytro Yurchenko, Marissa Lipinski, Heidi Tyson, Subrao and Seema Shenoy, Narayani Venkatapathy, Shruti Khattar, Thomas Strickler, Megan Hunold, Maksim Mukha, Andjelka Jedrinovic, Caryn Zoffer and the many more anonymous donors.
- Jyoti and her team of Zharity volunteers
- The team at GAIN for sending the blankets to Greece

Additionally, thanks to our Scavenger Hunt contributors: Vicky, Ansam and Alicia; the wonderful Alicia Hintermann of [HappyLittleExpat](#) on Facebook for editing the adult hunt; and Dana Connors-Kamareddine for creating the fantastic children's version.



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## Updates & News

### Decathlon Zurich is now a Corporate Partner!

We are thrilled to announce that [Decathlon](#) Zurich is our new corporate partner. Decathlon is providing us deeply discounted sleeping blankets for our funding raising effort for refugees in Greece. In addition, they have generously offered gifts to the first 100 registered runners participating in our [virtual run](#). So don't wait any longer! Register now!



### Coming in the New Year...

### Zharity Membership: Why become a member?

As a volunteer-run organisation, we try to keep our costs as low as possible, but we still rely on memberships and direct donations to cover day-to-day running costs including website hosting and other administrative costs. Last year, membership donations helped cover these expenses and enable many Zharity activities including:

- Zharity Blanket Drive in support of refugees in the camps in Greece
- Several clothing drives in support of HPF Winterthur, Streetworks, AoZ and more
- Used eyeglass collection
- Toy drive to benefit the local area
- And many more!

We hope to accomplish even more in 2021, but we could not do this without the generous support of our members.

If you would like to support us as an individual (40CHF/y) or family (60CHF/y) member, please sign up via our [website](#). In return, you can:

- Meet up with other members
- Have a say in the direction of Zharity - including voting in the GA (the next one is in

We are already busy at Zharity HQ planning some great activities to support both some fantastic causes and the greater community. Keep an eye out in January for more details on:

- Our Virtual Yoga classes to help you destress this Winter
- Where you can get help and support during the COVID crisis
- How you can help others during the COVID crisis
- Our January collection! We will be announcing another collection for Greece - details coming but in the meantime if you have any of these items, put them aside: gently used towels, baby blankets and newborn clothes, new big containers of shampoo and soap bars.

January - stay tuned)

- Have early sign-up to a variety of planned fundraising activities
- Have early sign-up for volunteer activities planned for the new year
- Be the first to know about our latest collections and events
- Do Good. Have Fun. Connect.

If you have any questions about membership, please contact us at [info@zharity.ch](mailto:info@zharity.ch)

### SAVE THE DATE!

The Zharity General Assembly will be hosted virtually on January 18 from 7-9pm. More details, including how to sign up to follow soon!

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## Meet the Zharity Team

### This issue we would like to introduce you to Ansam Zedan, Zharity's new Sports Coordinator!

I am from Israel and moved to Switzerland in February 2019. I love reading, hiking (moving to Switzerland brought it to a new level) and practising archery.

I used to volunteer in the open clinic in Jaffa Tel-Aviv by Doctors for Human Rights and happy to volunteer with Zharity here in Switzerland.

### What personal experiences drew you to charity work?

Immigrants have no health insurance and while searching for a way to help a patient I came across the open clinic that was two streets away. There I started helping with the medication and with translating to the doctors since many of them did not speak Hebrew or English.

After finishing my pharmacy degree I worked in community pharmacy in Jaffa. Jaffa is filled with immigrants and shelter seekers from Sudan. Unfortunately the city is infested with crime and drugs.

### How did you get involved in Zharity?

I read and heard about Zharity from the amazing Amanda Hunsaker. I was looking to volunteer in Zurich but language was a big barrier. My volunteer work began with the flea market where we organized and sorted the generous donations.

### What projects are you working on right now?

I am currently working on Zharity's [Virtual Run](#) which will take place between November 21 - 28 2020 and hopefully more sports events to come in order to help as many people in need.





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