

ZHARITY NEWSLETTER

September & October 2020

A lot has changed in the last year and we find ourselves still adapting to this "new normal", finding joy wherever we can - in our communities and through activities. If you would like to learn more about how Zharity is doing this, read on for some of our upcoming collection activities and exciting events.

President's Corner

I am thrilled to be writing this piece for Zharity's newsletter. A little over a year ago, my family moved from the United States. A combination of reasons led us to this decision: work, nearby family and a love of Zurich and the community.

Having spent my entire career in the nonprofit sector and volunteering in every community I have lived, I was thrilled to learn about Zharity. I was so impressed with all the hard work that has been put into creating this Verein. To all those that started, developed and participated in Zharity - thank you for making this such a great group to join. I look forward to working with everyone in continuing and growing the efforts.

As a new president, my role is to help nurture Zharity, by working on and with projects, volunteers and connections! We have a great team in place to coordinate new projects, along with some of our regular favorite activities.

COVID 19 has clearly put some challenges in place around the world.

Though we cannot work side by side right now, we are continuing to find ways that Zharity can help others during this time. We are proud to announce our [Blanket Drive](#) which began August 25. I hope you will join us in reaching our goal of 200 blankets! Continue reading our newsletter for more information. Looking forward to doing good, having fun and connecting with you all!





Collections

Blanket Drive

25 August - 25 October

Join us by donating a blanket for refugees in Greece. The drive takes place from **25 August to 25 October**, allowing the blankets to be shipped off in time for winter.

We are donating **New IKEA SILVERTOPP Duvet** for fairness and practicality. You can participate by **donating 15 CHF** per blanket (which covers the cost of the blanket, shipping and administrative fees).

There are approximately 121,500 refugees and asylum-seekers in Greece. Many on the islands of Chios, Kos, Leros, Lesbos and Samos, in which facilities are over six times their capacity.

The majority of the refugee and migrant population are from Afghanistan (49%), Syria (19%) and Somalia (6%). Women account for 22% of the population, and children for 33% - of whom more than six out of ten are younger than 12 years old. Approximately 13% of the children are unaccompanied or separated, mainly from Afghanistan.

We know so much more is needed to help with this humanitarian crisis. It is our hope at Zharity that we can not only contribute, even in a small way, by providing these blankets

Call for Gently Loved and Used Items

10 September - 10 October

Check your closets and drawers and see if you have any items that you may be able to donate.

We can only accept clean and non-broken items, please.

Items in Need:

- Fall and Winter clothes
- Backpacks
- Toys
- Kitchenwares

[Streetwork](#) has asked for our help. Based in Zurich, they help adolescents and young adults between the ages of 14 and 28 who need short- or long-term support. Each fall they host a free fleamarket for their clients. They are asking for clothes and backpacks for Zurich youth in crisis. **They have a special request of mainly men's clothing!**

DONATE

Hungary Clothing Drive

10 September - 10 October

We have a local volunteer that is very connected to two organisations in Hungary that are in need of our help. This group is always looking for clothes (adult and children), toys for all ages and kitchenware.

After the collection, she will bring the items to several different facilities for elderly and transitional homes.

If you can, look through your closets and if you have clothes or kitchen items that you are no longer in need of, consider donating them. Please make sure all items are in good, clean and usable condition.

DONATE

but also help to raise awareness and to bring together members of the greater Zurich community to DO GOOD.

DONATE

Upcoming Events



Zurich Scavenger Hunt

To say a great big THANK YOU! to all our Blanket Drive donors and Zharity members, from **October 1 to October 25** we have a Scavenger Hunt making its way through the heart of the city. Explore, learn, get active and have fun! Keep an eye on our social media pages for more details in the coming weeks.



Virtual Run

Are you running somewhere? STOP for a second and run along with us for charity. How? you ask. Corona! - you fear. Well, here is the catch: it's a virtual run. We give the trails and distances, and you submit your results online. Coming this November - stay tuned!

Updates and News



Welcome our New Zharity Board and Team

Great news! Following our 2020 General Assembly on June 22nd, we are pleased to announce our newly voted board:

President - Alicia Altmueller
Treasurer - Nehal Mittal
Secretary - Victoria McConnell

2020 has also seen some great new additions to the Zharity team including:

Sheena D'souza (Corporate Social Responsibility Coordinator), Anisong Somchid (Social Media Coordinator), Jyoti Krishnan (Humanitarian



Thank You to Our Volunteers

We want to take this time to thank two very special people to Zharity.

Amanda Hunsaker is our past president (2019 - 2020). In addition to keeping us on track even during these uncertain times, she worked on every collection and activity we had. Amanda's dedication to Zharity can be felt throughout all our work and we are so grateful to her. (And we are even happier she is continuing her volunteer work with us!) Thank you Amanda!

Tracy Harris Wellons is our past treasurer (2018-

Assistance Coordinator), Iwona Braun-Nowak (Finance/ Fundraising Committee Coordinator), Tasha Consiglio (Marketing Coordinator) and Kishore Singh (Marketing Coordinator). We look forward to working together as we develop exciting new fundraising activities!

2020). Tracy kept a keen eye on all our finances and made sure we were on track. In addition to her work as our treasurer, she helped establish Zharity as an official verein. Her dedication to this process made it possible for us to be a verein. As she hands over the details to our new treasurer and president, she is still keeping an eye on us during this transition - and for that - we are so thankful.

CONNECT WITH US!

If you haven't already, remember to connect with us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and LinkedIn where we have all the latest fundraising information.

Meet the Zharity Team

This issue we would like to introduce you to our wonderful volunteer behind our current blanket drive for refugees... Jyoti!

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 there, moved to the US in 1990. I've 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 the intent of travelling and experiencing different cultural environments.

What personal experiences drew you to charity work?

I studied sociology and social problems such as poverty, child labour, women's issues and environmental problems in India.



I have been sensitive to these social problems since my college days. I strongly believe that education helps people break out of poverty and become financially independent. Education also makes people aware of injustices in society and why human rights are important. In the past, I've volunteered in raising funds for Middle and High Schools in the US. I was Treasurer for the Education Fund at Dougherty Valley High School in San Ramon. I was a committee member of a cultural fest - a fundraising event for the Education Fund. Now in Switzerland, I've joined Zharity to help with Humanitarian Assistance Efforts.

How did you get involved in Zharity?

I met Alicia Altmueller at one of the Zharity virtual events. During a conversation with Alicia, I explained my deep interest in helping refugees and underprivileged people around the world. We talked about how Zharity could benefit from my US volunteer experience. Zharity was forming new committees and I joined as a Humanitarian Assistance Coordinator.

What projects are you working on right now?

I am working on strategy and planning for future humanitarian aid projects through Zharity. Currently, I am coordinating the [blanket drive](#) for refugees in Greece.



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