

# ZHARITY NEWSLETTER

September & October 2021

## President's Corner

Happy Fall! I hope everyone had a good and safe summer. Our team found time to both relax and prepare for an action packed season.

This Fall, we are happy to announce the re-launch of our Zharity Earth efforts. To celebrate, we have lots of environmentally-focused events, including some fun and interactive activities for kids! Maybe our [Swiss Bird Workshops](#), [Clean-Up Day](#) or [Zero-Waste Tour](#) will take your fancy. Read on to find out more!

This October, we continue our Humanitarian effort with a [Winter Hat Collection](#) for refugees in Greece. We have a wonderful campaign kick-off planned on September 26 with [Yoga in the Park](#).

We will also continue to support the many agencies in Zurich Canton that request our support through our Pop-Up Collections where we already have a standing list of needed items. In addition we are hosting a Candle Collection for an agency that works with youth by repurposing partially used candles into camp-fire starter kits.

All these efforts are through the hard work of volunteers, sponsors and donors. We are so grateful to the community and hope you will join us and share these efforts within your networks. Together we can make a difference!

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](#)!



COVID Announcement

*Please note: we monitor the rules and regulations around COVID and will follow all requirements. We tend to be cautious so that we can all enjoy more events together in the future. In our upcoming events, we will require COVID certificates as proof of vaccination, recovery or a test valid at the time of the events. We also ask that everyone wear a mask at all times when with group activities.*



We are so pleased to announce the relaunch of Zharity Earth, our effort to do our part locally and globally. The environment is central to the creation of Zharity and we support green and sustainable efforts. Please visit our [website](#) to learn more.

### **Swiss Bird Workshops**

11th September

Zharity is excited to announce a day of fun and interactive workshops led by Zharity volunteer, Environmental Educator and Bird Enthusiast, Hermina Olah Vass. She will lead three bird education workshops for children ages 3-12 on Saturday, September 11 at GZ Leimbach and we hope you can join us.

Hermina will also share her experiences of the 2021 BirdLife Race - taking place the prior weekend - where she and her team will spend 24 hours counting as many different bird species across Zurich as possible. Zharity is proud to be her team's sponsor and help raise funds towards the wellbeing of birds in Switzerland.

To learn more and sign up for these fun workshops, [click here](#).

### **Swiss Clean-Up Day**

18th September, 9.30am to 12pm

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

We will be meeting at Klopstockwiese in Zurich. Remember to wear comfortable clothes that can get dirty. This is a free activity and we encourage families to bring their children and to participate. To sign up and for further details, please [click here](#).

And Zug folks, you can join our friends at WWF for their clean-up on the same day. [Click here](#) to learn more and register.

### **Zero-Waste Shopping Tour**

2nd October, 9am

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 to a zero-waste store. There we will learn a little bit about the mission behind one of the many such stores in Switzerland and what small steps we can take to reduce waste in our own households. After the introduction, there will be time for some shopping. For those interested, we will then continue the discussion over coffee.

If you are interested in joining us, please sign up [here](#).

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# Collections



## Winter Hats

This Fall, Zharity will be holding a winter hat collection to send to the refugee camps in Greece before the cold winter starts. We will be accepting gently loved and new winter hats for all ages from September 26th to October 15th.

If you would like to donate a hat, you can do so via this [form](#).

If you do not have a hat to donate, but would like to contribute to the effort, please consider making a donation on our [website](#).



## Candles

We will be collecting candles from October 16th to October 31st (partially used or new) for one of our local agencies. BroKids is working with teenagers to make campfire starter kits and are looking for candles to repurpose. If you have any laying around, we would love to take them off your hands so they can be reused!

To sign up to donate candles, please [click here](#).



## Pop-Up

In between our regular collections, Zharity hosts "pop up" collections. These are specific needs we receive from over 20 agencies that we support locally. Currently, we are looking for games, a toddler bed, school backpack, playpen, bikes and more.

You can find more items on our wish list and sign up to donate via this [form](#).



## Volunteering with Zharity

Volunteering with Zharity is a great way to get involved in the Zurich (and global) community. We are always looking for people to plan, coordinate and support diverse fundraising activities within our growing non-profit.

We're looking for individuals willing to help out in a variety of ways including: as on-site event support, Marketing & Social Media Wiz, researcher, event planner, and more!

Currently we are especially in need of social media help (any Facebook fans out there?) and an additional driver (and if the driver speaks Swiss German, *das ist einen Plus!*) If you are interested, write to us at [info@zharity.ch](mailto:info@zharity.ch).



Some of the wonderful Zharity volunteers



## Zharity Sport

### Yoga in the Park

Zharity is excited to host Yoga in the Park on September 26th. Enjoy a wonderful yoga session led by [Victoria Artola](#), a Spanish yoga teacher living in Zurich. Victoria teaches Hatha and Vinyasa yoga for all levels and loves helping people to connect with themselves and with nature through yoga and meditation, enjoying the present moment.

The funds raised will go directly towards the Winter Hat Collection to purchase hats for refugees.

You are also welcome to bring hats to donate with you to the yoga session.

[Join us for this fun morning!](#)

### Zharity joins Sportegration Runs

Attention runners! Looking for a fun and meaningful way to connect with new members of the community?

[Sportegration](#) is a Zurich-based organization that offers refugees and asylum seekers a place where they can do sports and establish social contacts with others living in Zurich.

Zharity members will be joining some of the running sessions and would love to see you there too. The runs will be on Wednesdays from 7:30pm to 9pm and Sundays from 2pm until 3:30pm.

If anyone is interested in joining, please contact us at [sport@zharity.ch](mailto:sport@zharity.ch). (We are connected with them to stay updated regarding planned runs.)

**Please note: German is required to participate.**



## Meet the Zharity Team

**This issue we would like to introduce you to Uliana Gorbolskaya, one of Zharity's new Zharity Earth Coordinators!**

I'm Russian born and bred and spent my first twenty years in Moscow, where I went to school for international relations. I really wanted to be a diplomat then... travel the world solving global problems. As it turned out, that career was not really a good fit for me, but my desire to travel and solve problems remained. Since then, I've moved countries three times already (USA, back to Russia and then Switzerland) and changed careers - also three times (start-ups, consulting and banking)! I'm happy that the world is a dynamic and open place, and am excited to see where the Swiss part of the journey will take me.



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

My first encounter with charity work happened around ten years ago. A family member was sick with cancer, and thankfully our battle with it was successful. In the aftermath, I felt so grateful for this medical miracle that I participated in a fundraiser for Lymphoma and Leukaemia society. This was actually a sport fundraiser - so while fundraising I also trained for and completed a marathon. Yay! It was one of the most fulfilling experiences in my life, not to mention a ton of fun. Since then charity/pro bono work has become part of my life.

**How did you get involved in Zharity?**

I saw a Zharity post in the Spogler community almost immediately after moving to Switzerland, and got curious about the organization. Unfortunately, the pandemic happened at the same time, so the timing wasn't perfect. About a year later though, I participated in one of Zharity's collections, and then my participation evolved into a more consistent role.

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

I'm working on revamping Zharity Earth - starting with [Swiss Clean-Up Day](#) (coming up on September 18th - anyone interested still has time to sign up!) And certainly planning more environmentally-focused events for later in the year, so stay tuned!



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Our mailing address  
Zharity Steinwiesstrasse 63 Zurich 8032 Switzerland

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