



Refugees in Greece, you and the Aid-Caravan!

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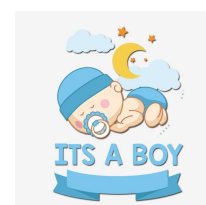
Dear supporters of the Aid-Caravan,

On behalf of the board and volunteers of Stichting Hulpkaravaan (Aid-Caravan Foundation), thank you very much for your support! Despite the difficult situation with Covid-19 in the world, you have continued to support us. Our gratitude is huge! The Coronavirus and all its consequences force us to think more critically and consciously, so we can continue our activities in a responsible way. We would like to express our gratitude for your understanding and kind messages that have reached us in recent months.

Update on previous actions

Future Homeland - Our [Future Homeland](#) pilot was successful. Do you remember? In September 2020, a family in need knocked on our door. They were about to end up on the streets of Greece. Our intervention prevented this.

The family was in an unsafe situation and experiencing great stress. The father lost his job and could not rent another house. The mother was pregnant with her second child. Mother and child had health problems. De Aid-Caravan rented a house for three months and moved the family. Within a month, the father found a new job and the mother's and baby's health were improving. After three months, the family moved into their new home.



In February, a healthy baby boy was born. Due to your donations, we were able to help this family. We feel proud and grateful. We would like to develop this project on a larger scale. Not pampering, but just helping!

New Year's meal - Around Christmas 2020 we started fundraising for [a New Year's meal](#) to support homeless refugees in Athens. Sufficient food means more body heat. We also sent hats, scarves, socks and jackets. The organisation "Refugee Refuge" carried out this project on location. The implementation was done differently on advice, because people who are hungry cannot bear a big meal and therefore suffer from health problems. It was decided to distribute food parcels containing basic foodstuffs to 200 homeless refugees three times a week for three weeks. Thank you for your donations for this action. You have saved lives in this cold winter month.

Huidige Acties

Wool Bulb Caravan knits on - In August 2020, a grandmother and her grandchildren started an initiative for the Aid-Caravan: Knitting. Grandma's initiative appealed to many people. Various knitting clubs joined in and we decided to make a project of it. On October 4th, the action was launched and named Wool Bulb Caravan. Under Emine's leadership, [Wool Bulb Caravan](#) became a great success. Due to persistent Corona threat, social traffic was limited but many people found inspiration in knitting. It was an advantageous situation for all participants and people involved. We received emails from all sides; from participation projects, elderly homes, knitting clubs, neighbourhood centres and private individuals signed up and knitted miles of scarves and hundreds of hats.

Astrid Theunissen from village meeting organisation "Os Thoes" in Kessel mailed us the following: *"Just today a woman commented on how much she enjoyed knitting for a good cause. It gives you so much satisfaction to do something for someone else. And I also like to knit myself!"*

We sent over a thousand hats and scarves to Athens and camp Vathy on Samos. This time there was something for everyone. Later we heard that the children in the camp were so happy that for once they could choose the colour or the model themselves.

Knitting is still going on and anyone who wants to start knitting after reading this; be welcome!

Please let us know, so we can add your hometown to the map.



foto kamp Samos uitdelen mutsen en sjaals

Camp Morra and the Aid-Caravan - At the village of Morra, in the upper part of Friesland (Frisia), [4,222 man-size dolls](#) stood in a meadow on April 2nd. These dolls are a symbol for the children without parents in refugee camps in Greece. A very impressive and confronting image. Does this leave anyone cold and indifferent? The initiators Marian van Voorn, Sharon Postma, Wini Weidenaar and Elizabeth Pilat wanted to send a strong signal to the new government. See all the photos and videos on the website of [camp Morra](#).



Photo: Martijn Heemstra #kampmorra

Camp Morra has written [a nice newsletter](#) with the following appeal.

"Aid-Caravan Greece brings all clothes to Greece. They were very impressed and surprised, because they had to drive three times up and down to get all the clothes out of Morra. And, after sorting, we received the app: 'There have been really beautiful clothes donated! All credit to you!'

But, bringing all those [clothes to Greece](#) is not for free. If you want to support Aid-Caravan Greece financially (and this is already possible with 1 euro, but also with 100 euros and everything in between), you can

Help us get the clothes to the Greek camps!

Make your donation to:

Stichting Hulpkaravaan

Please mention reference: Camp Morra

Transport

IBAN: NL82 TRIO 0391 0793 79

BIC: TRIONL2U

Camp Vathy on Samos

Introduction - We hear a lot about camp Moria on Lesbos as opposed to camp Vathy on Samos. This has to do with the fact that there are few Dutch organisations and volunteers writing about this. Camp Vathy has also burned down and there also [the mud streams](#) whirl past the tents when it rains and this camp is also overcrowded. The camp is set up for 650 refugees. At the height of the crisis, 8,000 people lived there. Now there are 3,000 displaced and forgotten people living in this camp.



You may have heard that prison camps are being built in various places in Greece. On Lesbos and Chios, the mayor has not given permission and the shovel is not yet in the ground. On Samos, the mayor has given in and the construction of a new camp is almost finished for 1500 single refugee men or women. It is built in the mountains, 10 km from the nearest town, out of sight of tourists. Aid organisations are not welcome in these camps. They are run by the Greek government, the same government that distributes spoiled food in the camp every week. Now we can still observe them and have photos as supporting evidence. With the camp closed, this will become invisible to outsiders. It is expected that from June onwards, in stages, the other 1500 members of families will move from the camp on Samos to the streets of Athens. We will continue to help until the end of camp Vathy on Samos and will meet and help them again in Athens!

All this is done to welcome tourism back to the island, but how warm is that welcome when you treat the people who fled with such coldness and indifference?

Reporter Ingeborg Beugel: "Men, women, children and babies with a Greek refugee status are sandwiched between 'no identity card' and 'no rental contract' with nothing, no clothes, sleeping bags, mattresses, tents, even no money to eat from, on the street. In the winter cold and pouring rain or in the sickening summer heat. There are more every day. In parks, porches, squares and street corners." Read the whole article [here!](#) A long read and must read if you want to understand that the Greek system fails on all sides. The Netherlands, knowingly, sends people back to Greece, where they then end up with family and all on the streets of Athens.

We For Kids food programme - Barbara Zreik, once a refugee herself, received her Greek residence status and started working in Vasili's falafel shop. Soon they decided to open a Lebanese restaurant together. Barbara, an excellent chef, had a mission. She herself had experienced life in the camp with her children. She saw the children in the camp becoming increasingly unhealthy. The lack of fruit and vegetables, the essential nutrients for children to grow, both physically and mentally, are missing in the camp. Often the food that is delivered is mouldy and thrown in the bin by the supplier outside the camp because the refugees do not want to accept it. If your immune system is weakened, starving seems a better option than getting food poisoning.



Barbara started the charity setup [We For Kids](#) with full support from her partner in business and has been cooking for 400 children three times a week. The British local aid worker Sarah Griffith from the organisation [Bridge2](#) became a supporter of this project and found deals for the dry food, took care of the accountability structure and took care of the social media accounts. A good structure has been set up. The volunteers of We For Kids, who also live or have lived in the camp, hand out the healthy food three times a week. Every weekend the children get extra fruit.

Ramadan - "It is a time of spiritual reflection, self-improvement and increased devotion and worship. The fast (sawm) begins at sunrise and ends at sunset."

We know how important this time is for the Muslim community. We also respect the proper nutrition that accompanies the cultural part of the fast and the breaking of the fast.

In this month of fasting, Barbara wants to provide a meal/iftar to 500 people five days a week. These are the relatives of the 400 children in the food programme; a huge undertaking.

Will you support Barbara and all her 400 children and their families so that they can experience [Ramadan](#) without hunger?

The budget for a package for 5 people is 10 euros and includes a dish with chicken, beef, lamb or eggs and rice, pasta or chickpeas and vegetables as a base.

The extra 'extras' that are specific to Ramadan include yoghurt, molokhia, dates and soup.

This amount includes the cost of 'back office' things like bags, gloves, containers, electricity, gas for the burners, petrol for transport, detergent, disinfectant for the hands etc.



Help Barbara fill this long table with healthy food every day. It is the time for sharing, being together and showing compassion for those less fortunate than ourselves.

Donate 10 euros for a 5-person meal, 100 euros for a 50-person meal or an amount of your choice!

Stichting Hulpkaravaan - Reference: Food Project

IBAN: NL82TRIO0391079379 - BIC: TRIONL2U

Tikkie Food Project <https://tikkie.me/pay/n1feqbpqhpsr48hr2ekc>

This link is valid until 26 May



Eid al-Fitr (Festival of Breaking the Fast) and Ascension Day - Both Muslims and Christians mark the end of the month-long dawn-to-sunset fasting of [Ramadan](#) and commemorate the Christian belief of the bodily Ascension of Jesus into heaven on 13 May. This year, [Eid al-Fitr](#) and [Ascension Day](#) coincide, which is special. This will be the last day of this special food drive on which we will look back and celebrate together. Perhaps, if there are sufficient funds, we can also offer some special celebration on this double holiday.

Barbara Zreik is an important link for the Aid-Caravan. She is the driving force behind the transports and distribution. We are immensely grateful to Barbara and her volunteers. All the time and energy she unconditionally puts in for our project, we would like to be able to compensate. Barbara has covered the cost of fresh food for the first two weeks, so our task for the last two weeks and the holiday is to help her complete her mission. This is possible with your donations! Will you help?

Your help will be gratefully received by all your brothers and sisters.

We wish everyone respectively a happy
Ramadan Mubarak - Eid Mubarak - Ascension Day.

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This initiative of [Migrant 2 Migrant](#) (M2M), [Radio Patapoe](#) and [Foundation Hulpkaravaan](#) (Aid-Caravan) aims to strengthen the communication capacity of refugees, make their voices heard and tap into connections. Their stories and dreams can be heard live every week in radioshow PSJM on Radio Patapoe.

How can we hear what refugees are going through? How can refugees stay in touch with their partners and children who are in other countries? How do we know how they are doing when the media is silent? How can they find work or arrange their way out? How can they study and share their talents with the world? At a time when procedures are taking longer and government institutions and help desks in Greece are closed. The people who have fled are more oppressed than ever. Every time we think that things cannot get any worse and that there are laws to prevent this suffering, every time we think that we have already safeguarded human rights, nothing could be further from the truth. Contact with the outside world and army food is the only luxury the refugee knows - and sometimes even that is made impossible.

What if your child works or goes to school in another country or your parents or friends are on holiday?! Imagine that when you make a phone call; the phone keeps sounding that annoying voice: "This phone number is temporarily unavailable", then you do not know what to do, you do not know who to call to get clarity and contact. Imagine that this lasts for weeks! As a parent, brother, sister or child, wouldn't you go and look out for yourself? Call the police?

Family members of refugees do not have that option! Or would you call the telephone number of your loved ones? Parents worry about their children; it is distressing that children also worry when they have not heard from one of their parents for a long time. We have to remember that these families have been torn apart by a war they did not want, a war that causes every day that you do not hear anything, you are afraid that something bad has happened. Wouldn't you be afraid if you couldn't reach your loved ones for a fortnight?

[Samos Calling](#) is also an important initiative to keep the violations of human rights on our minds, to hear the human being behind the misery of the refugee statuses and to give them the right to have their voice heard! We don't want to talk particularly about the refugees, we need to talk with them directly in order to hear what is really going on. You can also follow this media action initiative on [Facebook](#).

Stichting Hulpkaravaan (Aid-Caravan Foundation)

IBAN: NL82 TRIO 0391 0793 79

BIC: TRIONL2U

You choose on what we may spend your donation on and we thank you for your trust.

- ref. Samos Food Project
- ref. Camp Morra Transport
- ref. Samos Calling
- ref. Wool Bulb Caravan

To all happy celebration days