

STUF United Fund Syrian Refugee Humanitarian Aid Project (October 2015 to March 2016)

In September 2015, the picture of three-year-old Syrian refugee boy Aylan lying lifeless on the beach shocked the world and unfolded the human tragedy of over four million Syrian refugees; more than half of them are young children. As the issue of Syrian refugee gained global attention, STUF United Fund initiated the Syrian Refugee Humanitarian Aid Project in October 2015 to raise fund to provide winter jackets to Syrian refugee children, bringing hope to them in the cold winter season.

As a NGO member of UNGC (United Nations Global Compact), STUF United Fund followed the suggestion of UNGC to meet the goal of UNHCR (The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees) to donate at least 20,000 jackets. The project included three stages (Turkey, Austria, and Greece) and was made possible through collaboration among various sectors including NGO, corporate sector, and government agencies. Jacket manufacturer Landway made a generous in-kind donation of free materials for 20,000 jackets, allowing the donation raised to be allocated mostly for jacket production labor and shipping and as a result purchased more jackets to benefit more refugee children. The jacket distribution in Turkey was held in partnership with Turkish Red Crescent Society (Turkey Red Cross) and the Turkey Fashion and Apparel Federation. The project collaborated with the Caritas International Salzburg Chapter in Austria and the Marianna V. Vardinoyannis (MVV) Foundation in Greece.

First stage: Turkey

On January 7th, 2016, after several months of communication and logistics preparation, STUF United Fund collaborated with Turkish Red Crescent Society and the Turkey Fashion and Apparel Federation to donate and distribute winter jackets at "Öncüpınar Accommodation Facility" refugee camp in Kilis, Turkey (only 500 meters from Turkey-Syria border). In addition to 5,600 jackets donated by STUF United Fund, local business sector donated 4,300 pairs of socks and a truck-load of new clothing.



STUF United Fund visited refugee camp officer and Mayor of Kilis.





Children in Turkey with the new jackets.

On the same day of the jacket donation and distribution, STUF United Fund visited the refugee camp officer and the Mayor of Kilis, where there are more Syrian refugees than local Turkish residents. The meeting generated great discussions on the topics of humanitarian aid and international charity support.

Second Stage: Austria

On March 18th, 2016, 10,000 jackets and 5,000 raincoats were donated through collaboration with project partners, international NGO “Caritas Salzburg” and local chamber of commerce, to Syrian refugee children in Austria. Caritas Salzburg Director Johannes Dines and Salzburg Deputy Mayor Anja Hagenaur joined STUF United Fund on the donation ceremony.

The screenshot shows the Caritas & Du website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with the following items: "Caritas & Du", "Salzburg" (with a dropdown arrow), "Hilfe & Angebote", "Spenden & Helfen", "Aktuell", "Jobs & Bildung", "Jetzt spenden" (in a green button), and a search icon. Below the navigation bar, on the left, is a newsletter sign-up box with the text: "Mit unserem Newsletter bleiben Sie immer am Laufenden!" and a red button labeled "Jetzt anmelden". To the right of the sign-up box is a news article titled "15.000-mal Schutz und Wärme für die Caritas Flüchtlingshilfe" with a timestamp "Wann: 21.03.16 / 13:48". The article features a photograph of a group of people, including Caritas staff and officials, standing in a warehouse filled with cardboard boxes. They are holding a blue and white banner. One of the boxes in the foreground has the Caritas logo and the text "LOVE-TAIWAN".

Jacket donation ceremony in Austria was shared on the website of Caritas Salzburg.

Salzburg has become a hub in the movement of Syrian refugees since September 2015. Caritas has provided hundreds of thousands of refugees traveling through Salzburg with clothing, food, and hygiene items. Caritas Salzburg Director Johannes Dines stated that "Many people, especially children, were dressed alarmingly thin in their flight and were not equipped for the cold, wet weather. We are very grateful for the generous and valuable donation of STUF United [Fund], which we can use for the refugee assistance at home and abroad."

Third Stage: Greece

The task of the final stage of the project was to donate 10,000 jackets and 5,000 raincoats to Syrian refugee children in Greece. STUF United Fund partnered with local chamber of commerce and the Marianna V. Vardinoyannis (MVV) Foundation, which is devoted to the protection of human rights, especially of children's rights as well as the improvement of the living conditions of children and families.



On March 29, 2016, more than 650 jackets were provided to refugee children at the Schisto Refugee Center near Athens. The donation event was joined by Mrs. Vardinoyannis, President of MVV, and Mr. Giannis Lagoudakis, Mayor of Perama. Mrs. Vardinoyannis, founder of MVV and UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, expressed her sincere appreciation at the press conference held on March 30th, 2016.



Το Πρόγραμμα «We Care» εντείνει τις δράσεις του, βοηθώντας

«Ρούχο, δοσμένο με αγάπη, είναι για μας, πάντα, μια ζεστή αγκαλιά»... «Χρειάζεται συμπόνια και αλληλεγγύη για να γίνει ο κόσμος καλύτερος για όλους». Φράσεις που κλείνουν σοφία και εγχαρτέρηση από, και για τους πρόσφυγες...

Το «Ιδρυμα Μαριάννα Β. Βαρ-

της ΕΛΕΝΗΣ ΜΠΙΣΤΙΚΑ

δινογιάννη» διευρύνει τις δράσεις του Προγράμματός του «We Care», το οποίο δημιούργησε και έθεσε σε λειτουργία και εφαρμογή από τον Οκτώβριο του 2015. Με το προσφυγικό ζήτημα να παίρνει καθημερινά ολοένα μεγαλύτερες διαστάσεις, οι οργανισμοί και τα ιδρύματα ανάλογα εντείνουν και αυτά τις προσπάθειές τους για να κάνουν, όσο μπορούν,



Media coverage in major Greek newspaper.

Every jacket has a story

Although 25,600 children's jackets may not be a significant figure compared to the number of 4 million Syrian refugees, however, from the smiles of the children who received the jackets, their simple happiness and shining eyes, we know that this humanitarian support is creating positive changes in the world, through the effective partnership of NGO, corporate sector, government departments, and UN agencies. If we can, we would love to tell the stories behind each jacket, how it touched upon a child's young life. May the warmth and happiness brought by the jackets always stay in their hearts and help them remember the beauty and love of human nature.

