

A Huge Hello from the RefuAid team!

RefuAid
Hope. Resilience. Unity.

No matter how big or small your support, you are making a massive impact on the ground



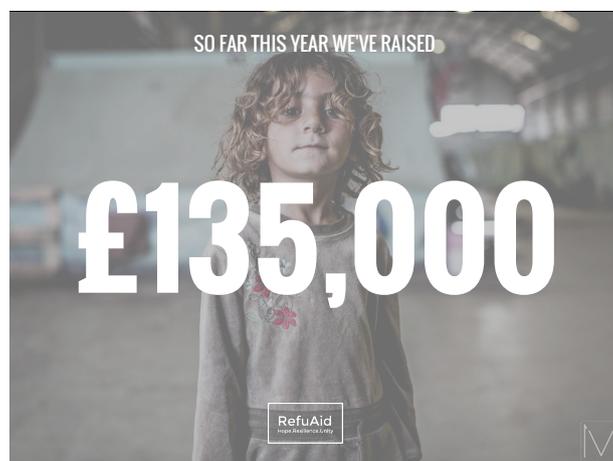
LANGUAGE WITHOUT BORDERS

What started out as informal language lessons, run each day under an olive tree, has snowballed into an amazing project fostering unity and providing internationally recognised qualifications to refugees and local communities alike.

Over a year ago Anna and Tamsyn met Georgia on the island of Leros, a lady who had lived locally for years and as refugees were arriving on the island stepped in to organise what she could to support those arriving. As the situation turned from an emergency situation to a more long-term one, Georgia self-organised and decided to use her skills as a retired English language teacher to give back to the community, both the existing local community and newly-arrived refugees. Georgia began teaching English under an olive tree in the hotspot on Samos, she noticed the incredible progress her students were making and was passionate about helping them to sit exams in English language to gain a tangible qualification. RefuAid are proud that we paid for the first 20 students to sit their English language exams - for which we'll receive the results next week! We are now working with Georgia to create a long-term language program on the island of Samos. For many of the class members, her class is the only reason they get out of bed in the morning. At such a difficult time language provides a beacon of hope and communication. **"Without an organisation like yours I would not be able to complete this project, which I believe is so important because it gives people hope"** - Georgia Papadopoulou

FUNDING UPDATE

So far this year we have raised £135,000. This supports **26 places on our language a Gateway scheme (£835 per person); thousands of life-saving prescriptions; a grant to the incredible GIVMED organisation; 20 exam places in Samos; 1 refugee access loan and initial loan administration costs; housing for refugees and local communities in Greece, medical equipment and resources for hospitals throughout Greece and much much more.** This year we are aiming to raise an incredible £1,000,000 to expand our projects and change the lives of thousands of refugees and host community members throughout the world. We can only do this with your help, visit www.refuaid.org/donate to donate today.



PREVIOUS EVENTS



Live Music Night 18/03/2016
Ruth Stross is an event's dream and is running another open mic night this month at Riverhouse Barn. Ruth has run a number of local community events over the last year and made amazing contributions towards RefuAid's projects.



We would like to send a big thank you to Harriet Hill, Alexandra Rocheteau Hasan and St Pauls Church who organised a sponsored family sleep-out. Harriet, Alexandra, friends and family raised over £1000 for RefuAid over the Christmas period.

Surbiton High School



Thanks to the girls at Curie House at Surbiton High School who made and sold bath bombs at school to raise money for RefuAid



CHANGE A LIFE WITH A LOAN

A huge THANK YOU to everyone who attended our Refugee Access Loan launch last week. RefuAid will be providing loans of up to £10,000 to internationally trained

refugees. The refugee access loan will enable refugees to re-qualify in their profession within the UK, contribute towards the growth of the British economy and participate fully within their community as they move from low-paid survival jobs to doing what they do best. **Special thanks to Big Society Capital for hosting the event! We are currently appealing for donations to support the loan scheme, find out more at: refuaid.org/loanscheme**

HOUSING APPEAL

In the last months we have become increasingly concerned about the lack of adequate housing for refugees and host communities in Greece. We have developed a two-pronged approach to housing that ensures refugees can be free from dependence and move toward self-reliance.



The project is a collective between ourselves at RefuAid and our sisters at Help Refugees. We will draw upon our shared experiences to create a project that caters to the short-term needs of those awaiting relocation and also the long-term needs of those staying indefinitely in Greece. In addition, the project will provide housing to a number of destitute Greeks. There are huge gaps in the current humanitarian response to the refugee crisis, and we're dedicated to seeking sustainable, forward thinking solutions that ensure the future of these generations are not lost. **We are appealing for support to ensure that we can get this project off the ground and start moving refugees from reliance to independence as soon as possible.**



RefuAid have made a small grant of £10,000 to GIVMED. GIVMED is the first network of its kind to utilise excess medicines and technology to benefit socially fragile groups throughout Greece and address this need. We are proud to announce our partnership with GIVMED and look forward to growing it in the future.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE LAST MONTH

Nader, Bayan and Karim all students on our Language: A Gateway program in the UK received certificates recognising their incredible progress towards achieving the IELTS qualification. Nader and Karim both moved up a level. Bayan was praised for his lightning fast integration.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO: Karen and Simon at Big Society Capital for the ongoing support. Guido's catering. Octopus Property for the incredible fundraiser. Morgan and Camilla for the amazing work. Melissa, Evi and Ursel for ongoing support. Tom and the team at The Engine Room for being great co-working partners and all the connections. English UK for the connections and help with the Language:A Gateway. Ruth Stross for the local events. Help Refugees for the ongoing partnership. And to our amazing anonymous donor for the £10,000 donation! And finally, Krystal, Hessa and Becky - without whom we simply wouldn't exist.