

**Board**

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## Activity Report 2008

### 1. General Meeting

Pharos' annual general meeting took place on May 30, 2008 in the facilities of the tennis school Stuttgart-Botnang. Detailed information on the event can be found in the meeting minutes.

### 2. Board of Directors

During the annual meeting the board of directors, elected in 2006, were discharged for the year 2007 and reelected for another two year period. In 2008 the Board congregated for several meetings. These were attended by Ingrid Halbritter - the volunteer project manager on the ground - as well as by other guests. Board decisions are documented in writing.

### 3. Revenue

Besides membership contributions of 400,00 EUR another 39.020,50 EUR were raised as private donations for humanitarian projects. Receipts in the area of education (project support) were at a total of 18.185,05 EUR.

### 4. Expenditure

10.913, 24 EUR were spent on supporting family M. in Sarajevo. 13.327,00 EUR were used to support various humanitarian projects in the remote town of Fakovici in the East of Bosnia-Herzegovina. Total costs for other humanitarian projects (e.g. in Sarajevo) were 7.250, 06 EUR.

Other small expenditures (postage, Internet provider, insurance) came to a total of 331, 71 EUR, which could be covered by membership contributions. As in previous years, all administrative tasks in 2008 were carried out as volunteer contributions.

### 5. Media and Public Relations

The Pharos Website ([www.pharos-online.org](http://www.pharos-online.org)) has been frequently updated and expanded. The website documents both areas of activity – humanitarian aid and education related projects.

The humanitarian aid component was covered in more detail with two letters from Bosnia written by Ingrid Halbritter.

Pharos' work was covered by the German Newspaper „Stuttgarter Wochenblatt“ on May 29 and December 12, 2008. Another article appeared in the „Filderzeitung“ on June 20.06.2008. These articles are available on the Pharos-Website.

On November 24, 2008 Pharos organized the third education and information evening in cooperation with the adult education centre Volkshochschule Leinfelden-Echterdingen and the protestant congregation Echterdingen. The event took place in the congregation's community centre in Echterdingen.

The evening's motto was: „First hand information: Bosnia between consequences of war and European Union“. Pharos Board member Dieter Fuchs, foreign affairs editor of the newspaper Stuttgarter Zeitung, gave a lecture on the relations between Southern European countries and the EU. One key question was: Is Europe's engagement in the Balkans a worthwhile investment?

Ingrid Halbritter reported on Pharos' humanitarian projects in Bosnia Herzegovina. The event had a good turnout of 80 participants. Ingrid Halbritter's presentation is available on the Pharos website.

## 6. Education Projects

The Pharos team of experts occasionally provides consulting services to other organizations. Honorariums received for these services merely cover related costs.

**6.1.** The Forum Ziviler Friedensdienst in Bonn tasked Pharos-expert Ragnar Müller with developing accompanying teaching materials for their documentary film „Time does not heal my wounds“ about war veterans in former Yugoslavia. Value of the assignment: 11.606, 19 EUR.

**6.2.** In the spring of 2008 Pharos became a partner in the EU sponsored network project around the NGO DARE. DARE is the acronym for „Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe“. Pharos is taking a lead role in the working group on „Research & Action“. Ragnar Müller participated in several working meetings (in Tallinn, York, Brussels, and Vienna). He also authored the paper „Teaching Politics in a Globalized World“, which formed the basis for a working group during the DARE conference in Vienna in November 2008. (For details, please consult the network's website [www.dare-network.eu](http://www.dare-network.eu). The site is administered by Pharos.) In June 2007 Ingrid Halbritter had been elected as DARE's Vice Chairperson. At the Board meeting on November 15, 2008 she was elected as the new Chairperson.

## 7. Humanitarian Projects

**7.1. Family M.:** Since October 2005 Pharos has supported the vulnerable family M. in Sarajevo with a monthly amount of 250,00 EUR. The family still lives in a temporary shelter. However, when a local NGO managed to raise the interest of a socially conscious construction firm, Ingrid Halbritter facilitated a cooperation agreement with the company owner. It was agreed that Pharos would use special donations to purchase a building site for the family and that the construction firm would build a house for them at no cost.

In July 2008 a suitable building site in a suburb of Sarajevo was purchased.

Unfortunately obtaining the necessary building licenses took so long that construction could not be started before the onset of winter.

To furnish the new house preparations were made for an aid shipment from Germany. Furniture from two moving sales were selected, disassembled, and temporarily stored.

Offers from car rental agencies were obtained. In Sarajevo the Red Cross was won as a local partner able to request exemption from custom fees and willing to receive the furniture upon arrival.

It is expected that the shipment will take place in late spring 2009.

**7.2. Supporting a severely ill single mother:** 41-year old Zada C. has a five and a half year old son. She supports him and herself through begging. Both did not have any health insurance or obtained any other assistance as they did not have any legal documents and were unable to handle the required application processes.

From March to May 2008 Ingrid Halbritter took care of all necessary visits to different authorities. She was able to have the child registered and – following Ms. C's divorce - have the family's name changed back to Ms. C's maiden name.

Further, she successfully applied for social welfare payments, child benefits, and health insurance with payments starting in May 2008.

In addition, Ms. C. received material assistance in form of clothes, medication, and wood briquettes.

**7.3. Establishment of a school kitchen in Fakovici:** In March 2008 a school kitchen was set up in the Fakovici school in order to further school children's healthy development and unburden poor families.

Every school day, 21 Kinder receive a warm lunch that is being prepared by a permanently employed chef. 20% of the required groceries are being purchased from local producers.

**7.4. Individual sponsorships:** Sponsors were found for a 5-year old boy from Fakovici, a 5-year old girl from Sarajevo as well as for Zada C's son. Each sponsor pays 50. 00 Euro per month.

## Thank you!

The generous support of our donors and the work of many volunteers have allowed us to relieve distress and stimulate positive development.

Our cooperation with partner organizations has enabled us to carry out our education projects and – through them - contribute to furthering peace and democracy.

We would like to thank you for your continued trust.

Stuttgart, January 6, 2009

Hans Krämer / Dieter Fuchs / Ragnar Müller

## School kitchen in Fakovići

