

Board

Hans Krämer
Dieter Fuchs
Dr. Ragnar Müller

Administration

Greutterstr. 61a
D-70499 Stuttgart
Fon: 0711-8876232
Fax: 0711-8822246
info@pharos-online.org

Internet

www.pharos-online.org



Activity Report 2009

1. General Meeting

Pharos' annual general meeting took place on May 8, 2009 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 2008, was discharged for the year 2008. During 2009 the Board congregated for several meetings. Ingrid Halbritter, the volunteer project manager on the ground, as well as other guests attended these meetings. Board decisions are documented in writing.

3. Revenue

Besides membership contributions of 560.00 EUR another 39,672.81 EUR were raised as private donations for humanitarian projects. Receipts in the area of education (project support) were at a total of 11,500.00 EUR. Interest income was 188.03 EUR. In total, annual receipts amounted to **51,920.84 EUR**.

4. Expenditure

3,500.00 EUR were spent on supporting family M. in Sarajevo. 13,327.00 EUR were used to support the school kitchen in the remote town of Fakovici in the East of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Costs for other humanitarian projects were 9,299.97 EUR. Of this, 1,800.00 EUR were used to support three children from vulnerable families in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

1,497.09 EUR were spent on transporting family M's furniture to Sarajevo.

Approximately 5.000,00 EUR were used for the support of five vulnerable persons who were included in Pharos' individual support program. They were assisted in obtaining legal documents, access to social services and cover their basic needs such as food, clothing, medical supplies, and accommodation.

In collaboration with the Korntal authorities, community donations in the amount of 600.00 EUR were collected for a family who had been deported from Korntal to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Local costs for communication, transportation and postage added another 400.00 EUR, amounting to a total of **26,178.18 EUR** for humanitarian projects.

In the area of education receipts were 11,500.00 EUR, while expenditures were 5.052,40 EUR (personnel) and 6,049.50 EUR (honorariums). Administrative costs (postage, insurance etc.) came to a total of 615.80 EUR.

Total expenditures in 2009 were **37,895.88 EUR**.

Administrative costs were at 1.6%. As in previous years, all administrative tasks (book keeping, donation records, website etc.) were carried out as volunteer contributions.

5. Media and Public Relations

The Pharos Website (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 Esslinger Zeitung (21.08.2009). All media articles about Pharos are available on the Pharos-Website.

On November 23, 2009 Pharos organized the fourth education and information evening in cooperation with the adult education centre Volkshochschule Leinfelden-Echterdingen and the protestant congregation Echterdingen. Pharos Board member Dieter Fuchs, foreign affairs editor of the newspaper *Stuttgarter Zeitung*, gave a lecture on the topic of „Islam in Bosnia-Herzegovina: Threat or Opportunity? “ Members of the travel group that had visited Bosnia-Herzegovina in September 2009 reported upon their experiences. Ingrid Halbritter reported on Pharos' humanitarian projects in Bosnia Herzegovina. As in previous years, the event had a good turnout of approximately 60 participants.

6. Education Projects

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

In the spring of 2009 Pharos became a partner in the EU sponsored network project around the NGO DARE (= Democracy and Human Rights Education in Europe). Pharos administers the network's website and Blog. Ragnar Müller is part of the working group on Research & Action and, among other things, took part in a workshop on the EU in Copenhagen. In May 2009, Ingrid Halbritter was elected as Board member for the second time. In September 2009 she took part in a DARE board meeting in Vienna.

6.1. For the first time Pharos offered a study trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina. In August 2009 a group of 12 interested individuals traveled to Sarajevo.

During their 7-day trip they also visited the cities of Mostar und Srebrenica. They spent one day in Fakovici to visit the local Pharos projects. A trip report is available on the Pharos website.

6.2. *Regional coordination of the project EU simulation game in South Eastern Europe:* From 01.08.2008 to 31.05.2009 Ingrid Halbritter led a project „EU simulation game in South Eastern Europe“ that was funded by the Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen (www.ifa.de).

After the project ended Pharos was able to take over the coordination of the seven teams of game leaders in South Eastern Europe.

The main task of the regional coordination is to support the game leaders through trainings and other suitable measures and to apply for funds starting in 2010.

6.3. *Supervision of volunteers in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Serbia:* Since 2009 the German NGO EIRENE International has sent volunteers to Bosnia.

The volunteer sending initiative is implemented by the program *weltwärts* that is funded by the German Ministry for Economic Cooperation (Bundesministerium für wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit/BMZ).

Through the local youth organization KULT (www.kultbih.org) Pharos has been tasked with supervising the volunteers.

The value of the assignment in 2009 was 400.00 EUR. The supervision started in August 2009 and is envisaged to continue for three years.

6.4. Facilitating a reflection workshop in Sarajevo on behalf of Kulturkontakt Austria: On November 04 and 05, 2009 the Austrian NGO Kulturkontakt organized a workshop for participants from ten vocational schools in Bosnia-Herzegovina on the first phase of a development project funded by the Austrian government that supports education and training in the area of tourism. Ingrid Halbritter developed and facilitated the workshop. Value of the assignment: 1,375.00 EUR.

6.5. Organizing a workshop on establishing quality assurance in volunteering. From 15.-18.11.2009 the *Katholische Hochschule* in Cologne and the *Evangelische Forum Entwicklungspolitischer Freiwilligendienste* organized a workshop in Sarajevo. The workshop aimed at developing a system for quality assurance for volunteer organizations. Pharos, through Ingrid Halbritter, was tasked with organizing, facilitating, and debriefing the workshop. Value of the assignment: 1,600.00 EUR.

6.6. Training on applying the logical framework approach at the project level: On 30.11. and 01.12.09 Ingrid Halbritter facilitated a training for staff members of the *Institut für Auslandsbeziehungen* in Stuttgart. Value of the assignment: 850.00 EUR.

7. Humanitarian Projects

7.1. Living situation of 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. A local construction firm owner had promised to build a house for family M. at no cost for them, but withdrew his offer in May 2009 due to the global economical crisis.

Following this, a Pharos member decided to sponsor the construction of a prefabricated house. The house will remain his property and family M. will pay locally adequate monthly rent.

This rent will be covered by Pharos as long as the family remains in need. The house was constructed in August and September on the building site that Pharos had purchased in July 2008.

Since September 2009 the house is completed. However, at the end of 2009 electricity and water supply had not been connected so that the family had not yet been able to move in.

7.2. Aid shipment of furniture: On 14. and 15.10.09 three Pharos members transported the collected furniture items for family M. to Sarajevo. Pharos' partner, the local Red Cross, received the shipment. As humanitarian aid the furniture had been exempted from custom fees.

Purchasing used furniture in Bosnia would have been twice as expensive as shipping the goods from Germany given that costs for the truck rental were relatively low, the Pharos team worked on volunteer basis and also organized board and lodging privately.

7.3. Support for vulnerable families through individual sponsorships: Three school aged children from vulnerable families were supported throughout 2009 with 50 Euro per month each.

7.4. Supporting a single mother in sending her son to school: 6-year old Hazir C's. mother lives from welfare and begging. Pharos supported Hazir in enrolling in school, and assisted him with clothing and school books. Sponsorship money allowed financing two months of full day care for him including warm meals and homework supervision.

Unfortunately his mother was unable to ensure his regular school attendance. From November 2009 the assistance was therefore discontinued. School administration and social services are now looking into the case.

7.5. Assisting a family in legalizing their children and grandchildren: Pharos assisted a young Roma mother with 5 children and 3 grandchildren in registering the children, applying for child benefits, and initiating the divorce from her husband with whom she had not been in contact for 17 years.

Following the violent death of her 17-year old son in October 2009 and the separation from her current life partner Pharos also provided counseling and financial assistance to prevent the family's total collapse.

7.6. Repatriation of a Croat woman who had lived in BiH illegally: For several years 62-year old Verica G. lived in BiH illegally. Pharos assisted her in legally returning to her native Croatia and also helped her financially as the Croatian authorities remained passive.

From mid April to September Ms G. was without accommodation. As the local social services were unable to offer a solution Pharos purchased a second hand trailer to provide her with shelter as long as required.



Ingrid Halbritter with Kamal K. in Sarajevo

7.7. Support for a stateless elderly man in Sarajevo: As child of a refugee family from Croatia and through a number of unfortunate circumstances 65-year old Kamal K. has never obtained citizenship of any country. He therefore also does not have access to social services. The unemployed man lives from begging. Pharos is trying to help him obtain citizenship or at least legal status and also assists him with food, medication and clothing as needed.

7.8. Operating 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, 26 Kinder receive a warm lunch that is being prepared by a permanently employed chef. 30% of the required groceries are being purchased from local producersauft.

Full time project coordination

Since 01.06.2009 Ingrid Halbritter has again been hired as full time project coordinator for Pharos. Her salary has been fully financed through receipts in the area of education.

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 during 2009.

Stuttgart, January 8, 2010

Hans Krämer / Dieter Fuchs / Ragnar Müller