

# ANNUAL REPORT





## Imprint

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**LASERLINE**

# Dear Readers, dear friends, sponsors, and supporters of SyrienHilfe e.V.

**Y**ou are holding in your hands our first annual report to inform you about the development of our association and give you an overview of our projects in 2014.

In June 2012, when we took our first steps to support those directly affected by the conflict in Syria - usually internally displaced people, dispersed families, widows with children, who sought refuge in the alleged safe haven Damascus - with provisions, medical care, and accommodation, we did not anticipate what was in store for us and that at some point we would be writing an annual report. Basically, three things were available to us then: the possibility of providing direct humanitarian aid and emergency relief (through decades of visits to Syria we have a very

good local network at our disposal), the unconditional will to help, and the trust to find enough supporters for this endeavor.

Since then much has happened: The private initiative turned into a charitable association; the registration at the local district court on December 12, 2012, only four days ahead of our first charity concert, is still very fresh in our memories. In the process, we went through many small and big developmental steps. Sometimes we scaled the stairs slowly and we also fell down a few steps, however, often we took two steps at a time. Over time we were able to massively expand our initial aid and, particularly in 2012, were able to initiate several self-help projects, most of which by now are self-sufficient. We also managed to start two projects in Turkey and Lebanon.

We owe the ability to achieve this and much more to the same three things that have accompanied us since the beginning: our incredible assistants and collaborators, who accomplish the almost unbelievable and often enough put themselves in jeopardy to provide emergency relief to those in need; certainly also our unbroken will; but especially all our supporters and donors who make these projects, this assistance, possible in the first place. These people, who often encourage us, push us, support us with know-how and charity events, buoy us up and thereby are the fuel for the engine and the lubricant in the transmission of SyrienHilfe e.V.

For that we wholeheartedly thank you, along with all our assistants and those in need.

And we ask you to stay with us. Because we will carry on!

*Karsten Malige*

1. Chairman SyrienHilfe e.V.

# The necessities for survival life

ing, which is bought by us second-hand in Syria and repaired where necessary. In the case of childbirth, both the costs of birth, as well as the most important items necessary for an initial support of the babies (baby food, diapers), were paid for by us. In regards to medical costs, SyrienHilfe provided more than 60,000 € in 2014 to the families we support.

In 2014, a total of 250, and during Ramadan up to 300, families received monthly care packages. From February 2014 onwards even families in the difficult to access quarter of Muadaniya in the Damascus area were supplied with provisions. On the one hand, the care packages distributed contained staple foods such as rice, pasta, bulgur, sugar, tomato paste, cooking oil, and cheese. On the other hand, these packages were sometimes equipped with items such as tea or coffee, to give some pleasure to these families. Especially valuable, even in 2014, were the meat rations which, due to the high costs, could only be

One of the main tasks SyrienHilfe has given itself, is to provide the families and children we support with basic provisions. Apart from the rent for apartments, the families receive provisions, get reimbursed for medical bills, and receive clothing. It is the wish of SyrienHilfe, not only to render possible the survival of these people, but also to supply them with some quality of life. Therefore, our dedicated local assistants establish direct relations, inquire what the families need, and attempt to convey the feeling of being part of a community.

In 2014 we were able to find accommodation for up to 180 families and pay the monthly rent. These families are internally displaced, their previous homes have been destroyed, and they find new security through our assistance. The families received mattresses, blankets, cooking utensils, water, and where possible electricity from us. The children of these families received school supplies, including the school uniform which, even in today's war, is still mandatory. In addition, the families received cloth-



The stocked warehouse and a care package for one family. Our helpers bought, stored, and re-packaged what was needed



In December the families that have had electricity in their apartments received space heaters. This was often the only source of heat. Since there was also a shortage of fuel for food preparation some of the heaters were also used for "cooking" - sometimes the only possibility of eating a warm meal



## 4kg

of sugar constitute the largest part of the monthly care packages, apart from rice. While in Germany this would cause concern for the health of the children, in Syria sugar is currently the largest source of energy

## 83

space heaters were distributed to as many families

distributed to the families on special occasions - as in July and September 2014. Occasionally, soap, dish liquid, or laundry detergent were added to the packages.

All goods are being bought, stored, and repackaged within the country. When distributing the care packages our assistants take great care to maintain personal relations and provide the families with an additional allowance for everyday commodities.

Apart from the families we provide for, since July 2014 we care for about 140 children which have been (half-) orphaned by the war. Through cooperation with one of the orphanages in Damascus we equipped the children with, for example, clothes, as well as drawing and writing utensils. For the infants we provided diapers and baby food. When we started the project, 68 of these children were under 6 years, 39 between 7 and 10, and the remaining children mostly between 11 and 14 years old. In all this, we placed a special emphasis on financing and helping the children to continue their school and education. ■



# Fresh Food in Times of War - A Chicken Farm in Syria

200

chickens per week  
resulted in a rare addition  
to the menu of the Syrian  
families: meat

Thus, we were able to distribute ca. 250 animals per week in July 2014, and 200-250 eggs per day and around 200 chickens per week in August 2014.

Additionally, we are now able to provide our workers with a break room, and a distribution team is not only occupied with distributing and selling our products, but is also looking for opportunities to extend this project to other communities in the future. By the end of 2014 this project was the only permanent source of meat in the entire area!

Enclosure of the chicken farm with food grinder and collected eggs. The chickens and eggs are given away to those in need. Others pay as much as they can afford

250

eggs  
per day were laid in August  
2014. That is 250 little protein  
packages



# Sown, Raised, Harvested - Fresh Home-Grown Fruit and Vegetables

40<sub>k</sub>

planters were distributed among the Syrian families. Those who took good care of their plants were rewarded at the end of the year with several strawberry plants

In addition to the chicken farm, another agricultural project, a vegetable farm, was begun in March 2014 not far from Damascus. This project is of special significance as, due to the prolonged conflict many agricultural fields cannot be cultivated, entailing crop shortfalls and food shortages. Similar to the chicken farm, this project will not only give the people it reaches a possibility to provide themselves with important, vitamin-rich staples, but also create jobs. To achieve this, fertilizer-enriched topsoil was filled into styrofoam boxes and equipped with seeds or seedlings. From this fruit and vegetable plants, as well



Vitamins in times of war. Fruit and vegetables for sale are rare, but necessity begets ingenuity. SyrienHilfe provides help for self-help

as garden herbs, were raised. Between five and ten of these boxes were distributed in several batches. If our local assistants had the impression that the families were properly taking care of the plants, they received another delivery. At the end of 2014 all those who had managed to successfully care for their plants were rewarded with additional strawberry plants.

The boxes were either handed free of charge to families in need or sold for a small price, making the project at least partially self-sufficient. In this way we were able to distribute, in total, around 40,000 of these boxes. In addition, our local volunteers assisted the families with both advice and helping hands and, wherever necessary, instructed them in the handling of the plants, ensuring the success and sustainability of the project.

Apart from the products of this project constituting the only source of fresh fruit and vegetables for many families, other positive side effects occurred over time: The primarily young men not only feel physically and mentally challenged, but through their activity also contribute actively to the upkeep and provision of their families. Moreover, various problems, such as power outages, resource acquisition, or a lack of storage space are being solved as a team, contributing to creating a corporate feeling.

# An Orthopedics Workshop in Damascus Creates More Mobility

# 111

**people with special needs -**  
old, disabled, injured - were  
registered in December 2014 and  
clinical pictures were recorded;  
help was provided immediately  
afterwards according to urgency

**A**t the end of 2014 it was possible for us to launch another project which, we can already say, has made enormous progress in 2015 and successfully takes care of those that are at the very end of the supply chain: physically and mentally impaired, those who have been seriously injured through the conflict, and severely disabled children and adults.

In December 2014 we began to establish an orthopedics workshop near Damascus. In the future, not only orthopedic necessities - such as wheelchairs, walkers, and prostheses - will be manufactured there, but the supply and supervision of disabled and people afflicted by the war will be ensured. By doing this, we hope to give at least some of the approximately one million people, who are suffering from disabilities due to sickness or war, some of their mobility back.

Each individual piece is built by our volunteer staff exactly according to the necessities of the patients; in many cases many of the required parts have to be custom designed and manufactured by hand. SyrienHilfe provides for the rent of the workshop space as well as potential transport for those in need. In addition, we can count on the active support of the community, as well as local groups, turning the entire project into a group effort.

# 2340

**Euros for the establishment** of an  
orthopedics workshop. A small  
price to give people back their  
mobility. And only the beginning  
of a large endeavor



Homemade wheelchair. To satisfy the needs of the patients,  
many parts have to first be manufactured by hand

»EVERYTHING IS GRAY  
IN OUR HEARTS - AND  
STILL WE TRY TO PAINT  
A COLORFUL PICTURE  
IN THE MIDST OF THIS  
GRAYNESS.«

Oum U., Damaskus

e n s y o u n g D i m a s h q i

Page 10/11: Damascus - Barzeh: A young man pushes a swing during Eid al-Adha (10/05/2014)

Damascus - Yarmouk: Many families had to flee from their homes after heavy fighting in early 2014 (01/28/2014)



**»WHEN I SEE ALL THESE  
PEOPLE IN THE STREETS WHO  
DON'T HAVE A HOME  
ANYMORE AND LIVE A LIFE  
WITHOUT WALLS - I MUCH  
WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THEM ALL  
HOME WITH ME.«**

One of our family caregivers, who actually often does take families in as long as we don't have an apartment available...

Damascus - Yarmouk: This man survived, covered in the dust of the destroyed buildings (01/16/2014)



# »OUR CHILDREN HAVE LOST THEIR FUTURE.«

A mother in one of the families looked after by us



»FASTING?  
NO PROBLEM -  
WE EAT ONLY  
ONCE A DAY  
YEAR-ROUND  
ANYWAYS.«

A boy during Ramadan

L e n s   Y o u n g   D i m a s   h   q

# Syrian Refugee Women in Beirut

In September 2014 a workshop to enhance the self-confidence of the women was held with more than 30 participants within the cooking and sewing project. The workshop focused on the development and training of individual skills and the promotion of hope and optimism. This, and other workshops, were conducted by experienced coaches, who themselves are refugees from Syria. The strength the women gather from these courses are especially important to build their self-confidence. These women are often single parents - while being refugees in a country that is not their home. The courses provided for by SyrienHilfe help the women to

**T**hey sew and cook for themselves, their families, and for the future of their children.

Since March 2014 we support the organization and operation of a facility for Syrian refugee women in Beirut. In 2014, about 20 women learned to tailor and produce clothing. Cooking classes were given in the kitchen of the same facility and food was prepared. The products of both projects were sold, on the one hand generating additional jobs, on the other hand making the project more and more self-sufficient.

With this facility we give the refugee women the possibility to prepare for and pursue a job, to earn money by doing so, and to support their own families. In some instances this also means that the children of these families do not have to work and can attend school instead.

# 20

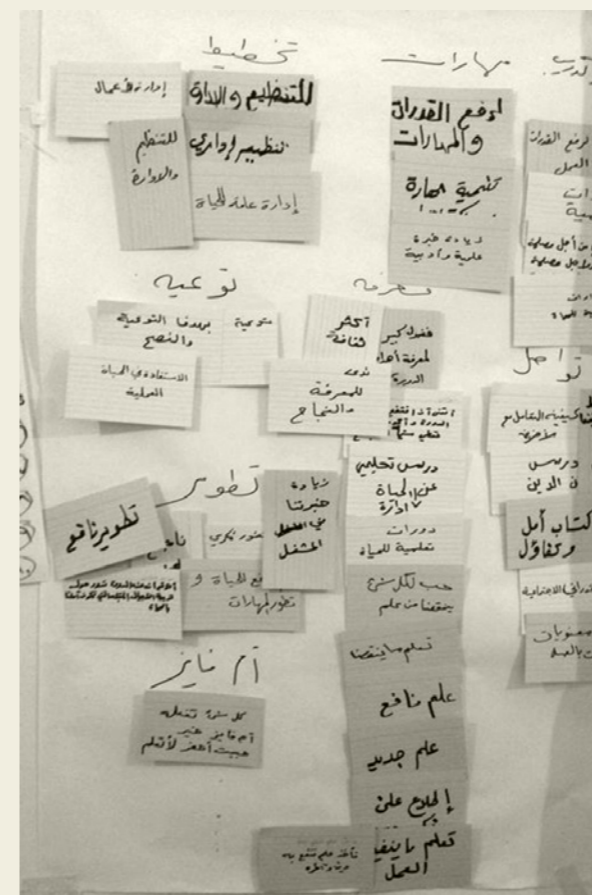
**women** in the cooking and sewing project. That is 20 women who can support their families through an independent activity and gain additional self-confidence

tackle the tasks in the everyday life of a refugee in a foreign country and help them to develop new courage to face life which they can pass on to their children. After attending a workshop one women jokingly said: "Now I have so much strength, I can work for months on end." Even older women, who at first were embarrassed by the workshop, asked afterwards: "When does the next one start?"

In addition to these confidence-building workshops, seminars to further train these women were offered from November 2014 onwards. Furthermore, a course was offered for women that were unable to either read or write. For those women who could not get a place in one of these courses, a knitting course was created, enabling the women to establish contacts and pursue a meaningful activity.

# 30

**participants** strengthening self-confidence. And that was only the beginning. Additional courses and workshops have followed and will follow



Cooking, sewing, and strengthening of self-confidence. Therapy and the possibility to integrate. A good way to provide help for self-help

# Assistance for Syrian Refugees in Turkey



"Not just surviving, but also living," is also the motto of our aid in Bursa. Therefore, not only apartments and articles of daily life were paid for, but also a school education was made possible for the children. In addition, Clowns Without Borders created some smiling faces

# 34079

**Euros for apartments,**  
furnishings, school supplies, tuition  
fees and articles of daily life for 11  
families. That equals a piece of living  
quality for 65 people



volunteers attempted to support the Syrian refugees in their job search, so that the families can compensate themselves for the loss of income created by their children attending school.

Other than everyday commodities we provided for the families and the medical bills we covered, winter clothes and clothes for babies and children were sent to Turkey in winter 2014. Moreover, five used washing machines were bought for the families.

Apart from these contributions to daily life we were also able to give some joy, by cooperating with the organization Clowns Without Borders e.V.: In early October 2014 the clowns Miriam Brenner, Stefan Schiegl, and Heiko Mielke gave 15 shows for Syrian refugee children in Istanbul and Bursa, and afterwards in the Reyhanli region. The staff of SyrienHilfe had the pleasure to organize the shows of the clowns and accompany them on their shows in Istanbul and Bursa. We would like to thank the clowns for amusing the Syrian children and adults in Turkey!

\* As of Fall 2014, UNHCR and others.  
The numbers of refugees is much higher today.



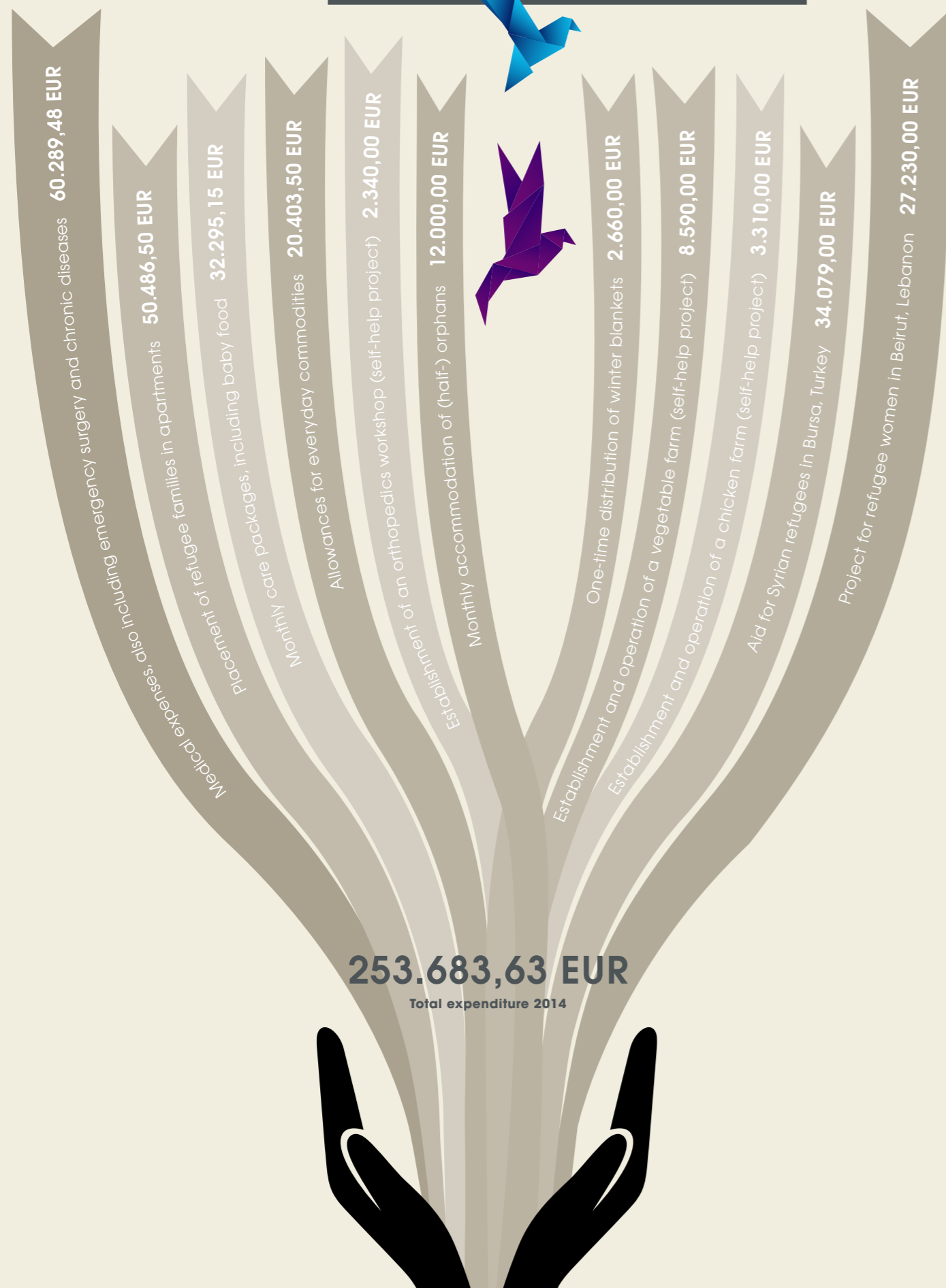
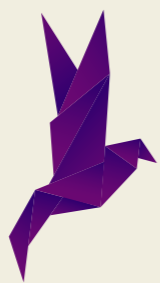
accessible, so that we can be present ourselves and work with the cooperating organizations and volunteers.

In the context of the Turkey-Project in 2014, we not only supported 11 families through rental payments, but also provided them with home furnishings and kitchen utensils. In total, the families consisted of 43 adults (parents and grandparents) and adolescents over the age of 14, and 22 children below 14, which come from the area around Aleppo and Kobane (as of November 2014). In 2014 only four children attended school, because the others had to provide for the sustenance of their families. One of our most important goals, therefore, was to facilitate a school education for these children. To achieve this, we not only had to compensate for the loss of income for the family, but also pay their tuition fees. Since the public schools are overcrowded, some of these children had to be placed in private schools. In addition, our local

Of the 7.6 million\* Syrian refugees, of which the largest part has remained in Syria as internally displaced, Turkey has so far received the most, around 850,000\* according to official statements, although the number of unrecorded cases is probably even higher. A small portion of the refugees lives in camps, but the majority are distributed among the villages and cities along the border or within the hinterland. Although Turkey provides excellent aid for the Syrian refugees, due to their large numbers, the demand for outside support is enormous.

Considering the situation in Turkey, in February 2014 SyrienHilfe decided to start a project for Syrian refugees in Turkey. In the beginning, the idea was to establish a "safe house" in Istanbul - including apartments, workshops, private spaces, and therapy rooms. Due to the various problems of realizing this project, we then decided to rent individual apartments for families, and were thus able to continuously support 11 families in 2014. The city Bursa provides the advantage of lower rental costs compared to Istanbul, while being easily

# Humanitarian Help for Syria



# 1729576

Number of rice grains in a  
care package = 4kg rice

# 90

cent

daily costs to supply  
a family in Syria with  
staple foods



# 60

births including after care,  
baby formula and diapers,  
additional care for  
7 premature infants

# 8640

hours project development

# 432

medical treatments

# 4<sub>k</sub>

hours called,  
chatted, reported,  
encouraged

## WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK

### FOR PERMANENT SUPPORT IN 2014

#### (IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER):

betterplace.org (partner, support by providing donation platform), Brands of SOUL (partner, support with social engagement), PAYBACK (partner, support by providing donation platform) and Studiosus Foundation e.V. (partner, monthly financial support)

### FOR THE ORGANIZATION, TAKING PART AND PROVIDING LOCATIONS FOR INDIVIDUAL EVENTS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL AND

#### ALPHABETIC ORDER):

„Petite messe solennelle“ – benefit concert in Malsch on 2nd February 2014: Hassler Chor Malsch

Benefit lecture „Trauerfall Syrien“ in Basel on 1st April 2014: Prof. Dr. Mirko Novák (lecture)

„Willi will helfen“, visit of our project in Turkey in May 2014: Willi Weitzel

„Frisuren für Syrien“, benefit event on 12th July 2014: Friseursalon Löwenthal

Benefit lecture „Qatna: Syriens große Zivilisationen“ in Stuttgart on 16th July 2014: Landesmuseum Stuttgart (location), Prof. Dr. Peter Pfälzner (lecture)

„Hoffest für Syrien“ in Muggensturm on 20th September 2014: Julia and Manfred Schick

Benefit lecture „Syrien - Uralties Kulturland in Gefahr“ in Munich on 17th October 2014: Institute for Near Eastern Archaeology, Ludwigs-Maximilians-Universität München (organisation and location), Prof. Dr. Adelheid Otto (lecture), Prof. Klaus Schilde and Gertrud Schilde (musical entertainment)

Benefit concert in Stuttgart on 23rd October 2014: Diakonie-Klinikum Stuttgart (location), Karin und Wolfgang Keul (organisation), Stuttgarter Märchenkreis (story telling), Vocaladies (concert)

Shows for Syrian refugees in Bursa and Istanbul in October 2014: Clowns ohne Grenzen e.V.

Chamber music benefit concert in Baden-Baden on 21st December 2014: Kulturhaus LA8 (location), Rheinfall-Ensemble (concert)

And those, who made all the presented projects possible by supporting us with big and small, one time and continuous donations. Those, who helped us to become visible. Those, who invited us to lectures and listened to us. Those, who share the suffering of the Syrian civil society. You:

**MANY HEARTFELT THANKS!**



**SYRIENHILFE**  
Humanitarian Help for Syria



[www.syrienhilfe.org](http://www.syrienhilfe.org)

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