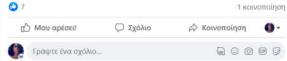


i58 Refugee Relief 28 Δεκεμβρίου 2021 · 😵

End-of-Year Gifting - https://mailchi.mp/i58greece/the-gift-that-doubles-5237262





i58 Ο χρήστης i58 Refugee Relief είναι στην τοποθεσία Ελλάδα. 22 Δεκεμβρίου 2021 · 🚱

We are so thankful this week for the birth of a Child Who spent part of His life as a refugee and made it possible for even the most tragic situations to have hope... and for the willing volunteers who are spending Christmas serving and loving people who have been displaced from their families and homes this Christmas season. 🦖

Merry Christmas to you and yours from the i58 teams!

Photos:

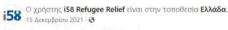
#1 - Lesvos team #2 - Samos team





https://i58greece.app.neoncrm.com/YearEndMatching





"Do you know what my dream is?" she asks.

"What?"

And this lady looked at me with a light in her eyes I had never seen.

This lady who had who I had seen in panic on her first day in camp. Who had told me her problems, her pains, over and over again.

This lady told me her dream.

"I want to go to Canada, Canada, it is the best." She says it like a fact. "I want to go fishing for those fish that jump out of the water... what are they?"

"Salmon?"

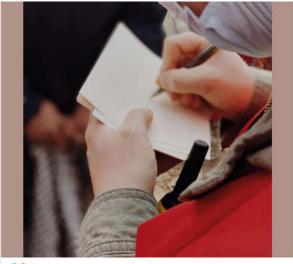
"Yes Salmon!"

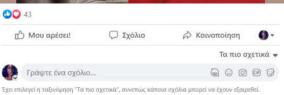
She pauses and I see her unsteady hope.

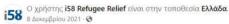
"Maybe I will see you there." She smiles.

"I hope you will go", I say.

-i58 Volunteer







DECEMBER SITUATIONAL UPDATE 🎺

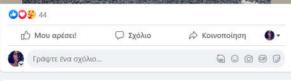
♠ Winter has arrived on the Greek islands. Strong winds and heavy rain significantly affect those living in tents, but the smaller numbers in the Lesvos and Samos camps make it possible for volunteers and organizations to support more individuals as they deal with weather changes.

On Lesvos, the Oasis remains open for small group meetings. This provides wonderful opportunities to interact with refugees on a more personal level.

 $\ \, \ \, \ \, \ \, \ \, \ \, \ \,$ Meanwhile, in Germany, the team is preparing for its first big transition as the initial team hands over their responsibilities to new volunteers who will be there for the next three months.

Join us in prayer for a peaceful Christmas season, and for relief from the cold weather for those refugees who will essentially be camping through this entire winter.





i58 Ο χρήστης i58 Refugee Relief ❤ συγκεντρώνει χρήματα από δωρεές — στην περιοχή Γερμανία. 30 Νοεμβρίου 2021 - ঔ

Today is known as GIVING TUESDAY, a day to lean into the spirit of thanksgiving and bless others.

Min at IEO would be honored if you would current our mission today by airling to

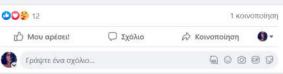
we at the would be nothing in you would support out mission today by giving to support the work with refugees in Greece and Germany. Even the smallest gift is a huge blessing to us!

Link in bio.





Δωρεά





Tomorrow is Thanksgiving Day, and we at i58 have so much to be thankful for this year.

VOLUNTEERS— We have had an abundance of individuals volunteering to serve this year, and that is something we do not take lightly. Their servant hearts and willingness has made an impact on us and many others.

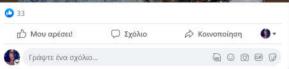
- ENGLISH CLASSES—We have been able to assist in teaching English to children in camp on Lesvos, something that was a just a dream not long ago. The children's energy and desire to learn has left a mark on us and we consider it a honor to work with them.
- NEW OPPORTUNITIES— We have begun work in new fields of opportunity this year, including mainland Greece, Germany, and Samos.

It is exciting to learn to know these new areas and dream about ways we could be of service to more people.

This list only scratches the surface of all we have been blessed to be a part of this year!

What are you thankful for?





i58 Ο χρήστης i58 Refugee Relief είναι στην τοποθεσία Γερμανία.

As of a month ago, i58 has a small team on the ground in Germany. We are so honored to have this opportunity and excited for the future. Read below for a small window into the work in Germany from one of the volunteers there.

"Occas bendahi

OUUUU DIUUUAIII

"Das ist gute, Schvestah!"

Full tables stretching the length of the room.

Bread and chai and chocolate.

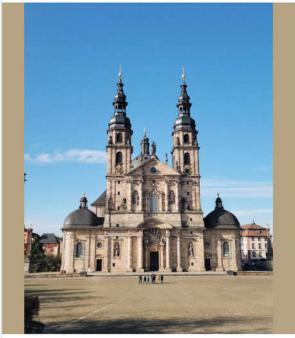
German and Farsi and English and Arabic and Russian. Endless quotes and coined phrases.

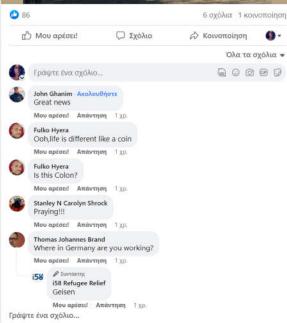
And an overload of laughter and prayer

This first month in Germany was characterized by all of the above. As the first i58 team on the ground, we've gotten the unique opportunity of walking into the great unknown with God on our team. While the basic human needs are being met here in Germany, we're finding a need for long-term community and integration. Under an existing organization, we are running a community center (similar to the Oasis on Lesvos), working to establish connections, and create community.

How is Germany different from Greece? It's the best parts of the camp on Lesvos the diversity, the languages, the people groups represented, the connections, the family, the chai, the food... minus the hard parts- the dirt, the smell, the time limits, the schedule.

What does this look like? For now, it means signing people up for German classes, setting up classrooms, shopping for supplies, steeping gallons of chai, giving haircuts, getting really familiar with Google Translate, listening to people's stories, and making new friends."





158 Ο χρήστης i58 Refugee Relief βρίσκεται στην τοποθεσία Lesvos. 10 Νοεμβρίου 2021 - 3

"Ah, a wall!" She sat in the Blue House on the floor reclining against the concrete wall. "I haven't leaned against a wall in three years!" She motions to her hunched shoulders proving her point that her homes over the last three years have been made of tarps with nothing solid to lean against. This woman, in her 50's, has experienced a lot and today, the comfort of a wall to lean against has made her feel

This short story is from the Blue House, a home on Lesvos for refugee women. Women are welcome to come, relax, drink tea, do beadwork and feel safe for a little

while

Many women come alone as refugees, often experiencing violation or assault as they travel. The Blue House is a small opportunity for us to welcome them and help them feel less alone— even if just for an afternoon at a time.





i58 Refugee Relief
3 Νοεμβρίου 2021 ·

NOVEMBER SITUATIONAL UPDATE:

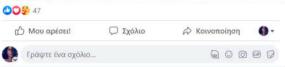
The nights are getting longer on the islands, as they are in many places all over the world. So far there has not been too many cold days, and the volunteers stay busy making sure everyone is settled in for the onset of winter.

Numbers have continued to decline in the camps. There are currently around 3000 people in camp on Lesvos, and several hundred on Samos. There have been a few new arrivals, but not many. With the smaller numbers have come some sweet personal connections between refugees and volunteers as they have been able to interact with the same new friends more often.

Continue to pray for the ongoing refugee crisis! Pray for the people that i58 volunteers are privileged to interact with, as well as others who are in desperate situations all over the world.







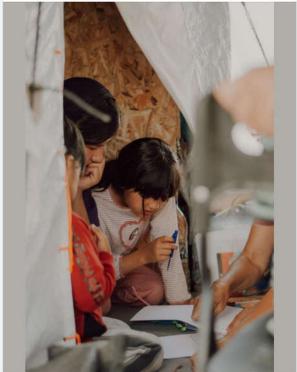
""Teacher, teacher!" Walking through camp I hear those sweet words on a daily basis. The children flock around, giving high fives and fist bumps. They eagerly reach out their hands in hopes that I'll grab them and play a clapping game. Their beautiful bright eyes look up at me with the greatest admiration and they capture my heart and love forever.

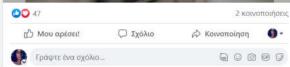
They will pout and try your patience in class, but the next minute they'll be doodling pictures on their whiteboards of you holding their hands, smiling.

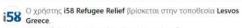
While I teach them English, they teach me so much more without knowing it.

While I teach them English, they teach me so much more without knowing it. They teach me important lessons simply by being children. These little people have only known me as their teacher for a little over a month, but yet their love and admiration knows no limits."

-i58 Volunteer







13 Οκτωβρίου 2021 - Περιφέρεια Βορείου Αιγαίου - 😚

Why do refugees come to Lesvos?

If you are not familiar with the refugee crisis, it can be difficult to follow all the nuances of why so many people are trying to find new homes.

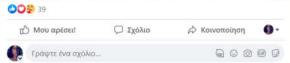
Refugees come to Greece from all over— Afghanistan, Somalia, Syria, Congo, Iraq, and many other places. They all have one thing in common: they are seeking a better life. Many of them are fleeing violence against women, political unrest, or persecution because of their ethnic group or religious belief.

Many refugees are simply trying to resettle and gain asylum in Europe— and the Greek islands are one of the main entry points into the West.

As Warsan Shire famously wrote, "No one leaves home unless home is the mouth of a shark." \bigcirc \bigcirc

Photo taken with permission.





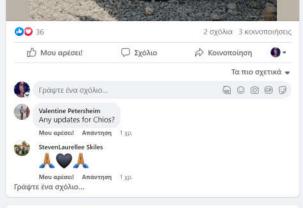


OCTOBER SITUATIONAL UPDATE:

On Lesvos, the team is trying to wrap up big projects before winter. The goal is to have every family in camp into a more permanent structure before the cold hits, so volunteers are busy with building projects and assisting with relocation.

The weather on the islands is definitely shifting— and while everyone is grateful for relief from the heat, there is also some apprehension for the cold, wet days that aren't far away.





i58 Ο χρήστης i58 Refugee Relief βρίσκεται στην τοποθεσία Lesvos Greece.

29 Σεπτεμβρίου 2021 - Περιφέρεια Βορείου Αιγαίου - 🔇

i58 Long Term Staff Introduction:

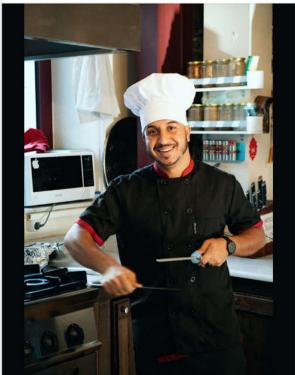
Meet Shafi, the i58 chef who has served many hungry volunteers for the past 3+ years. He came to Greece as a refugee in 2016 and since has chosen to stay in Greece and be a part of the i58 community. Shafi has provided stability over the years while most of the other long term staff rotated in and out due to visa restrictions.

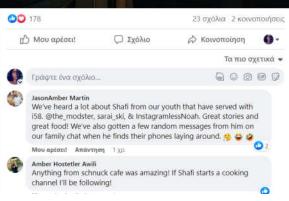
 $\underline{\mathscr{Z}}$ Contrary to popular opinion, his name is actually Shafi and has nothing to do with being a chef.

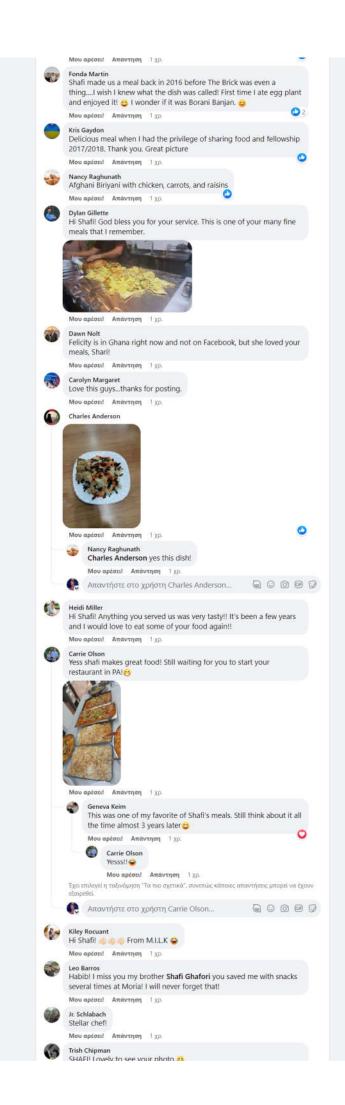
When Shafi began to cook for I58, his menu consisted of mainly Afghan foods like Kabuli Palau and Eggs Qurai. Since then, he has learned many new dishes including mashed potatoes and gravy. However, most volunteers say Afghan food is still the best food.

Shafi's skills aren't limited to the kitchen, he is also the resident barber and spends his Saturdays cutting hair.

i58 ALMUNI: say hi to Shafi in the comments! What was your favorite meal he ever









i58 Ο χρήστης i58 Refugee Relief βρίσκεται στην τοποθεσία Lesvos Greece.

22 Σεπτεμβρίου 2021 - Περιφέρεια Βορείου Αιγαίου - 🚱

If you are considering volunteering with i58, you probably have wondered about some basic things:

"WHERE WOULD I STAY?"

"WHAT WOULD I DO FOR MEALS?"

"WHAT IF I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO?"

#1 - All i58 volunteers live in the small seaside village of Panagiouda. We rent several apartments there on a long term basis, and they have served many volunteers well. Most of them have a bedroom, a bathroom, and a little kitchenette.

#2 - i58 provides volunteers with one meal a day, usually brunch or supper, depending on the shift schedule. For the rest of the meals, you will be responsible either to buy groceries and cook for yourself, or buy a meal for a few euros from one of the cafes in the village.

#3 - We have loyal, active admin that are on the ground in Lesvos. They are dedicated to taking care of volunteers, making sure everyone is accounted for, and checking in after hard days. You won't slip through the cracks there, and will have a team that watches out for you.

Do you still have questions? Feel free to email us using the CONTACT button in our bio. $\underline{\textbf{w}}$





i58 Ο χρήστης i58 Refugee Relief είναι στην τοποθεσία Ελλάδα. 15 Σεπτεμβρίου 2021 · 🚱

"Afghanistan... what first comes to your mind? Do you picture a hostile land of warlords and Taliban; men in dark clothes and women in burqas? More importantly, how do you respond to this mental image? Fear? Hostility? Avoidance?

The majority of people in camp right now are Afghan. They are a soft-hearted, hospitable, beautiful people. They smile, say hello, offer you food or tea.

Right now the situation in Afghanistan is far from good. As the Taliban moves from city to city, violence and death rises. Many of the people in camp have friends and family still in Afghanistan.

Pray for the peace of Afghanistan and for comfort in the hearts of the dear people we work with day by day.

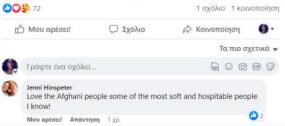
As I was visiting a family in camp the father said, "When you visit, you bring our hearts peace."

Pray for peace to reign."

—i58 Volunteer







i58 [⊙] χρήστης i58 Refugee Relief είναι στην πόλη Mitylene, Lesvos, Greece.

8 Σεπτεμβρίου 2021 - 🔇

Where are volunteers when they aren't working?

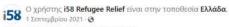
The Brick is an old building that we have converted to use for our many team events. We have team meetings there. We eat dinner there, have birthday parties, weekly worship nights, and hang out playing games and talking all the way until curfew.

The Brick has become a home for the countless volunteers that have worked with us, and we are so thankful for all the memories and prayers that have happened in between those walls.

If you have volunteered with us, what is your favorite memory from the Brick? ${\color{red} \odot}$ ${\color{blue} \clubsuit}$







SEPTEMBER 2021- SITUATIONAL UPDATE

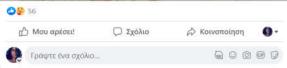
💥 We will be assisting EuroRelief this month with moving refugees from the Vathi camp on Samos to the new camp on Samos. This camp has much better housing, and we are excited to be a part of the transition.

∜Our dear friend Michaelis from the Olive Wood House passed away in August. He has given many tours to i58 volunteers and handcrafted many gifts that we have taken home to our families. Our prayers go out to his sweet widow as she adjusts to life without him.

☆ In camp, teams are building RHU's, little houses made by Ikea. Numbers have continued to drop, and the total is currently under 3,500. Many hearts are heavy as our friends think about their families in Afghanistan.

We are grateful for cooler breezes as we head into fall, and for your continued





i58 Ο χρήστης i58 Refugee Relief είναι στην πόλη Μυτιλήνη. 25 Αυγούστου 2021 - Θ

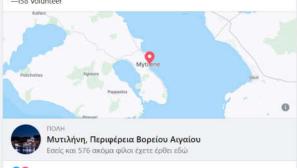
There have been two experiences during my time here that I think encapsulates

On the first occasion I was sitting in a stuffy tent visiting a family in a hard situation. The man, trying hard to make me understand, said "We come here and we are hungry for kindness. We are hungry for love for this people."

A few weeks later I was visiting a friend who is dealing with a difficult pregnancy. Her husband said, in his limited English, "Here we are hungry for 'I love you.' In Afghanistan, only killing and fighting. We come here and the people help us. They are kind to us."

The people here are hungry for "I love you." We say it by our kindness and our actions. We get to say it every day in a hundred little ways. We are privileged beyond measure to be able to bring Love to these people from its true Source."

-i58 Volunteer





158 Ο χρήστης i58 Refugee Relief είναι στην πόλη Mitylene, Lesvos, Greece.

18 Αυγούστου 2021 - 🚱

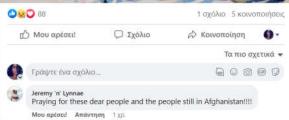
If you have seen or read any news reports since Monday of this week, you already know that the country of Afghanistan is under the control of the Taliban.

We interact daily with Afghan families who have already fled their homeland. They graciously invite us for tea, teach us Dari, and play volleyball with us.

Many of them still have close family members in Afghanistan. They are afraid for what the future will hold for them, and sad to think of the cities they know and love being changed or damaged.

We grieve with them for the losses and urge you to join us in praying for safety for the Afghan people and their beautiful country. \blacksquare ψ





i58 ^Ο χρήστης **i58 Refugee Relief** είναι στην πόλη **Μυτιλήνη.** 11 Αυγούστου 2021 · **Θ**

If you have considered making a financial contribution to i58, you may be wondering where exactly those funds will go.

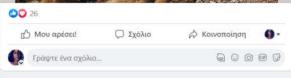
We use donated funds for the many on the ground operations such as the women's ministry, support for our local translators, and immediate needs that come up.

Some of our volunteers and and administration have been given financial assistance for traveling and living expenses.

Funds are also a great help in the operation of our community centers— we stock each center with assorted literature and also periodically serve snacks and tea that we buy from the local grocery.

We can't tell you how much your financial backing means to us and equips us to freely work with the crises we encounter. Thank you! May God bless you for sharing.





AUGUST 2021- SITUATIONAL UPDATE

As of last month, i58 is assisting with work in Samos, an island neighboring Lesvos. Along with our partner organizations, we are helping implement a camp transition—helping refugees move to a new and much nicer camp.

& The Oasis is finally open again! We are operating with a much more structured schedule due to continued restrictions, but are so grateful for every open door to a full schedule at our community center in Lesvos.

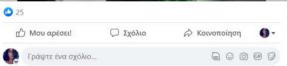
With the changing of months always comes the changing of teams. The July team has left for the states, and the August team just arrived. Pray for both of them as they transition.

Your continued prayers and financial support mean so much to us as we go into the hot late summer days on the islands.

Output

Description:







How did i58 become an organization?

In 2015, several of us were drawn to the Greek island of Lesvos to assist with the escalating numbers of refugees that were fleeing to Europe.

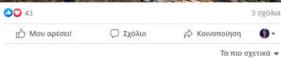
After a few months of serving refugees on Lesvos in practical ways, we organized as i58, based on the Biblical passage from Isaiah 58 "...to loose the bands of the wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and let the oppressed go free... to deal bread for the hungry..." (Isaiah 58:6-7)

i58 soon began recruiting volunteers and facilitating teams traveling to Greece to assist with the crisis relief. Since 2015, we have sent hundreds of volunteers to Lesvos (and now to the islands of Samos and Chios), opened two community centers, and began to establish a long-term team that is permanently on the ground in Greece.

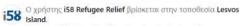
i58 is just a small part of the work with refugees in Greece. We have been privileged to learn from and partner with other non-profit organizations that are also attempting to ease the difficult situations we regularly encounter.

We are so grateful for this opportunity to help eleviate the suffering of people in crisis. \checkmark









21 Ιουλίου 2021 - Μυτιλήνη, Περιφέρεια Βορείου Αιγαίου - 🤡

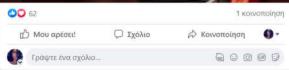
CONTINUED...

Last week we talked about some of the initial steps of the volunteering process. Today, we'll look at more of what it is like to BE a volunteer with i58.

- After you arrive on Lesvos, you will be picked up at the little Mytilini airport by some of the i58 leaders.
- One of the first events is an on the ground orientation where you will learn about where you live, where you should shop, what your work schedule will be like, and what is expected of you.
- Within a couple days of arriving, you will work your first shift in camp. (Generally
 an eight hour shift). Your duties may include distributing hygiene items (such as
 toilet paper), taking census, or working in the office helping the coordinators.
- Evenings consist of a team supper at the common building we call The Brick, games, laundry, good conversations, and weekly worship times.

Volunteering on Lesvos is truly a rich experience, and we would love to have you join us in the relief efforts there. If you are interested, click over to our website and click VOLUNTEER to start the process.







What is it like to volunteer with i58?

If you have been thinking of volunteering with us—THANK YOU! We can always use more feet on the ground and more enthusiasm for the work we do.

- #1 The first step to volunteering is filling out the application provided on our website. It is a fairly lengthy application and we ask that you provide several references. We have a real need for individuals who are truly interested and committed and not just looking for another adventure. 😞
- #2 After your application is considered and approved, you will be notified by email, added to our schedule, and placed on a team.
- #3 It's not a small thing to fly over the ocean to Europe, so we connect you with a travel agent that assists you in the process of booking flights and scheduling the trip.

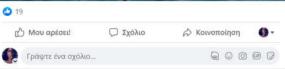
#4 Before you head to Greece, you will be required to attend a training with your team to help prepare for the work ahead. This training is held in Lancaster, PA within the three days before your scheduled departure:

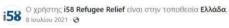
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to be continued

For more information, click the link in our bio.







WHO IS 158?

If you are new to this account you may be wondering who i58 is and what we are trying to accomplish in Greece.

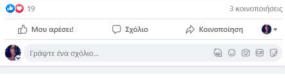
№ 158 is an organization that is working with the refugee crisis in Greece. We began in January 2016 as a response to the massive influx of immigrants fleeing violence in the Middle East.

Our vision is that the whole world would see the glory of God, and we are honored to be working to see that become reality among displaced people groups.

Qur work in Greece is currently focused on the Greek islands of Lesvos, Samos, and Chios. We recruit and organize volunteers to work both with immediate crisis relief such as allocating housing to new arrivals on the islands, as well as longer term work in community centers teaching various classes and studies.

-> For more information about our work and mission, tap the link in our bio.







..

Chios, Greece.

Side by side for the summer.

Our family of ten from Pennsylvania is living life shoulder to shoulder with families on the refugee journey.

Blue eyes, brown eyes. Twinkling, laughing, and arguing; the American big sister and the Syrian big sister join forces to solve a tiny war over a green scooter.

Blonde hair, black hair. Bouncing and blowing with each excited jump as the rope slaps the concrete of the Port where children gather to play.

Smooth hands, rough hands. The Iraqi nurse and the American carpenter clasp in a warm handshake after hours of discussing the questions every man has about life.

Brown hands, white hands. Every mama claps for the baby who takes its first wobbly, gleeful steps.

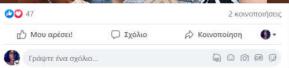
Each day is a unique blend of stories, friendships, changed plans, new foods, and learning.

A family summer in Chios is a rich summer.

—i58 Volunteer

 \longrightarrow IT your family is interested in spending three months serving among the refugees in Greece, click on the link in our bio and then click "Volunteer" to begin the process. \nearrow \bigcirc





i58 Ο χρήστης i58 Refugee Relief είναι στην τοποθεσία Pennsylvania. 23 Ιουνίου 2021 · 🚱

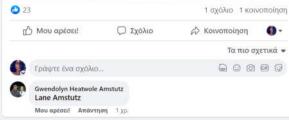
If you have ever served as an i58 volunteer, this post is for you:

The first i58 Remember event is planned for July 2-4, (only two weeks away!) at Roxbury Holiness Camp in Orrstown, PA. The weekend will be an opportunity to reconnect with fellow alumni and be updated on the continuing ministry in Greece.

The registration deadline is the end of this week, so make sure you get your spot reserved if you are planning to go.

Click the link in our bio to sign up. 🕎 🔾



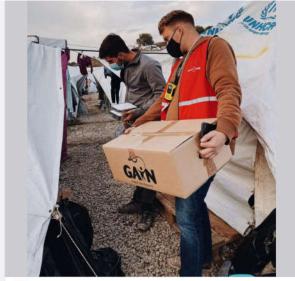


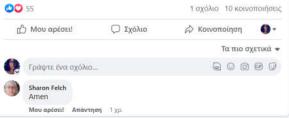


"There are jobs in camp that require direct focus. These jobs are important and needed. I focused on my job for a long time before I started to realize people don't just remember the work you did for them. They remember how you treat them and the love you showed them.

Take time to make friends and to show love to those around you. This is what they will remember."

—i58 volunteer





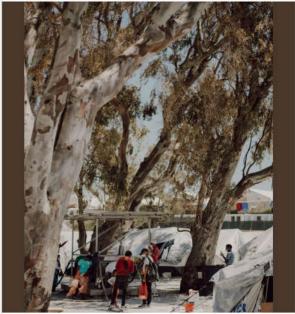


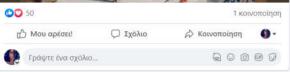
Update from Lesvos:

The June team is settled in and actively working in camp along with the other volunteers that were already here. With extra volunteers, extra things can happen!

There is constantly construction and housing allocation happening here in camp. The goal is always to find or build safer and better housing for those who are most vulnerable—women and children, individuals with severe psychological problems, the physically disabled. Last week we were able to help paint the doors of ISO boxes for some of the residents who have special needs. Cheery greens and yellows and reds make temporary housing feel more like home.

We constantly are made aware of what a gift it is to be here. 🧼 👑







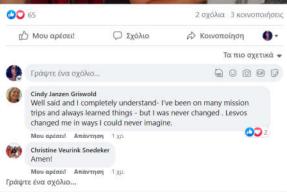
"Since I'm home from Greece, I am realizing how proximity affected me. Sharing meals, tears, conversations, laughter, and hugs with people from places across the world changed me. Now bombings in Afghanistan and the Palestinian-Israeli conflict

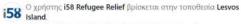
seem so much closer, and I feel grief because I know people who come from these countries. They are dear to me.

Now I am not saying that everyone needs to go to the Greece or the Middle East or Africa, but if you want to be changed, find ways to get in proximity with someone who is different from you."

-i58 Volunteer







26 Μαΐου 2021 - Μυτιλήνη, Περιφέρεια Βορείου Αιγαίου - 🚱

THE GALINI STORY

A few years ago, when i58 began, lodging was needed for volunteers. We asked a local apartment building owner if we could begin renting rooms long term.

This owner, unbeknownst to us, was struggling to make ends meet and keep his apartments booked.

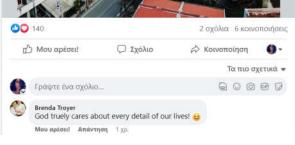
Also unbeknownst to us, a recent customer upon leaving his apartment rental, asked the owner if he could pray for him. The apartment building owner said yes and after they prayed this customer told him "The next person you rent an apartment to will bless your business and help you stay open."

The next person to inquire was someone looking for an apartment for i58 volunteers.

Now, five years later, i58 is still renting many rooms from this man. His apartments are only a few yards from the sea, and have been a huge blessing to us. He has blessed us and we have in turn been able to bless his business and help him stay open.

God truly is in the details. 🕁









""You come, see my bike!"

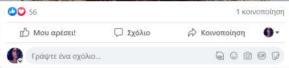
She grabbed my hand and led me outside the tent to their makeshift shower built from pallets and tarp. She proudly showed me her pink bike. It was to small for her size, but that didn't matter, she had wheels to get around the big refugee camp she lived in and that fact alone filled her with joy. I braided her hair as she told me about her family soon moving to Germany. "I know English and Greek and now I will learn German!" she said confidently.

This little girl of 8 years has seen more of the world then many of us. She says 'סייב', 'Κολημέρα!', and 'Good morning!' with confidence. Now she will learn to say 'guten Morgen!'

Little girl, you have lived a lifetime in 8 short years."

-Written by an i58 volunteer







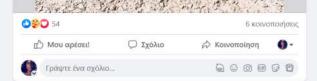
LESVOS UPDATE:

Spring has arrived in all its glory— but with it comes warm weather and the promise of another sweltering summer. For families who live in tents, the reality of months of high temperatures seems overwhelming and impossible.

There are currently around 6,000 residents trying to find some sort of normalcy in what we still refer to as the "New Camp" but is officially called Camp Mavrovouni.

There have been an increase in Covid cases in camp, and so the educational classes have been closed for two weeks. Pray for the health of the camp residents and volunteers.





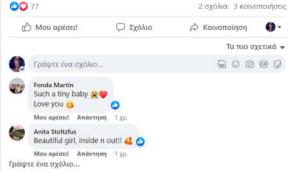


"My experience in this camp taught me a lot about appreciating people's individual stories. Stories from my fellow volunteers and stories from the refugees.

I experienced so much generosity from all parties, friendships, food, encouragement, and acts of selfless service. It challenges me to be more ready to give of myself."

-i58 Volunteer





i58 Refugee Relief 14 Aπριλίου 2021 ⋅ 🚱

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Everyone says you will not leave the same as you came, and until now, I didn't fully understand that. You see, one simply cannot walk into camp day after day and not be affected by it.

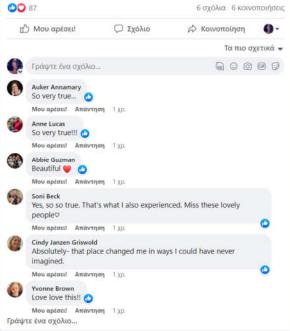
The open invitations to their tents. Hearing their stories. The smells. Their generosity even when it seems as if they have lost everything. Asking them if they could take just one more friend, when the living space is clearly already full. Welcoming the new arrivals. Working beside people who will run into fires to rescue the last one. Saying goodbye, knowing you may never meet again before eternity.

We come to serve them, but really, they are teaching us. Teaching us to be more hospitable, how to be content with what we have, and giving when there seems to be nothing left to give. They welcome us into their homes and let us play with their children. They tell us their stories with broken English. They teach us to be patient in the until the until the second content of the second content in the until the unit the until the unit th

Will we leave the same as we came? No. Would we want to? Absolutely not.

-i58 Volunteer







"Refugees in camp taught me a lot about hospitality. No matter how small the tent, and even if they only had tea to give, I was welcomed in cheerfully. They would pull out their softest blanket and command me to sit on it and serve me.

I have been blessed with so much. Am I willing to give until it hurts? Am I willing to go out of my way to make another feel loved? Would I open my home to a complete stranger?

As I return to America I never want to forget the hospitality the refugees showed to me and give cheerfully to anyone who asks."

-i58 volunteer







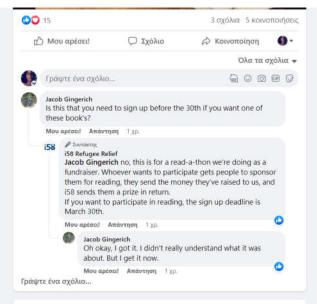
The last chance to join i58's 2021 Read-a-Thon is coming up in a few days–March 30th!

You will not only have fun reading for 31 days, but you'll also get fun prizes for your effort in raising funds to support the work of i58.

Make sure to check out the link below to get a packet emailed to you with more instructions and prize details!

https://www.cognitoforms.com/I5811/ReadathonPacketRequest







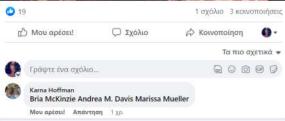
The 2021 Read-a-Thon is well on its way with over 35 participants, and it's not too late for you to join!

The fun thing? We know there's a child featured in the photo, but it's not just for children! If you are an adult who loves reading, you have the opportunity to do what you love while simultaneously supporting the work in Greece.

Check out the link below to get an information packet emailed to you with more details and prize information.

https://www.cognitoforms.com/I5811/ReadathonPacketReguest







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We have good news for you! Our 2021 Read-a-Thon is beginning on March 15th. There is no age limit, so both you and your children can enjoy participating in this. Get sponsors, enjoy the prizes, and support the work in Greece!

Click the link below to complete the form and receive your information packet!

https://www.cognitoforms.com/I5811/ReadathonPacketRequest







We warmed our hands over the pieces of charcoal. It was a frighteningly cold day, but for once I felt warm. Gathered around with this family, I felt like I belonged. Their father lived in Jordan, their three older siblings still in Syria. I was far from my family, and they from theirs.

And yet, we are here, our frozen fingers thawing as we wave our hands over the coals, our friend Google Translate bridging the gaps between Arabic and English.

I learn their brother was killed four years ago at the age of eighteen, I look around the circle.

"I'm sure that was hard."

It sounds insufficient, because it is. They bring a tray with candy and sunflower seeds and place it in front of me. Shift gets called and I let them know I need to leave soon. They whip out Google Translate and invite me to stay for dinner. I explain why I cannot.

The twenty-year old daughter and I tease each other about the difficulties of the other's language like old friends, and then I turn to leave.

She offers me the last cookie. I urge her to eat it. Suddenly they all agree I have to take the cookie, so I take the last cookie and leave the tent, warmed and fed... with a cookie in my pocket.

I'm supposed to be giving, but instead I'm warming my hands at their fires. I'm supposed to be serving, but instead I'm eating their food. Maybe I came to give, but I've honestly been given so much more than I could ever give back.

I walk home from camp with my pockets full of little kids' treasures. I'll never be able to repay them. I don't know what to say or do that could show these people how much I love them. And yet, they keep heaping my plate with more, keep handing me another treasure, keep hugging and keep loving.

-Written by an i58 Volunteer







It was the coldest day of the year. Okay maybe not, but it sure felt like it. I ducked out of the below freezing wind and into the classroom tent.

"Look! Look!" I was greeted by the sound of happy kids showing me their new found treasures. Hand warmers.

I'm from Georgia. I didn't even know what these things were until a friend introduced me to them last month. With a rip of the package and a simple shake, I had an external heat source.

They're like little hot potatoes to stick into your boots or your pockets. They're lovely on a cold day. But they're life-changing on these bitterly cold days in camp.

I'm still not sure where all of our students got them. Apparently there was a distribution somewhere in camp. I'm not sure which organization or how they did it, but wow!

I know sometimes we think little things don't matter.

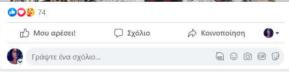
But after watching these kids deal with frozen feet, after wrapping any extra blankets we could find around their shoulders and never having enough to go around, after trying to find space away from the tent door so the wind wouldn't be quite so bad... it was such a gift to be able to see them actually get to have something warm.

Hand warmers aren't going to solve the refugee crisis. Hand warmers aren't going to keep people from getting hungry or even staying dry. Hand warmers aren't going to give kids an education or adults opportunity. But those hand warmers changed the kids day from being one of painfully numb fingers, to warmth and fascination with a new gift.

It might not change the world, but little things still matter.

- Written by an i58 volunteer





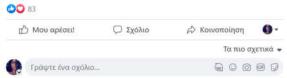
He knew I needed this. I came here burned out and struggling with little purpose and love for others.

God used my time here to restore me, to fill me with renewed vision, and to rest in His goodness. I want to take what I learned about God home with me and live with the same purpose at home.

When things were way out of our control, God showed His power and grace in bringing peace to all the chaos.

- i58 Volunteer







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Today I glanced around the tent in between classes. On one side, an Afghan and a Dutch are writing the Farsi alphabet together. On the other side, an American and a Somalian are exchanging Chinese and Arabic phrases on the whiteboard. My German friend brings her ukulele over and starts trying out an Afghani song. My friend from Iran yells "I love you" in Japanese as she leaves.

The half hour in between classes are some of my absolute favorites of the day. Some of you will probably accuse me of loving my coffee and chocolate croissants a little too much. That may be true, but honestly what I love most about the half hour between each class isn't the overload of cookies. It's the half hour spent teasing each other, and practicing random words in multiple languages. It's the swirl of Farsi and English and German and Dutch and Chinese and Arabic and Somalian phrases being exchanged.

I never wanted to be a teacher. But getting to be a part of the Activity team has landed me in really close encounters with people and it's been beautiful. Who else but the activity team gets to spend a set time every day, laughing, eating, and joking with people of all cultures?

It's a jumble of languages and cultures that are no longer strange objects of fascination, but real living people.

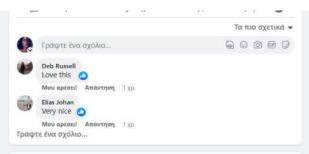
And more than that, they're my friends.

- Written by an i58 volunteer describing class time in the camp on Lesvos



69 2 σχόλια 3 κοινοποιήσεις

π⁶) Μου αρέσει! Ο Σχόλιο & Κοινοποίηση •





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Wondering what is happening at the camp on Lesvos? Here's a bit of an update...

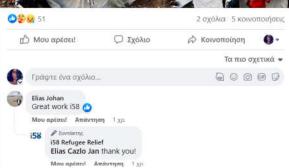
As the temperature on the island drops, snow has been added to the cold rainy weather mix in the last few weeks.

Since the beginning of rainy season, volunteers have been working on leveling the camp and moving people out of low-lying areas to avoid the major flooding that caused so many issues last fall. This project will likely continue to need work and maintenance.

Refugees continue to arrive in Greece. After being quarantined for 2+ weeks, they are brought to the camp where we work with EuroRelief to find housing for them.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and support!





i58 Refugee Relief 27 Ιανουαρίου 2021 - 🗞

"Hello! Salaam! Hello!" We greeted the young woman sitting at the fire. Hannah, Celine, and I had been sent to record how far along the pregnant women were in camp.

So far it had been fairly amusing; lots of stomach patting and finding interesting ways to bridge the communication barriers- not only the ones with the expectant mothers but also when a Swiss girl, a Dutch girl, and an American all try to work together.

"Are you pregnant?" Celine asked. The young woman shook her head as we both rubbed and patted our respective stomachs. She shook her head.

"Baby, no." She made a motion with her hands, and her eyes looked sad.

"Do you have Doctor paper?" we asked next. She went back into her tent and returned with a package. Together we knelt on the rocks and mud as she pieced together the water-damaged document. We finally spotted the word we'd been looking for.

Miscarriage.

"I'm sorry. I'm so sorry."

She nodded as we helped her pick up the pieces and place them back in the package.

I feel like I'm holding the fragments of her life, so fragile and so tinged with heartbreak. Her eyes sparkled from the tears she was holding back. We had the information we needed now. Nothing to do but say "I'm sorry. I'm so sorry," and walk away.

Apologizing for the heartache.

Apologizing for bringing up heartache again.

And the song keeps going through my head...

I just know He is close to the broken-hearted."

"I wish I could take away the pain And pick up the shattered pieces I wish I could say it'll be okay

But I don't have all the answers

In all of the problems and heartache and heartbreak, He is close to the broken-

hearted. And in times like these, this is our only hone.



-i58 Volunteer







"EuroRelief your job?" He asked me as he trailed along behind us.

"Yes yes!" I replied. "What's your job?"

He shrugged.
"You play football?" I urged.
Suddenly his face split into a grin.

"Yes yes!"
"Ah! That's a good job!" I grinned back at him.

"You play?" he asks.

"When I was little, I played."

I think back to ten years ago, how my only dream was to play for the US women's team in the World Cup.

Instead I'm trailing after a group handing out school packages one tent at a time. My friend is beside us now, taking the heavy bags from our hands and knocking on the tent doors. We grin at each other every time he does this.

If you've ever knocked on a tent door like it was a real one you'd understand.

"What's your name?" He asks.

"My name is Skye." We both point up and laugh. "Your name very beautiful." "Where you from?" he wants to know next.

"I'm from America. Where are you from?"

"Afghanistan,"

His smile deepens showing the dimples in his cheeks.

-i58 Volunteer





I sit in my warm cozy apartment as the rain beats against the window. My roommate plays the ukulele softly...

"Every breath you breathe

Is a gift from the King."

I watch the drops outside of my window and think of the expectant mother living in a leaky tent a mile from here. Just yesterday I sat in her tent and ate oranges, as her husband shared their story.

"My home is Syria. The moment the government steps out of country, we will go back home."

His wife watched in silence, her beautiful brown eyes sparkling, her belly rounded from the child growing inside.

"How much do you think it costs to get here? How much money do you think I have?" He gestured wildly as we nodded. "We don't need money. We don't want your money. We want home."

My vans are covered with mud, with gravel stuck to the lovely waffle pattern on my soles. I slipped them off at the tent door, happy to be relieved of an extra pound strapped to my feet.

"Come in! Come in!"

We knelt to enter and sat down on the floor. This is my third tent I've been able to enter since arriving a week and a half ago, and it still feels somehow sacred.

I know getting invited into a tent isn't rare. But it's still beautiful. And to me, I feel as if I'm being invited into a sanctum, an inside perspective if I'll only take the time to stop. We rapidly deciphered from the jumble of papers spread on the floor that this young mother was past her due date.

"My son not want to come into camp," the father joked.

We laughed. We joked. We learned names. We learned ages. We learned stories.

After a half hour spent eating oranges and laughing and nodding soberly, we got up to leave. As we tie our muddy shoes back on, he welcomes us to come back.

"This tent is your tent.

This family, your family.

You are welcome here anytime."

Statistics become faces.

Faces become people.

People become friends.

And friends become family.

It's terrifying and wonderful to watch it happen.

Two weeks in and I'm afraid my heart won't survive intact.

-i58 Volunteer







There are around 300 students (ages 6-12) that come twice a week for one-hour classes. There are six classes per day split into two age groups. There are also a few classes available to 13-17 year olds.

The classes are very popular, and we have to say "no" to so many children because the classes are too full. It is a privilege to provide at least a few children with something they enjoy and look forward too.

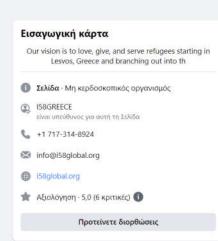
Working in the English classes allows you to develop relationships with many children and show them that you care about them. At this time, we are in a transition between teachers. Currently, two i58 volunteers are leading the classes until the new teachers arrive.

Recently, the rubb hall used for classes was needed for housing and there was no place to hold the classes. About 15 minutes before a class was supposed to start, a place was found. God definitely cares about the little things! Classes are currently being held in two Red Cross tents.

At the end of the day, I am tired. These children take so much energy. But to be able to be here for such a time as this and show them God's love makes it worth it and makes me so thankful that I get to be apart of the work in camp.

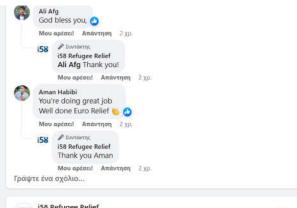
- i58 Volunteer







Πληροφορίες για τα στατιστικά στοιχεία Σελίδων · Απόρρητο · Όροι χρήσης · Διαφημίσεις · Επιλογές διαφήμισης \triangleright · Cookies · Περισσότερα Meta \otimes 2023





If you would like to donate, make sure you do it now while your donation gets doubled by a matching donor.

Here's the donation link:

https://i58greece.z2systems.com/End-of-Year

Don't forget to share this post. Thank you for your generosity!

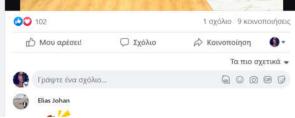




As the end of the year approaches, we have exciting news for those of you who are looking for opportunities to bless others.

There are several generous donors who are matching any donations i58 receives till the end of the year, up to \$15,000. That means, if you take advantage of this opportunity, you have until midnight of December 31st to give a gift that doubles!... Δ είτε περισσότερα





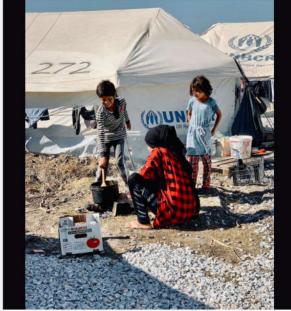


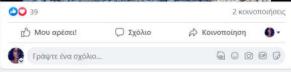


i58 Refugee Relief 25 Δεκεμβρίου 2020 · ❖

As you enjoy the holiday season with all its festivities this year, remember those who have fled violence or economic turmoil and are now waiting to attain their goal of a better life.

They need your prayers. They need your support. They need your love.







- 1

In January of 2020, Cari Nolt spent a month on the island of Lesvos, Greece, and, in her words, "found it to be a hard, beautiful place that [she] couldn't forget."

In 2021, Cari plans to return for a year (if things work out with a long-term visa) to work with the vulnerable women in the refugee camp on Lesvos.

Thank you for your interest and prayers. To support Cari financially, use the link below.... Δείτε περισσότερα

