



ANNUAL REPORT 2021





LESS THAN 15%
OF CHILDREN
IN GREEK REFUGEE CAMPS
HAVE ACCESS TO EDUCATION.

THIS NUMBER
FALLS AS LOW AS 0.3%
IN SOME CAMPS.

THAT'S 7 CHILDREN
IN EVERY 2,900
ATTENDING SCHOOL...

SAVE THE CHILDREN, 2021



WHO ARE WE?

Happy Caravan is a non-profit organisation supporting the education of refugee children in Greece.

We provide non-formal education and psychosocial support to children fleeing conflict and war in their home countries.

Our team have turned a derelict building and storage containers into classrooms within Greek refugee camps, where we teach Maths, Art, Computer Skills, and English as a common language.

Our classroom doors are open every day of the week, 51 weeks of the year, to any child under the age of 18. We welcome students of many nationalities; including Syria, Iraq, Iran, Kurdistan, Palestine, Kuwait and Afghanistan.

Whilst education is fundamental to what we provide, we prioritise creating a calm and consistent environment for our students to come to every day. A place to learn, but also to feel safe, seen and secure.

Education and Creativity for Refugee Children

Our hope is to prepare students for the transition into European schools.

Many of our students have never set foot in a "real" classroom before, so the experience can be overwhelming with many firsts; From learning how to hold a pen for the first time, through to sitting at a desk and chair, turning a laptop on, or taking registration.

We were founded in 2017 and are soon celebrating 5 proud years of providing education and creativity to refugee children in Greece.

Mission

Happy Caravan is committed to providing a safe and stable environment for refugee children to develop social and academic skills in a crisis environment. We provide structure in a state of uncertainty and encourage positive behaviour through leading by positive example.

Vision

We see ourselves as an “educational ambulance”, offering immediate and informal education to those who need it. Ultimately, our aim is for every student in our classroom to feel safe, seen and heard.

Values

We empower our children through teaching new skills and imparting knowledge and values. We also encourage collaboration and community empowerment in a diverse and challenging environment.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD

Structure and stability are two of the most important factors to both our students and our organisation. During 2021 we worked hard on improving these areas of the organisation.

Historically, we have operated with a rotation of many short-term volunteers. However, in 2021 we tried a new approach and introduced a full-time team of permanent staff to the organisation; including a Social Worker, Psychologist and Operations Manager.

This full-time team are working every weekday with our students and their specialist skillset have brought incredible value to the organisation - not only in terms of structure and stability for the children, but also in their approach and experience of working with vulnerable communities. In turn it has also allowed us the organisational stability to plan much further into the future.

We are proud to see how the program has developed throughout 2021 and how much support the team has been able to offer the community.

We're excited to see where 2022 will take us...

As ever, a huge thank you for your continued support,

Audrey, Nina, Barry and Alaa



Audrey
Bingaman



Alaa
Janid



Nina
Horakova



Barry
Freckmann

2021 FIGURES

200
+

STUDENTS

12

VOLUNTEERS

3

STAFF

EDUCATION

What do we teach?



Language

Communication and English language



Mathematics

Problem solving and practical skills



Art

Creative skills and freedom of expression



Technology

Information discovery and technical skills



2021 IMPACT

EDUCATION

Education has always been at the forefront of our organisation. Our goal is to teach children through play and creative activities, whilst also encouraging expressions of emotion. We want our classroom to be a space for kids to be kids without any form of expectation or pressure.



With the introduction of a permanent staff team, this year we were able to plan well into the future and create an education program with almost double the amount of contact hours for each student.



We study fortnightly themes related to real-world topics (such as shopping, going to the doctor, food, and the weather, etc.) Each theme is adapted to the learning level of the student.

This year we introduced “Homework Club” for students who needed a little extra support, as well as a group for older teenagers to come and learn more complex topics. We also introduced a study group for new arrivals in the camp, with 1-1 support to help them catch up with their peers.



We also started a parent and baby group for the community, welcoming children 0-3 years old for group play (whilst parents could have a cup of tea and work on a craft project or relax).

2021 IMPACT



REFURBISHMENT

Before re-opening the school in March 2021, a team of long-term HC volunteers travelled to Greece to renovate our run-down classroom.

The classroom building was derelict when we first started using it in 2017, and since then it has welcomed up to 100 children a day for activities and play. The floor and walls were in disrepair and there was little storage for supplies which cluttered the space and made organisation difficult.

Our dream-team of volunteers completely transformed the space by re-concreting and painting the floor, plastering the walls, introducing storage, and even creating a whole new space for group-working with the construction of partition walls. We were amazed with the transformation and the students loved how colourful the space became.



2021 IMPACT

SUCCESS STORIES

VOLUNTEERS

We couldn't talk about 2021 without taking a moment to thank the incredible team of volunteers who have worked with us at Happy Caravan throughout the year. We're always so amazed at the dedication and commitment that our volunteers bring, also the wealth of ideas and knowledge that they share with us.

In 2021 we reduced the amount of volunteers entering the classroom due to Covid-19, however each volunteer that arrived came with a specialist background and skill-set which really enhanced the teaching experience. We're incredibly grateful to all of them and hope to welcome them back in the near future.



2021 IMPACT

COVID-19

In August 2021, we received notification that there was a Covid-19 outbreak within the camp. We had anticipated that this may happen and prepared a comprehensive plan to keep our students engaged safely with Happy Caravan.

Our team quickly launched our online school once again. We hosted lessons every afternoon via Skype and created Whatsapp groups for English writing practice. For those with less stable internet connection, we created a series of educational videos that children could watch in their own time.

Each week, we went to the camp in the very early morning to safely distribute packages of educational supplies, stationery, and worksheets for each of our students. We tried to put a little treat in each box as a thoughtful surprise for each child during the disruptive time.

Thankfully, due to the quick response of the camp management, the Covid-19 outbreak remained limited and we were back in the classroom within 6 weeks.



2021 IMPACT

LEARNING MATERIALS

Often, the families we work with have extremely limited financial support and do not have enough money for basic resources including school supplies.

With your generous donations, we have been able to supply every single student with their own quality learning supplies – including a filled pencil case of stationary, notebooks, calculators, art supplies and more.

Not only has this helped us reduce the spread of Covid-19 by reducing the sharing of resources, but also ensures each child can arrive at school every day with the tools to succeed, equal to each of their peers.



COLLABORATION

We believe that collaboration and cooperation with other organisations and NGO's is vitally important in the refugee camp. It means we can deliver higher quality and more in-depth activities.

This year we were proud to partner with IOM, Solidarity Now and Connect By Music to host joint-events both inside the camp and out - such as music concerts, a beach trip and informational sessions on Covid-19.



2021 FUNDRAISING

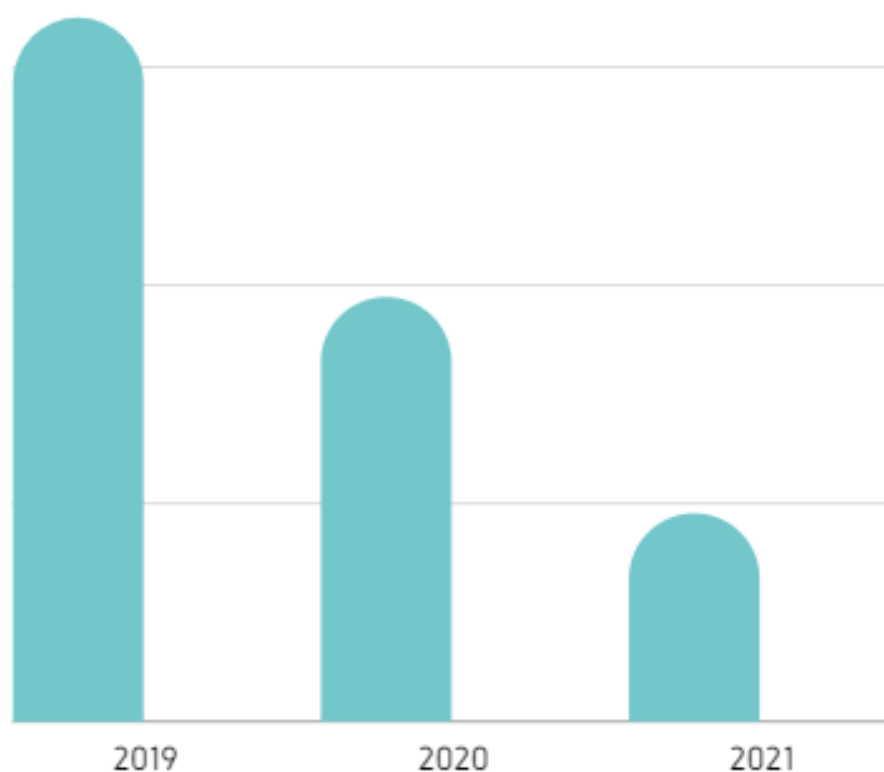
Like non-profit organisation across the world, Happy Caravan has seen a drastic reduction in fundraising since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic.

100% of our fundraising goes towards our classroom and pays for teaching supplies, teachers, utilities such as water and electricity, transport, internet access and everything in between.

-83%

European Non Profits have seen a 83% decrease in revenue since the Covid-19 pandemic.
[Donorbox 2021]

DONATIONS SINCE COVID-19



VOLUNTEER TESTIMONIAL

SJORS & ROSEMERIJN QUALIFIED TEACHERS

Just before the new year's break, Sjors and I accompanied Happy Caravan in Thermopylae for two weeks. Amelia told us that because of corona, it had been quite a tough time without some extra volunteers to help them out. She and Konstantina considered us "a real Christmas present," and we were very happy to be so!

What a short and intense time it was, but how fulfilling at the same time. Sjors and I were exhausted after a day of work at Happy Caravan. It was impressive to see how Amelia and Konstantina found their way to communicate with the children. For the students (and also for us) there was so much space for joy, playing, learning, and sharing emotions. From the happy faces of the students, the knocking on the door of the children that wanted to come in way too early before the classes started, and the way in which the students interacted with Amelia and Konstantina, I could see that Happy Caravan is more than just a classroom.

I think that Happy Caravan plays a big, big part in the development of so many children in Thermopylae. Thanks to Happy Caravan and the awesome teachers, these students are more likely to stabilise and find their way in this world.

I cannot stress too much how happy I am that I have been part of it for a small amount of time. Keep on teaching, singing, dancing, playing, working, and keeping Happy Caravan alive! Maybe we will see each other again in the future!

Thank you for your warm welcome Happy Caravan!

THANK YOU!

An enormous thank you to the supporters and organisations that contributed to our program in 2021



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PRAGUE



The
PATATAS

A P O T A T O PRODUCTIONS COMPANY

