



CRETE FOR LIFE
Η ΚΡΗΤΗ ΔΙΝΕΙ ΖΩΗ

**ANNUAL REPORT
2019**

A charity committed to children,
working from Crete





Our Mission

Committed to children in need, working from Crete. Crete For Life is a child focused charity that works on practical projects to make an immediate and lasting impact on children's lives.

Why Crete?

Crete occupies a unique geographic location, at a meeting point of three continents, Asia, Europe and Africa. Its climate, its famous, healthy diet, its nature and the hospitality and generosity of its people make it a unique setting for a charity of this kind.

Since 2005, our main project is an annual restorative, fun filled holiday on Crete for disadvantaged children. We have welcomed children coping with poverty, war, violence and life threatening diseases from Greece, Belarus (those affected by the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe) Syria, Iraq and from other parts of the world.

Over recent years, in response to the Greek economical crisis and the unprecedented mass migration and refugee crisis, we have also moved into other areas of support:

- Helping refugees and migrants on the island of Crete and elsewhere, giving priority to unaccompanied minors and those most at risk.
- Supporting hospitals in our community and elsewhere.
- Providing local children whose families & communities have suffered greatly from the economic downturn with practical help, medical assistance and emotional support.

THANK YOU! ΕΥΧΑΡΙΣΤΩ!

- 2005 Crete For Life was registered in Greece and one year later in Italy
- 2006 The first 10 children were hosted for one month
- 2010 The first Greek children are included in the program
- 2014 Onwards, between 28 to 40 children are hosted every year
- 2017 The first refugee youths joined the camp
- 2019 35 children and youths have taken part to the recuperative summer camp



Dear Friends of Crete For Life,

Because of your support, during 2019 we were able to expand our programs, host many children in Crete and support many others and their families. New and renewed friendships blossomed between children and young volunteers that had a chance to forget their difficulties and immerse themselves in the healing Cretan environment.

Not everything was plain sailing though, one child broke his leg, the only accident since the first camp in 2006. However, our support system was ready to respond and Andrej had the best possible care. A bitter/sweet silver lining was that the doctors discovered he has a large benign tumor close to his broken bone for which he will receive long term care in Belarus. Had it not been for the X-rays, he could have had serious issues growing up.

This year, following new legal guidelines, we changed our statute to include more areas that we feel are becoming more urgent, and where we believe we can make a difference, like the protection of the natural environment. We found new partners with whom to be even more effective and we renewed our long term relationships with our donors and supporters. Together with you, we can and want to have a positive impact on the lives of more children and young adults, who, especially in this moment of acute global vulnerability, face an uncertain future.

Thank you again for supporting us,
Olimpia and Crete For Life Team

SUMMER CAMP



The Belarusian children hosted in Crete are growing up in institutions or foster homes. They suffer mostly from, among others, immunological, cancer, respiratory, endocrine, gastrointestinal and rheumatologic conditions. The boys and girls hosted are between 7 and 14 years old.

Several children didn't know their birthdays. Others hadn't heard from their parents in several years. "When you meet someone who doesn't have a family or a home, it affects you a lot and makes you embrace the things you have," one volunteer said. "But we were able to give them some beautiful and fun moments. That was very special."

As always this year's camp was a joy for all involved

Of the twenty-five fostered or institutionalized children who came from Belarus several were returnees, who arrived bubbling with excitement to be back in Crete and meeting up with local volunteers. They soon helped the newcomers to settle into a happy and cohesive group, spending their mornings on the beach, before returning to the hotel for lunch and relaxation. Later in the afternoon there were arts and crafts, where they developed their artistic skills, after which they spilled out into one of the local squares for group games, including football, where they were joined by local children. The day ended with a hearty meal in one of the local Tavernas.



YOUNG VOLUNTEERS



Half way through their stay, a group of Syrian and Iraqi volunteers joined the Belarusian children and the swimming and games took on a new intensity, as again old friendships were renewed and many new ones made.

These Syrian and Iraqi volunteers from Skaramanga refugee camp, aged 16–21, are familiar with the group activities promoted by Play For Peace©. This USA charity aims to bring together children and adults in communities affected by conflict, using cooperative play to create laughter, compassion, and peace.

What happened once again in Crete was very important on many levels. The group not only brought laughter and joy to children who might otherwise not experience it, but people from different backgrounds and cultures worked together toward a common goal.

"Every day when we started working, we only had to clap and the kids came. That one clap made the kids gather around in a circle—both the local kids and the visitors. That one clap was enough to bring people, cultures, nations, and languages together."

Rayan

"It was not easy to communicate. The children we worked with spoke Belarusian; not everyone spoke English. It was hard to find a common language. But after a short time, differences in language, tradition, and outfits didn't matter anymore. We managed to connect, through a game, through fun activities, through laughter."

Alham

FRIENDS FOR LIFE

Unfortunately, one boy accidentally tripped on a step and broke his leg in the middle of the holiday, but with all the insurance measures in place, and the Doctor from Belarus who always accompanies the children and our President Olimpia constantly at his side, he was taken first to the local hospital and then to the University Hospital in Iraklion, where he received excellent care, and made a speedy recovery.



Crete For Life restorative stay is about having fun in a safe and secure environment. It is the self-esteem building, freedom-filled fun activities that makes our camps truly life-changing for children. But this is only achievable because of the high-quality medical care, vast expertise, nearby medical facilities, intentional programming, and constant commitment to health and safety.



We celebrated Andrej's 11th birthday just a few days before he tripped on the last step of a short flight of stairs. When he was younger he lost an eye in an accident and his vision is therefore impaired. He is a quiet boy and shares a room with his best friend Artsiom in a large orphanage in the centre of Minsk. The director of the institution is his legal guardian and he is sometimes visited by his grandmother. He behaved through the whole ordeal like a little soldier and was cherished and supported by everybody.

MANY HAPPY ACTIVITIES



OUR COMMUNITY

Throughout 2019 we have continued our programs of support to refugees, economic migrants and those in need, in Crete and elsewhere. Help is given especially to families with young children, unaccompanied minors and those most vulnerable.

As an extension to our project "Tomato Express" we are shipping products to Athens to be distributed by our associates Pampiraiki. This year this has included new and used T-shirts, children's clothing and accessories, shoes and olive oil. As appropriate, some of these products are also taken to the SOS Children's Village in Iraklion.



Following serious road accidents here in Ierapetra, we have distributed visibility vest to young migrant workers that must walk or bicycle to and from their job at night.

Another of our ongoing projects has been offering legal and medical assistance to several young men from Syria and Pakistan who have found themselves in difficulties.



"TOMATO EXPRESS"

is a program that has been running for a few years. Some local farmers give us free or at cost greenhouse vegetables that are not quite the right size or shape for the regular market, and we ship it to mainland Greece.

HOSPITALS SUPPORT

There are three Christian hospitals in Syria, 2 in Damascus and 1 in Aleppo, active since the 1930's and open to everyone regardless of their religious creed. They operate in very difficult circumstances and their activities are further limited by the severe international sanctions.



In addition to caring for the sick and injured, they run programs of support, providing, for example, formula milk and baby diapers. We were pleased to be able to offer them some financial support this year, and we hope to be able to increase our help in the future.



Hospitals are at the centre of any community, offering care and relief even under the hardest circumstances. We feel it is essential to support hospitals, doctors and personnel in any way we can, whether in Greece or elsewhere.

Thanks to your help, we continue to support the work of our local hospitals, like the University hospital Pagni, in Heraklion. We were able to donate another computer to ease the load of work of the doctors in the pediatric department.

PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT



Always aware that the health and beauty of our environment is an integral part of the success of our Summer Camp, we launched a drive to start making this a public statement, firstly by encouraging our hosted children to pick up rubbish along the beaches wherever they were, which they responded to with great enthusiasm, and by organizing in September, a Beach Clean Up at Agios Pantelemonas beach on the north coast of Crete.

Cooperating with other charities, associations and individuals allow us to make a bigger impact. We are grateful to our partners old and new.

FUNDRAISING



Yet again Crete For Life's team has participated and won a prize at the "Cretan Cuisine Festival" dedicated to preserving the traditional recipes and values of one of the world's healthiest diets. Every year the team brings their knowledge and enthusiasm for the best Cretan cooking to the children of our Summer Camp.



A wonderful gift for us, was the "Cretan Expedition" organized by Camilla Barlow from England. She and her father undertook a sponsored 500km walk along the length of Crete which took them over 3 weeks.

Luca Giannotti has written the ultimate guide to the hike, "The Cretan Way" and he has been supporting Crete For Life for many years.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31st December 2019 - Income

JOINT INCOME 2019	Banca Prossima	Ufficio Postale	Pay Pal	Balance
Foundations	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	40,000.00
Donations by Bank	5,560.00	1,300.00	4,433.48	11,293.48
Donations transferred PP to BP	1,300.00		-1,300.00	0.00
Donations in Cash	4,556.61	0.00	0.00	4,556.61
5 x 1000	1,054.69	0.00	0.00	1,054.69
Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Joint Income 2019	52,471.30	1,300.00	3,133.48	56,904.78

FINANCIAL YEAR ENDING 31st December 2019 - Outgoings

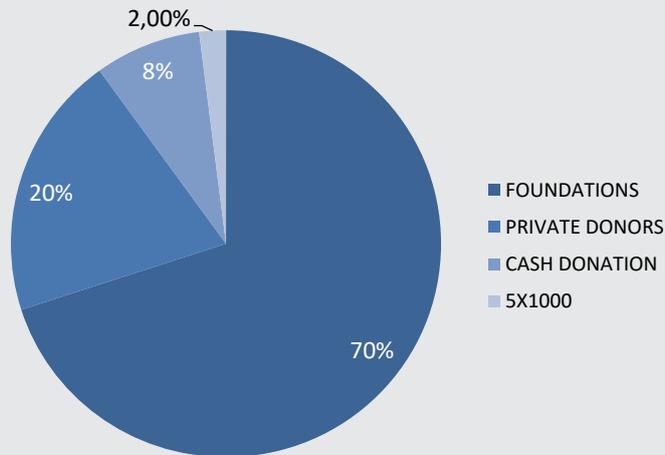
COST OF PROGRAMS 2019	Banca Prossima	Ufficio Postale	Pay Pal	Balance
Summer Camp	36,991.22	500.00	0.00	37,491.22
Other Programs	6,875.26	1,313.55	588.72	8,777.53
Total cost of programs 2019	43,866.48	1,813.55	588.72	46,268.75

OTHER EXPENSES	Banca Prossima	Ufficio Postale	Pay Pal	Balance
Rent & Utilities	2,512.86	0.00	0.00	2,512.86
Admin, Fundraising, Transport etc	4,323.01	0.00	36.49	4,359.50
Bank Charges	178.90	111.19	170.38	460.47
Other Expenses Total	7,014.77	111.19	206.87	7,332.83

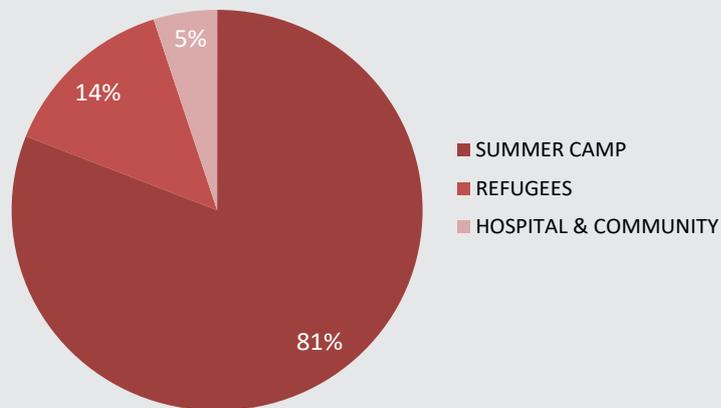
50,881.25	1,924.74	795.59	53,601.58
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FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

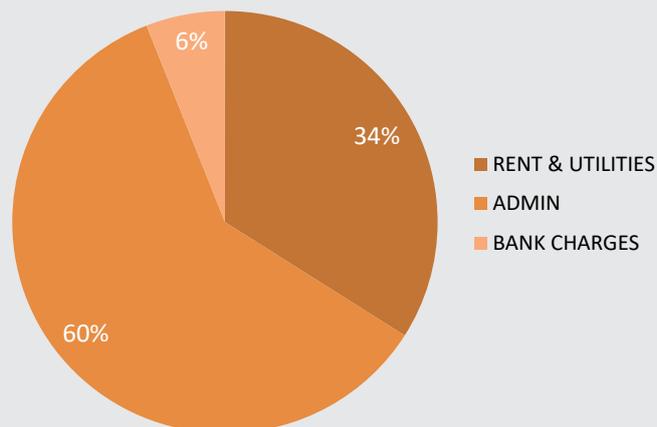
INCOME



PROGRAMMS



RUNNING COSTS



We were delighted to be able to maintain the cost of the recuperative summer camp (x per child x week) in line with the last few years (around €300), even though in 2019 the cost of flights, among other things, has risen considerably.

Our running costs are slightly higher than last year, 13%, reflecting increases in insurance and utilities.

Aside from professional consultancies and auditing, everyone involved in our charity offers their time and skills in a volunteering, unpaid capacity.

WE ARE GRATEFUL!

- An Anonymous Foundation
- Daniel Unger and Claudius Ochsner
- The Evangelic Church in Crete
- Anna Maria Rocca
- Janet Jones
- Paola Marzotto
- Zoe T-shirts
- Paola Venturini
- Robyn Angelis
- Daniela Rivetti
- The members of Inco Association
- Valeria Cozza Caposavi
- Giovanna e Roberto Costanzo
- All our friends in Salento
- Stephanie and Grigoris from The Carob Tree in Plaka
- Hakim and his crew at Kimzu Sea Lounge in Agios Nikolaos
- Manos Petrakis
- Camilla Barlow and her father
- The Cretan Way
- Medicine & Chernobyl
- Yaraslau I. Kot
- Anastarr Miliani
- Manolis Petrakis
- Babis Paterakis
- Many owners of greenhouses in Ierapetra
- and others who wish to remain anonymous

Thank
you

WE CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU

Crete For Life is funded by the contribution of private donations and foundations. Your donation helps us to bring joy, laughter and support to many children and young adults growing up in very difficult environments.

DONATE

Please note: your donations to Crete For Life may be tax deductible in some countries, contact us for detail.

If you can make a repeat monthly donation, however small the import, it would help us enormously with the planning of our activities

- Donate online with [Pay Pal](#)
- By bank transfer in Italy: Intesa San Paolo
Crete For Life Onlus
IBAN: IT16 J030 6909 6061 0000 0103 715 Swift/ Bic BCITITMX
- By bank transfer in Greece: Alpha Bank A.E. - Heraklion
Crete For Life
IBAN: GR 920140 6640 6640 0200 2012017 Swift CRBA GRAA

Volunteer

Volunteers are the back bone of Crete For Life. You'll get the chance to make a difference by giving your time and talent – but you might be surprised by all that you get from the experience. Opportunities are available with our programs, at our offices and at a variety of fundraising events. Please visit our site and contact us.

Partner with us

Every partnership with Crete For Life is unique – we'll work with you to craft the perfect plan for your company.

Wish List

We are updating our wish list continuously, please ask us for the current one.

IN BREVE, IN ITALIANO



Grazie al vostro appoggio, nel 2019 abbiamo potuto ampliare i nostri programmi, ospitare più bambini al campo estivo di Creta e sostenerne molti altri e le loro famiglie. I bambini e ragazzi ospitati, che provengono dalla Grecia, Bielorussia, Iraq e Siria, affrontano povertà, guerra, violenza e malattie potenzialmente letali. Il campo estivo a Creta gli permette non solo di rigenerare la loro salute ma anche di acquisire nuove competenze e fare nuovi amici. Molti dei bambini ospitati vivono il mare per la prima volta, un'esperienza che rimarrà con loro per tutta la vita.

Oltre al campo estivo, durante il 2019 abbiamo continuato i nostri programmi di sostegno ai rifugiati, ai migranti economici e ai bisognosi, sia a Creta e altrove. L'aiuto è offerto soprattutto alle famiglie con bambini piccoli, minori non accompagnati e ai più vulnerabili.

Grazie alla generosità di coltivatori locali, che da alcuni anni ci forniscono gratuitamente o ad un costo minimo ortaggi in serra che non sono della giusta dimensione o forma per la grande distribuzione, una grande quantità di questi ortaggi è stata spedita ad Atene per essere distribuita a famiglie in difficoltà. Inoltre abbiamo inviato magliette nuove e usate, abbigliamento e accessori per bambini, scarpe e olio d'oliva e molto altro.

Sostegno pratico ad ospedali locali ed in Siria e' stato un altro dei nostri programmi principali del 2019. Accesso alla salute per tutti, e in particolare per i più deboli, e' un tema sempre più urgente nella nostra realtà.

Quest'anno abbiamo inoltre modificato il nostro statuto per includere più attività dove riteniamo di poter fare la differenza, in particolare la salvaguardia dell'ambiente naturale. Insieme a voi, possiamo e vogliamo avere un impatto positivo sulla vita di più bambini e giovani adulti, che, specialmente in questo momento di acuta vulnerabilità globale, affrontano un futuro incerto.

**Grazie a tutti i nostri sostenitori,
volontari ed amici!**

CONTACT US

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GREECE LEGAL

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Heraklion, Crete, Greece n.

2053, 831/3633/1076/2005 Tax n. 998863312

ITALY LEGAL

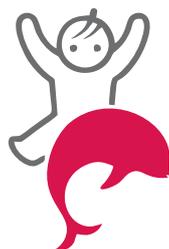
“CRETE FOR LIFE - ITALIA, Onlus”

Prt. 18629, Roma, 9/3/2006 n. 2216 serie 3

CF 97412130581

Auditors

Dott. Mauro Martini, Rome , Italy



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