



CRETE FOR LIFE
Η ΚΡΗΤΗ ΔΙΝΕΙ ΖΩΗ

2023 ANNUAL REPORT

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DEAR FRIEND,

We are thrilled to present our annual report 2023, showcasing the incredible impact you have made on our organization and the communities we serve. Your support has been instrumental in our success, and we are truly grateful for your generosity and commitment.

Throughout the year, your contributions have enabled us to:

1. Implement innovative programs in our summer camps aimed at empowering individuals and families to overcome challenges.
2. Provide essential services to those in need, including food, shelter and healthcare.
3. Foster a sense of community and belonging, bringing people together to support one another.
4. Strengthen our organization's capacity to support more people and create lasting change.

As we reflect on the past year, we are filled with gratitude for your support that has allowed us to make a real difference in the lives of many.

We look forward to continuing our work together, striving to create a more just and equitable world for all.

Much Love from Crete For Life Team

"I dreamt of a world with opportunities for all children - My dream comes from seeing sufferance and so much talent and energy wasted - Therefore I commit to help children in need." - Olympia Theodoli, Founder of CFL

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."

Vision & [Values](#)



AREAS OF WORK

HEALTH, EMERGENCY & EDUCATION

Over the years, our solidarity projects reached hundreds of children and young adults from Belarus to Iraq. We are committed to promoting universal human rights and in 2023 we were inspired by the first four of the 17 primary needs specified by the UN Sustainable Development Goals 2030: (<https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment>)

1 NO
POVERTY



2 ZERO
HUNGER



3 GOOD HEALTH
AND WELL-BEING



4 QUALITY
EDUCATION



CRETE FOR LIFE PROGRAMS

Summer Camps

Organized for the promotion of health and self-development for orphans and for children in vulnerable situations, in Crete, Greece. The summer camps ethos is on experiencing and learning positive relationships, thriving in the natural environment and benefitting physically and mentally from the well-being of the healing Cretan seaside.

Housing, Work and Sustainable Agriculture

Helping families and individuals finding long term housing and work situation that brings them independence. With our Tomato Express program, we distribute unmarketable vegetables to families and communities in need, aiming to reduce waste and offer fresh produce to those in need.

Emergency and Distribution

Achieved by supporting people, and particularly refugees, in emergencies, as well as for longer critical periods, with food, clothing, blankets, medicines, doctor/hospital visits, hygiene products and other necessities.

Education

Promoting quality education for children, especially girls, to achieve literacy, skills building and technical training to ensure better future opportunities.

IMPACT

Each program is undertaken after careful evaluation, taking into account local realities and enhancing and promoting self-development. Local Partners are indispensable in our operations. Our organization takes pride and grows because we cooperate. We believe the best solutions are designed locally together with the beneficiaries and we work by reassessing needs and priorities regularly. We are proud to share that, thanks to your support, we have:

Distributed vital healthcare services, food and clothing to over 200 families.

Hosted 55 children and family members in our three summer camps.

Insured that 25 children and young adults received quality education.

Provided 12 families experiencing homelessness with long term accomodation.

Sent over 400 Kg of fresh «imperfect» vegetables to families in need in mainland Greece.



SUMMER CAMP 1

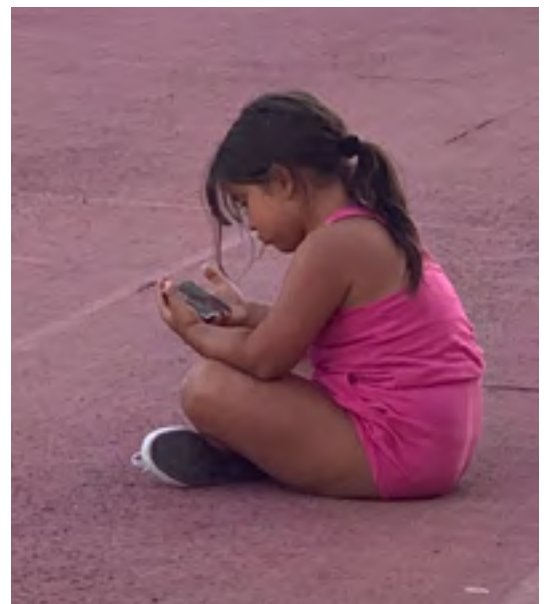


Objective: For the first time we held a bereavement camp to offer families a supportive environment within which they can spend quality time together, share their experience of losing a loved one and to find ways to look to the journey ahead.

Beneficiaries: A group of 6 families from Greece who have recently lost a parent or a child.

Partners: [Merimna association](#)

Testimonial: *“Merimna” and “Crete For Life” in a special collaboration. This year we had the pleasure and honor of a special collaboration with the organization “Crete For Life” which invited children benefiting from our Bereavement Counselling Centers in Athens and Thessaloniki... “Crete For Life” aims, among its other activities, to provide free hospitality in Crete to children facing serious challenges such as chronic diseases, poverty and violence or loss in their lives... We would like to thank everyone from the bottom of our heart who worked to make this holiday memorable for the children who are going through a difficult time in their lives due to the loss of a loved one. Merimna, Athens and Thessaloniki*



Since 2005, our main project is the annual restorative, fun filled summer camps on Crete for disadvantaged children. In 2023 we have welcomed three groups of children who are coping with poverty, war, violence, loss and lifethreatening diseases.

SUMMER CAMP 2

REST AND RECUPERATION



Objective: The camps was for children copying with serious illnesses, their siblings, and parents/guardians. When a child becomes sick it often tears apart the whole family. One of the parent (usually the mother) spends time in the hospital while siblings stay at home with the other parent or family members. The sick child spends most of the time isolated and away from normal life and normal activities, missing out on the joy of normal family life and often developing low self-esteem, depression, and anxiety. The healthy siblings are also missing out. This camp gave the families a chance to spend quality time together in a safe environment.

Beneficiaries: 5 families from Crete with children living with a serious illness

Partners: [University Hospital, Heraklion, Crete](#)

SUMMER CAMP 3



Objective: The camp contributes to the improvement of physical and mental health of children by hosting them by the Cretan Sea, eating uncontaminated nutritional food and enjoying swimming and activities organized for them. Many of the Belarusian children hosted in Crete are growing up in institutions or foster homes. They suffer mostly from, among others, immunological, cancer, respiratory, gastrointestinal and rheumatological conditions. The boys and girls hosted are between 7 and 14 years old. In 2023 the children hosted were part of the Syabrynka theatre company and delighted everyone with their singing and dancing.

Beneficiaries: A group of 11 children and 3 adult guardians who are living in Belarus 'areas still affected by the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

Partners: Medicine and Chernobyl, Minsk, Belarus

Testimonial: *Your organization's dedication to providing enriching environment full of "philoxenia" for these children is truly inspiring. We cannot thank you enough for the wonderful experience you provided for Belarusian children, your hospitality and kindness. Your organization's commitment to making a positive impact on the lives of children is truly admirable, and we are grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of it. Thank you again for everything. We will always cherish the memories of our time in Greece and the friendships we made through your program.*

Merimna, Athens and Thessaloniki

EMERGENCIES



EARTHQUAKE IN SYRIA AND TURKEY

Objective: In February's 2023 a devastating earthquake severely impacted Turkey and Syria causing deaths, damages and collapse of buildings and destruction of some national infrastructures.

In Aleppo, prior to the earthquake, 85% of households were unable to meet their basic needs, with a disproportionate impact on populations with vulnerabilities such as age, gender, and/or disability. Throughout 2023, camps and self-settled sites hosted close to two million internally displaced persons. Among these, around 80% are women and children who are particularly at risk. Immediately after the earthquake, our local volunteers were activated to bring relief to the poorest area of Aleppo, providing hundreds of people with food, clothing and helping with new housing. Our local partners and volunteers in Aleppo continue to find and sponsor accommodations for homeless families and food as the need for assistance remains critical till today.

Beneficiaries: Families and children in Aleppo, Syrian Arab Republic

Partners: [The Blu Marists](#) – Grassroots organizations

Testimonial: *My friends and I decided to participate in the response (to the earthquake) by offering something different and important at the same time, which is helping those affected to find new homes for rent and pay their rent for a year. I started communicating with my friends abroad, who showed great interest in the idea because it was a basic need as well as most of the local organizations and associations focused only on food and clothing. After two months of hard work, housing was secured for approximately 100 families.... After communicating with the "Crete for Life" organization, cash amounts were provided to many of them as small aid before Eid Al-Adha – Abdullah, Aleppo*

EMERGENCIES

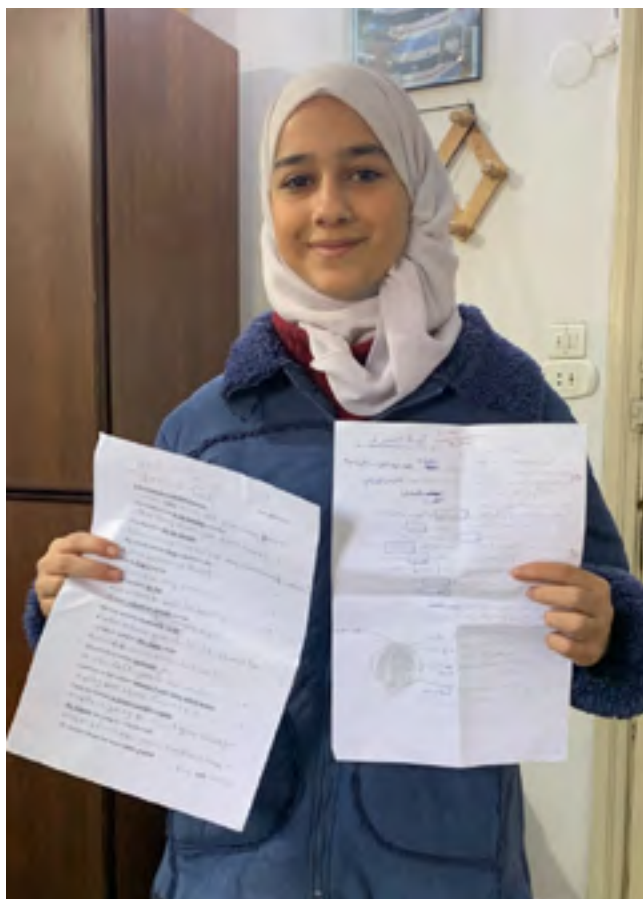
GREECE & ELSEWHERE

Objective: We distributed essential goods, but also children's books and toys, arts and crafts, home chattel, beds and furniture, blankets and towels to vulnerable individuals, families in need, refugee camps, homeless people, local schools, hospitals, the local prison and the old people's home.



EDUCATION

SCHOOLS & SKILLS



and fanatics towards the less educated is still very widespread in society and by receiving a quality education, young girls and boys can equally hope for a better future.

Beneficiaries: Students aged 6 to 21

Partners: [Blu Marists](#), Aleppo

Objective: Illiteracy affects over 50% of the Syrian population, as millions of children and young adults have totally or partially missed out on education during over a decade of war, international sanctions, and the recent earthquake and pandemics. Even if public education is free, it is out of reach for many.

This program supports students aged 6 to 15 by covering tuitions and other expenses, ensuring they meet vital educational standards. We believe education is the key to the future for those affected by years of hardship and trauma. Moreover, the opportunity for children to study can be a motivation for the whole family to remain in Syria. The danger of indoctrination from extremists

ACTIVITIES

ART THERAPY

Programs: Two art exhibitions by children and adult refugees living in Greece were held in Crete. 100% of the profits from the sales of the artworks were paid to the artists.

Partners: [Love Without Borders For Refugees - 1,2,3, Hope, Love, Life](#)



MOSAICS

Our volunteers made and installed a mosaic to one of the local school in Crete, and started working on a large mosaic for the University hospital in Crete.



ACTIVITIES

KNITTING GRANNIES

Local “Grannies” have been knitting baby blankets and cardigans since the Pandemic in 2020, thanks to donated wool. Their creations are distributed through hospitals and refugees centers.



SAFEPLACE GREECE

We collaborate with [Safe Place](#) to aid LGBTQIA+ refugees globally. Partnering with [Challenge Day](#), we share skillbuilding programs and The Dream Academy course.



TOMATO EXPRESS

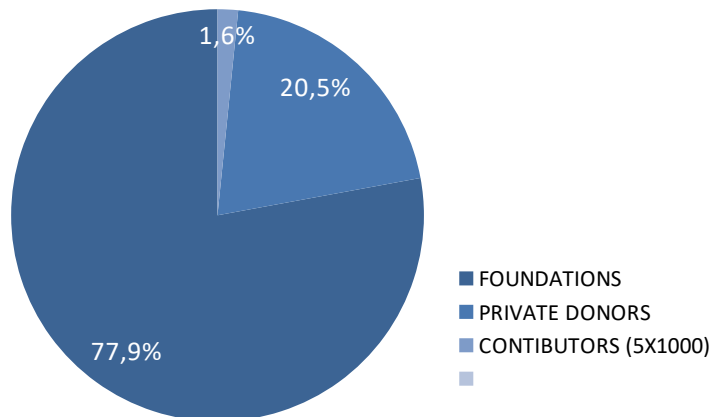
is a running program providing vegetables from Crete's greenhouses to Athens' needy families. Local farmers donate «non-perfect» vegetables, preventing waste and ensuring families in need receive essential nutrients. Donations help cover collection and shipping costs.



FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

INCOME € 98.708,03
OUTGOINGS € 100,609.95

The total joint income for the organization is €98,708.03, comprising contributions from various sources such as contributors (including 5x1000 contributions), foundations, and private donors. The total costs incurred by the organization amount to €100,609.95, covering various programs and operational expenses.



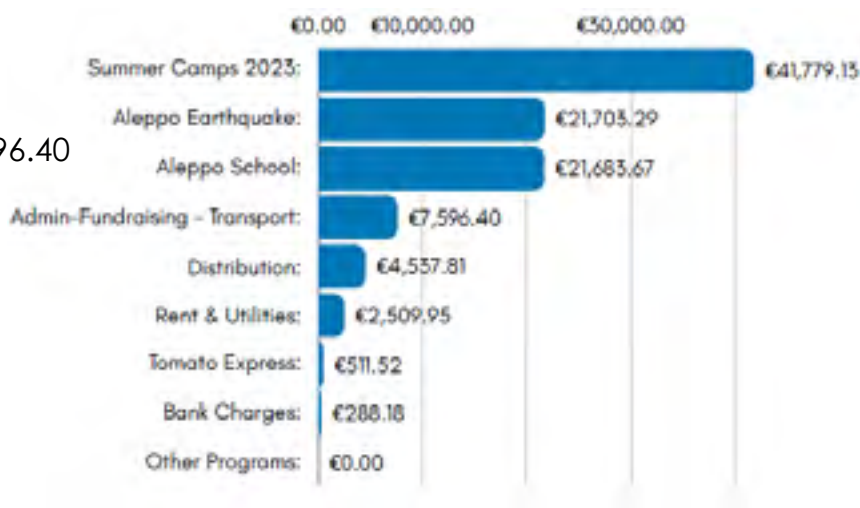
Total Joint Income: €98,708.03

Contributors (5x1000): €1,622.68
Foundations: €76,877.41
Other Contributors: €0.00
Private Donors: €20,207.94

Total Cost: €100,609.95

Summer Camps 2023: €41,779.13
Aleppo Earthquake: €21,703.29
Aleppo School: €21,683.67
Admin-Fundraising - Transport: €7,596.40
Distribution: €4,537.81
Rent & Utilities: €2,509.95
Tomato Express: €511.52
Bank Charges: €288.18
Other Programs: €0.00

Cost of Programs and Other Expenses

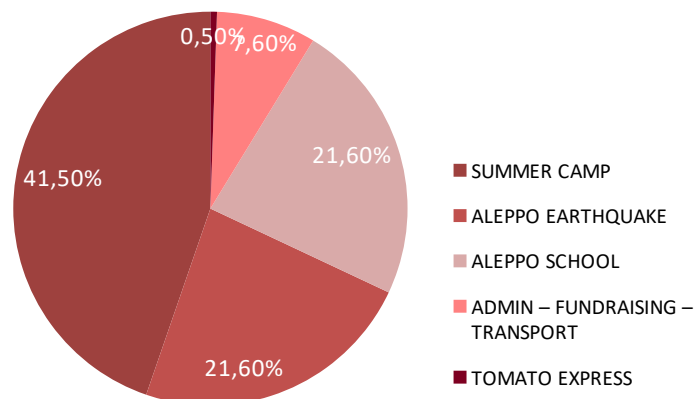


FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Costs & Expenses

The organization incurred a total of €100,609.95 in expenses across various programs and operational categories. Key cost areas are represented on the pie chart.

These costs reflect our commitment to initiatives such as disaster relief, educational support, and migrant assistance. Analyzing the efficiency and effectiveness of these expenditures is crucial for ensuring responsible resource management and achieving our mission at Crete For Life.



48%

Increase in donations compared to 2022

Managment

Crete For Life activity is largely based on volunteering and this allows management costs to be kept to a minimum.

WITH GRATITUDE



Looking back on 2023, we see our generous supporters and talented partners behind each and every moment of impact and reason to celebrate. We are deeply grateful to everyone who made, and continues to make, our mission possible.

Throughout the past 18 years, our community has helped us fund projects to support hundreds of children and families people.

Thank you for making our work — and this impact — possible, for being by our side, and for helping us finish 2023 strong. We have only the highest of hopes for 2024.

LOOKING AHEAD



OUR STORY CONTINUES

Since 2006, the Crete For Life community has brought relief and hope to hundreds of children in need, in Greece and elsewhere.. It's both a massive achievement and a too-small dent in the global crisis of our times. There is a clear need to continue the hard work of executing our proven projects and of collaborating with local partners to implement sustainable solutions for many in needs — and to do so at a faster and more efficient pace.

This work is far too important to give it anything less than everything we have, and we cannot do it alone. Join us as we turn the page — with greater impact and more milestones to celebrate. Together, we can make a difference in our lifetime.

CONTACT US

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GREECE LEGAL

“CRETE FOR LIFE - Η ΚΡΗΤΗ ΔΙΝΕΙ ΖΩΗ”

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



CRETE FOR LIFE
Η ΚΡΗΤΗ ΔΙΝΕΙ ΖΩΗ