

“RIGHT OF FUTURE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE“

A N N U A L R E P O R T

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IMPRINT

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ZVR-Zahl: 979498116

BANK CONNECTION

Konto-Nr.: 280 35 440 500

IBAN: AT212011128035440500

BIC: GIBAATWW

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Note: Translation into English by Judith Kantor

Dear friends of the Don Bosco refugee residential accommodation

We have the impression that only little time has passed since we happily handed you in our annual report of 2007. Now we already find ourselves in the middle of the year 2009 and another year has gone by, which we want to tell you something about.

Our association started executing different fields of action in 2003, one year later we opened the home for juveniles called Abraham for unaccompanied and underage refugees, and thus we already celebrate our five years anniversary in this year. We will inform you about this jubilee later on this year.

Now let's look back on the recent year of our work. We were able to achieve a lot of things and others were newly developed – but some have not been established yet or even have been abandoned.

A lot of new juveniles came to our house, but unfortunately we don't know the further way of all of them. Some of the boys received asylum or subsidiary protection and were able to integrate very well throughout the last year. But others still have to face insecurity and uncertainty about their future. New members joined our staff and some left. But what remained the same in the last year is the fact, that you thankworthy supported us. We also welcomed new friends and sponsors during 2008.

Concerning financial issues it was very difficult for us in the last year. It is still impossible to elevate the daily rate for Abraham so that we would be able to balance the rate of price increase.

Therefore we really want to thank you for every cent and Euro you gave to our organization as a support. Thanks to your donations in kind and the huge amount of hours of voluntary work through that we are enabled to contain an atmosphere of mutual estimation and Salesian optimism. So far it is impossible to foresee what the year 2009 is going to bring concerning financial issues. Because of this we would kindly like to ask you for your support.

It is a great pleasure to point out to our new homepage. Thanks to all people encouraged in this project, so that we now have an own informative internet-performance. Take a look: www.fluechtlingswerk.at

Last but not least we want to thank our staff and volunteers, who practice day by day what our organization stands for: Bringing the love of god to all people. This endless love does not know any difference concerning the color of the skin, the origin or the nation (Don Bosco). And Christian love is not just giving alms or individual care, but always fighting for justice and a transformation of society. Everybody on this planet has got a right for future!

A truly thank you and god's blessing,

For the directorate of the Don Bosco refugee residential accommodation
P. Bernhard Vondrasek
(Chairman)

The refugee residential accommodation Abraham in the year 2008

Since May 2004 we take care for 15 unaccompanied minors in our social-pedagogic youth residential accommodation Abraham, boys aged between 14 and 18 years, who are alone in Austria without their families.

The aims of our work with the juveniles are:

- Support them concerning the integration into Austria: Learn German, become acquainted with the Austrian culture and their norms and values, get in contact with Austrian adolescents, e.g. in sports clubs, and convey their education through school attendance
- Lead them to an autonomous life; they cook, wash and clean up by themselves, learn how to orientate in Vienna and altercate with civil services;
- Moreover they should learn to be responsible for themselves, for their lives, but also for other people

The home for juveniles Abraham is standing for a secure and stabile “temporary home”, where six pedagogic custodians are there for the boys, according to the principle of assistance of the pedagogy by Don Bosco. The full time team members are supported by many volunteers and the Austrian and Italian alterns. One focus of our work is the education of our clients, because this is the only way to get a chance for their further lives. The home for juveniles Abraham is financed by the Fonds Soziales Wien in line with the primary care for foreign people in need.

The year 2008 started off with a change in management. MMag. Margit Pollheimer is now the CEO of the association, after a time in the pedagogic management, which now lies in the hands of Mag. Beatrix Peichl. Furthermore two new members joined our staff at the Don Bosco refugee residential accommodation. In March 2008 we welcomed Ingrid Wanker and in September Jennifer Pilz, as a substitute for Teresa Janker, who took some time off.

There were more changes in the edificial area. In spring and summer everything was focused on the change of the premises. The Korean community, which so far had rented the intermediate floor of the building, where the Refugee residential

accommodation is placed, gave the rooms to the association and thus enabled us to establish offices, community rooms and habitations. More space, light and variegated colors produce a friendly atmosphere.

The renovation of some rooms was necessary as well. The custodians got some help from the boys and volunteers.

Last but not least the garden of the former kindergarten, which we are connected to since spacious changes, transformed into a garden suitable for juveniles and endowed with an elevated flower bed and a BBQ area. This was achieved through an Austrian wide project called “72 hours without a compromise”, where pupils of the HLW Reumannplatz provided their manpower. In those three days it was not only about working, but as well about laughing, playing and dancing. So the contact and interchange between Austrian and foreign teenagers was established.

In spring the boys were invited to participate in the project “dance and tolerance“. Especially one boy from Afghanistan and our Italian altern Anna had a lot of fun and even performed in the Gasometer accompanied by big applause of the other boys.

A one week intern in the social area, as a part of the Project „Brückenschlag“, led us to an exciting visit of a bank manager. He told the juveniles a lot of important things about the banks in Austria, bookkeeping and ways of saving money.

In summer we went on holidays and spent three days at the Wörthersee – of course this was much too short for the boys, but they all enjoyed it and we are planning a repetition next summer. Thanks to the youth center Youth Point Don Bosco for the invitation!

In September we welcomed our new Italian altern Laura, who participates in the daily work with the boys with a high motivation. Thus she created an own newspaper with them, where the juvenile refugees write about their lives and experiences. (You can find extracts on page xx)

Our approved projects and workshops from the last years, e.g. the bicycle safety training, the visit of the aids relief organization and the training of peaceful conflict solving, were successfully practiced in the year 2008 as well. Those activities were accompanied by a lot of trips, celebrations, workshops, contacts with students, etc. All of this was enabled by many contributors and volunteers, without whom our work would not been possible. At this point we want to thank you very much!

Irene Chavez

Experiences in the new homeland

We appreciate the fact that the juveniles write little articles for the homepage and the annual report by themselves. This year we want them to have their own says as well:

Adventure road traffic regulations

On Saturday, the 12th of April 2008, the mobile cycling school visited Abraham. Eight persons joined the course. After everybody received the bicycles, the program started. Driving instructor Sabine controlled the bikes concerning the roadworthiness and explained us the most important issues in the road traffic. Then we made several exercises, for example how to drive with just one hand and brake sharply. Apart some little collisions we had a lot of fun and did a great job.

After one hour the theoretical part of the day started. We heard something about road signs and road traffic regulations. But after 25 pages full of theory we all were quite tired and exhausted and happily looking forward to a calm evening without road traffic regulations. We learned a lot of new things and spend a funny afternoon together.

Shafiq and Daniela

A trip to the Wachau

On Saturday, the 23 of August 2008, the boys from Abraham took the train at eleven a.m. from Vienna to Melk. There we visited the very impressive monastery of Melk. Afterwards we enjoyed an exciting ride on the deck of the MS Prinz Eugen down the Danube. After one and a half hours we arrived in Krems and ate our lunch. Although it rained we all enjoyed the trip into the Wachau. Therefore we want to thank the DDSG Blue Danube for the reduced tickets.

Shafiq

Snow Sunday

Ali tells us about a Sunday in the snow:

I went skiing with Snowsunday. We went to Annaberg by bus. There have been a lot of different people, but I actually just knew two of them, my friends from the home, but we had a lot of fun. Initially it was quite tough, because I couldn't ski, but later on I learned how to do it, together with the other beginners. But I haven't been at the top though. At about 17.00 we went back to Vienna and I was very tired due to this exhausting but wonderful day!

Ali

We want to thank the organization “Snowsundays“ (www.snowsundays.at), that enabled our boys to learn how to ski and to get in contact with Austrian juveniles already for the second year.

In autumn Laura Nencini created the newspaper “Separated children in Austria“, together with the boys. It was presented on a meeting of the organization “Separated children in Europe (SCEP)“ and “SCEP Youth Network“ in line with an exhibition on December 2nd 2008 in Brussels.

Extracts of this:

ERFAN (17 years old, Afghanistan)

Three things you like about Vienna:

Schönbrunn, the Danube and the people

What kind of difficulties do you experience every day as an asylum seeker?

The biggest issue: I receive 35€ each day for food, that is not very much. We buy the food where it is cheap, but nevertheless it is not enough for the whole week.

IBRAHIM (17 years old, Palestine)

I feel very comfortable here in Vienna, and not insecure. Now I have got a house and I go to school because it is important to learn German. The people I know are all friendly and we come along with each other in a very good way.

VANEA (16 years old, Moldavia)

I am in a German course, but I have not got a lot of motivation to learn the language. I am waiting for an answer concerning my application for asylum. I don't know when I will receive an answer and what it will be, whether positive or negative. Because of this uncertainty I am little motivated. What should I learn German for when I don't know whether I am allowed to live here or not? Unless I am allowed to live here in Austria, German is unnecessary at all. I don't know where I am going to be, what I am going to do for a living and what will happen to me, it all depends on this answer.

MAJID (17 years old, Iraq)

I want to stay here in Austria, I would like to find a house or a room to experience more silence, I want to learn... but know I am waiting.

MOHAMMED (17 years old, Somalia)

I am here in Vienna, because I was looking for peace and I found it here, but I miss my

home very much. I want to stay here in Vienna, learn computer sciences, but like everyone else I am waiting for an answer to come.

Statistics about our inhabitants

Period from opening on 5.5.2004 until 18.2.2009

Within nearly five years we cared for 100 adolescents coming from 21 countries. In average a juvenile stays at our house for 259 days, this equals 8. 5 months.

In the year 2008 we coached 36 boys from 12 countries. So far there are still 14 of them living in our house. We had 22 entries and also 22 check-outs, whereas one of the boys came back to us after a few months. The average age at the time of reception is 16.5 years. Reasons for moving out are primarily reaching the age of consent. One of the adolescents had to leave Austria due to the Dublin agreement, he was sent to Hungary.

Project Tobias

Since 2003 young people regularly drove to Horitschon in the Mittelburgenland into an inn called Lazarus to spend some time with the children and juveniles of the asylum seeking families. They had a dialogue and enabled networking and furthermore improved the integration.

In summer 2008 we abandoned those regular afternoons in Horitschon with a heavy heart, and we said farewell to our two Italian alterners Anna Pagano and Katharina Pichler. There are considerations about continuing the project at a different location in lower Austria or Vienna, but they still have not been realized. But we are looking forward to achieve this in 2009.

We still want to participate in big events in the Burgenland, for example we were responsible for the childcare at a soccer tournament organized by the Caritas on the world refugee day. In connection to this we are looking for volunteers to support us on this gaming afternoon on June the 20th 2009!

L A Z A R U S

***DISCO, INN, FESTIVAL ROOM AND „THE GOOD INNKEEPER“
FOR PEOPLE LOOKING FOR A HOME!***

The inn Lazarus is a traditional rural tavern in the township, where the best wine of the world is pressed!

*7312 Horitschon,
Hauptstrasse 41,
Tel.: 02610-42296*

PROJECT MOSES

Supervision of young grown up asylum seekers and aftercare of former residents

We still have contact to a lot of former indwellers of the home for young people Abraham. In case of problems, questions or other issues they contact us and we invite them to festivities and we are glad about achieved graduations or the admittance to a continuative school. We are especially proud of Ali Assadi, one of the first adolescents from Afghanistan who lived in our house. He was able to conclude his apprenticeship as a coiffeur in summer 2008 – congratulations!

At this point we want to thank the tutors of the home for young people, who continue support their clients.

A young man from Ghana, who is still living in our home in the south of Vienna, attends school, the HTL in Mödling, and he is one of the best pupils in his class. In the last year he absolved an internship in a company in lower Austria, which was a great experience for him and the company benefited as well.

We are always looking for companies that enable a young refugee absolving an internship. If you are interested, please contact: fluechtlingswerk@donbosco.at

Cooperation with other organizations and networking

The Don Bosco refuge support works together with various other organizations. We want to mention the most important by name.

Collaboration with support organizations:

Don Bosco Schwestern

Assoziation Jugend Eine Welt – Don Bosco Aktion Austria
Salesians Don Bosco

Cooperation with the bureau for ÖA of the SDB and FMA

Cooperation with the Fonds Soziales Wien

Cooperation with the department for youth and family of Vienna

Collaboration with the UNHCR

Participation in the research group „unattended undermined refugees of the asylum coordination Austria

Collaboration with the project Connecting People of the Austrian asylum coordination

Collaboration with the center of competence of the deacon

Membership in the Austrian asylum coordination

Participation in meetings according to networking of the other houses of basic need in Vienna

Participation in a roundtable concerning child trafficking

Collaboration with ECPAT concerning the construction of a report for the implementation of a facultative protocol concerning an agreement about the rights of children regarding to child trafficking, child prostitution and child pornography, released in June 2008

(http://www.ecpat.at/fileadmin/download/Schattenbericht_zum_OPSC-Deutsch-Final.pdf)

Representation of Austria in the „Separated Children in Europe program“ SCEP until October 2008: collaboration in the Newsletter Nr. 30 (see http://www.separated-children-europe-programme.org/separated_children/publications/newsletter/index.html) and participation at the meeting in Vienna from June 17.-19. 2008

Participation in the conference “Exchange of Information and Best Practices on First Reception, Protection and Treatment of Unaccompanied Minors”, organized by IOM in cooperation with the ministry for interior affairs on October the 1st 2008

Participation in the asylum forum on November 4th and 5th 2008 in Salzburg

Regularly contact and Cooperation with the members of the associations „Come In“ (operators of the youth center Vienna 23)

Collaboration with the parish Inzersdorf-Neustift (prom)

Collaboration with the organization SCS/CNOS in Rome concerning the voluntary work (Italian alterns)

Collaboration with the honorary office exchange Vienna

EDUCATIONAL OFFERS

Internship (preparation for a voluntary service in the organization Jugend Eine Welt, preparation for a study at the FH of social sciences, national institute of social pedagogy in Baden, secondary school Alt Erlaa...)

Visit by a student group of the catholic FH for social work of Munich with Prof. Frank Groner (5.4.2008)

Visit by the volunteers in line with their weekend of further education (5.4.2008)

Project Brückenschlag: a manager of the “Erste Bank“ absolved a one week internship in the home for juveniles Abraham (7.-12.4.2008)

Participation in a panel discussion with classes from secondary school of the Neulandschule in the 19th district of Vienna (am 3.12.2008).

Participation in the discussion about job opportunities for social- and cultural anthropology at the institute of KSA (on December 9th 2008)

Presentation boards about our work and general information about refugees

PUBLICITY

For the first time we were represented on TV: on October 22nd 2008 the channel ORF 2 screened a report about the project “72 hours without a compromise” in the garden of the home for juveniles Abraham. The channel OKTO-TV broadcasted a half hour report about the work of our alternative civilian services in December 2008. (Available on www.refugee.residential.accommodation.at)

Our annual open day, a report on Radio Stephansdom, continuous articles on the Don Bosco homepage, in the Don Bosco daily and in the newspaper of our district are further activities concerning publicity.

OUR TEAM MEMBERS

Directorate

P. Dr. Bernhard Vondrasek SDB (chairman)

Sr. Hermine Mülleder FMA

Mag. Massimiliano Schiliro (substitute of J1W)

MMag.^a Margit Pollheimer (chief executive officer)

Chief executive officer

MMag.^a Margit Pollheimer

Accountancy

Danilo Balazic

Home for young people Abraham

Mag.^a Beatrix Peichl (director)

Irene Chavez Camberos, B.A. (substitute director, custodian)

Mir Ghousuddin (custodian)

MMag. Stefan Siller (custodian)

DSP Teresa Janker, B.A. (custodian)

DSA Ingrid Wanker (custodian, since March 2008)

DSP Jennifer Pilz (custodian, since September 2008)

P. Rudolf Decker SDB (volunteer)

Italian alternative civilian services (primarily working in the project Tobias)

Anna Pagano (until August 2008)

Katharina Pichler (until August 2008)

Laura Nencini (since September 2008)

Austrian alternative civilian services (working in the home for young people Abraham)

Ulrich Berlach (until March 2008)

Osman Buzadzic (until March 2008)

Simon Trummer (May—June 2008)

Dominik Jany (May—June 2008)

Hadi Saifi (since July 2008)

Ergün Yenigün (since August 2008)

Felix Leblhuber (since December 2008)

OUR MEMBERS INTRODUCE THEMSELVES

Beatrix Peichl, director of the home for young people Abraham

It is always very interesting for me to get in contact with foreign people and to support them during their first time in Austria. The living together of such different personalities, with their unique histories and experiences, strengths and infirmities is an eternal challenge. But there is a certain commonalty – the respect and the respective commerce with each other.

I especially like it when the juveniles start to converse in their new language, and I love to observe how much more self assured they become through the fact that they understand and are understood – at least concerning language.

In my opinion it is also very thrilling to observe the openness and curiosity the young people have when they start something new or get in contact with something external, although their future is very uncertain. The agility and the power with which they create their way are admirable and it is a pleasure to guide them on their way!

Irene Chavez, substitute director and custodian

Especially young people should get a chance in this world and in my opinion this includes having a home with people who care about them and an education, to find their own way. But often those rights are denied to refugees, and thus it is important for me to work with the boys and be there for them with all my power.

Once somebody told us that we give our part to global peace – and if you consider that up to ten boys live together in one house in peace, I can only agree upon this. That is a great motivation!

Mir Ghousuddin, custodian

Why I am working here:

1. The refugees are coming from countries where war and poverty are usual and where human rights are violated and no democracy exists. I know the situations in those countries and I sampled the war and I know a lot of people who flew out of those countries including the problems they had to face when arriving to Europe. I want to show the adolescents what kind of rights they have here in Austria and how to integrate, avoid misunderstandings and show them their chances.

2. I want to talk about my experiences with the juveniles, so they can learn and have a

good start in Austria and hopefully not go astray.

3. I want to get in contact with other people and help them if they need me.

Children and adolescents are the future of our world and it would be better to give them a chance to build their own future as well. I am very happy that I have the possibility to help many juveniles here in the Don Bosco refugee residential accommodation.

Stefan Siller, custodian

I studied psychology and geography and I am working for Don Bosco since May 2007. It is my first full – time job after my study and I already learned a lot in here. The cooperation with the Don Bosco team is very good and we learn a lot from each other. I experience my work as a steadily process of development, that takes it´s impulse from the contact with the juveniles. I like that miscellaneous and varying work, because we have to work in different areas, like social, psychological, administrative or technical topics. This diversification is also based on the different cultural backgrounds of the juveniles. I hope that I accomplish my part for a better intercultural understanding and integration.

Jennifer Pilz, custodian

“You are my mother!“ I never expected such a declaration- particularly because I am only 24 years old and the boy who said that to me only 17 as well! The ordinary working day in the home for juveniles Abraham is multisided: at the same day you might be confronted with the need for safety and love and with conflicts, which are not unusual for boys at that age. As a custodian you experience everything: You have to deal with psycho-social, (inter-)cultural and political issues and you have to be able to question your own habits as well. That is very thrilling and makes work more interesting. But the insecure status of our fosterling´s stay can be very frustrating as well, because our achievements for stabilization and integration are often rejected due to the precarious judicial situation. The future of the adolescents is very uncertain and it is not for sure whether the aspired education is a chance for a future in Austria or whether they have to face a deportation. To find an appropriate way to handle this situation is a challenge for the clients as well as for the custodians.

Ingrid Wanker, custodian

Why I like to work at Don Bosco

Since the beginning of 2008 I am part of the team in the home for juveniles Abraham/Don Bosco – and I am very happy about that.

One reason for this is the fact that the adolescents are able to cope with their lives in such a good way although they have a hard fate as unaccompanied underage refugees. I feel very comfortable to guide those young people at least some part of their way.

Another motivation is the interesting and often polarizing field of work – beside the common duties in the daily routine I am also confronted with the areas of conflict connected to the people coming out of different cultures in and around our house.

Last but not least: I receive a lot of energy from the cooperation with the other team members – I actually developed some of my engagement for the work at Don Bosco because of those people – thank you for that wonderful time!

Danilo Balazic, accounting

Four years of work at Don Bosco, a provisional balance

I entered the team in December 2004. At this time I did not know what would expect me. But what I definitely knew already at this point was that it had been the right decision to work in a non profit association, and to have a hand in accounting and administration. I was conscious of the fact that the work in a NPO essentially differs from that in a company dedicated to profit. I happily took the chance to use my experience from the work in a profit oriented company in my new work at Don Bosco and therefore help those people who are allocated to our organization.

What do “integration” and “emigrational background” mean? For someone who lives in Austria in the second generation and whose mother tongue is Slovenian, they are not just concepts but experiences. Thus I often admire our juveniles, who face an even harder situation compared to mine in those times.

If you take the term integration by word, it means the production of a whole, the incorporation of the immigrants into society. Our juveniles are mostly already living in Austria for more than two years, are learning German, attending school and looking for occupational opportunities. Thus, their integration should be completed. So why are they not allowed to participate in the occupational market with their graduate and current procedure of granting the right of asylum?

The team of the home for juveniles Abraham executes precious work to care for our adolescents and to enable them the best education. To assure this, the Don Bosco refugee residential is depending on external support and donations. Here I want to thank the supportive organizations and all donators.

You enable us to do a good job, thus the lives of young people succeed.

Rudolf Decker, SDB,

Volunteer

I was born in 1939 and since 1959 I am a member of the community of Don Bosco, and in Abraham my nickname is “Grandpa”. After decades of work in various organization (Betriebspastoral, KAJ, vocational school) with the aim of breaking the barriers for adolescents living in social fringe groups in our country, I am now giving the best I can to support this house.

In a meanwhile globalised world full of borderless transfers of capital and goods, I don't think that it is just a Christian-social challenge to plead for an equal social treatment of underage minors and local juveniles across borders, according to the principle of equal treatment.

Alternative civilian service in the Don Bosco Refugee residential accommodation

Laura Nencini, Italian altern

My name is Laura Nencini and I am from the Toscana, Italy.

Since September 2008 I am here in the home for juveniles Abraham in Vienna as an altern. In Italy the alternative civilian service is voluntary, as well for men as for women. Three years ago I read about the projects of the Salesians, where you can absolve your alternative civilian service, and I thought it would be a great idea to apply for one of those projects. Reasons for that are the personal development and the improvement of my (German) language skills. But at first I had to wait due to my plans concerning University and regular work, so I hoped to find the projects in the following years as well. Eventually I was able to hand in my application in June 2008.

I chose the project of Don Bosco because I already had positive and interesting experiences in this field of work in Italy. I worked as a volunteer in a house for families of asylum seekers and thus I was curious how reality looks like in Vienna and to see differences or similarities between the two countries.

Although there are big differences (to welcome a whole family is not the same as to welcome single underage juveniles), the similarities in the work preponderate and they also include difficulties and misunderstandings, due to the situation of various cultures and languages living together.

Another important similarity is that all asylum seekers (as well adolescents as families)

hope and try everything to start a better life. Of course they have to face hard times, but all of them share the hope of a better tomorrow.

What I especially like about Abraham are the attempts of the custodians to give responsibility to the juveniles. This happens through frequently meetings between the boys and the custodians, which includes the respect of the house rules, so everybody does his/her clean up and participates in the weekly meetings, where one of the boys cooks for the whole group and everybody eats dinner together.

Felix Leblhuber, altern:

My name is Felix Leblhuber, I am 20 years old and I am here as an altern since December 2008. I decided to support the Don Bosco refugee residential accommodation because I think that this topic is very interesting concerning our country and deserves to be supported. So far I collected a lot of impressions, mostly in a positive way. My responsibilities are primarily placed in the area of the personal attendance of adolescents, furthermore accompanying them to agencies and doctors, but also the maintenance of the house and some administrative duties. Concluding I want to say that I experience the work as really inspiring and precious and that I am glad about having chosen this job.

Ergün Yenigün, altern

I am 26 years old and an altern in the Don Bosco refugee residential accommodation since August 2008. I am very happy to be allowed to work in here. In this place my help is needed and I am ready to support the boys in their new start and to guide them. We can do a lot for the boys, e.g. support them in every-day life and help them get closer into our culture.

But you can support our boys as well with your donations, because our financial resources are very poor.

Moreover some interns worked in the Don Bosco refugee residential accommodation in 2008:

In line with the project Brückenschlag Manfred Stadlinger; related to the education as a social pedagogic Daniela Jiracek; Florian Mazal who prepared himself for his year's voluntary service of Jugend Eine Welt in Ecuador; Zuzana Kobesova who studies pedagogic and Christine Oriovits who absolved a test intern in line with her school education.

Our work would not be possible without the engagement and the collaboration of volunteers. In 2008 Karin Mosgöller, Roman Redler, Lilla Benbrika, Ulrich Berlach und Julie Schlögl regularly came to offer guided learning, Brigitte Dolezal offered a workshop for relaxing techniques and since autumn Bogdan Pammer and a group of young people organize monthly activities for and with the boys of Abraham. Concerning administrative work we received support from Clemens Innerhofer—Bein, who regularly helped us for several years, and Mate Hart. We also thank all groups, which realized projects in our house: the pupils of the HLW Reumannplatz Vienna 10, who worked 72 hours in our garden; the pupils of the AHS Kenyongasse, who decorated the Christmas tree with the boys and even organized presents; the group of “service for peace”, who organized a tabletop football tournament and a dinner and cooking with the adolescents; the juveniles of the youth center Youth Point and their conductor Sylvia Vrzak for the reception in summer.

We want to thank all interns and volunteers for your dedication!

EVERYBODY NEEDS FRIENDS AND SPONSORS!

So does an organization. Thanks to all our friends and sponsors, who supported us since the first hour. It is good to know that there is a circuit of people who we can rely on.

Thanks to our sponsors

We want to thank all donors that supported us in the year 2008 with contributions in kind, free or reduced entrance passes or similar things:

Concerning leisure time

- Afrika!Afrika!
- Snowsundays
- Schönbrunner Tiergarten GMBH
- DDSG Blue Danube
- Youth Point Don Bosco

In line with the project „72 hours without a compromise“

- Katholische Jugend
- Bezirksvorstehung Liesing
- NÖM
- Fa. Starlinger
- Baumax 23
- Fa. Oberrauter
- Interspar 23

- Gartengestaltung Reischl
- HLB Reumannplatz

Others

- Microsoft
- Erste Bank
- Red Bull
- Blumen Stieber
- Kondomfirma
- Leiner
- Pfarre Inzersdorf—Neustift und die Pfarrmitglieder
- Koreanische Katholische Gemeinde
- AHS Kenyongasse

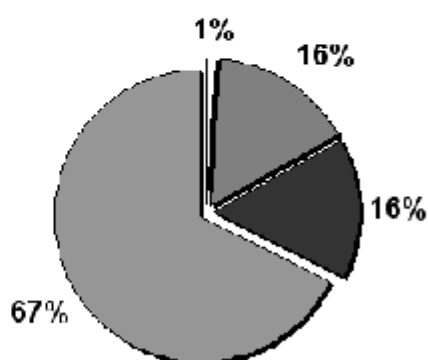
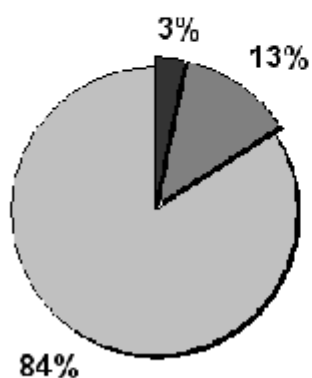
FINANZBERICHT 2008

Vereinsdaten			
Anlagevermögen	3.221,71	Eigenkapital	42.230,04
Umlaufvermögen	85.300,28	Rückstellungen	17.684,55
		Fremdkapital	27.968,80
Rechnungsabgrenzung	141,40	Rechnungsabgrenzung	780,00
Summe	88.663,39	Summe	88.663,39

Einnahmen und Ausgaben	
Öffentliche Kostensätze	352.039,47
Private Spenden	14.029,64
Projektunterstützung und sonstige Erlöse	54.031,04
SUMME	420.100,15
Aufwände für Klienten und Materialaufwand	65.610,90
Personalaufwand	283.491,76
Abschreibung	4.159,67
Übriger Aufwand	66.837,82
SUMME	420.100,15

- Private Spenden
- Projektunterstützung und sonstige Erlöse
- Öffentliche Kostensätze

- ▤ Abschreibung
- Übriger Aufwand
- Aufwände für Klienten und Materialaufwand
- Personalaufwand



A FINAL WORD

Looking back to the year 2008 there has been a lot of change

- *The court for asylum started its work in the mid of 2008 and thus displaced the independent national senate for asylum, the higher administrative court is not the third instance anymore. But the proceedings still last very long in the first instance at the national office for asylum. We especially notice an abbreviation of the proceedings concerning former inhabitants of Abraham.*
- The project Tobias changed, we will not continue work in the Mittelburgenland in the same way as before, but it is still unknown how it will be perpetuated, the decision will fall in 2009.
- But also in Abraham we had a lot of changes: there was a lot of change among the adolescents. Due to the fact that the boys today are often older when they enter the house as in former times, they don't stay as long. Moreover we care for juveniles, who have mental or physical problems, so the number of therapies or mental treatments increased.
- The spacious changes had a positive impact on our pedagogic work: The juveniles now have got more privacy, the communication between the custodians and the administration office improved and the garden can now be used easier through a direct access.
- The change of personnel and the new structure of the management led to an increase in the quality of our work.
- A lot of people are interested in our work and in joining our staff. We estimate that in the year 2008 we had about 50 volunteers, some regularly and others in line with projects like "72 hours without a compromise". For the juveniles these contacts are very precious and for us the projects enable a lively and various work.
- It is very nice to be visited by groups, like last year some students and two Salesian did. The general council for missions Don Klement and the general council for northern Europe Don Turansky got to know the Don Bosco refugee residential accommodation as well. For the first time a group of volunteers from different parts of Austria spend one evening here in Abraham in line with a further education course here in Vienna.

Unfortunately some changes we are waiting for already several years still have not been accomplished: we are still waiting for the adaption of the daily rates made by the ministry of interior affairs, and caused by the increasing inflation it got even harder for the juveniles to achieve a healthy and good alimentation based on only five Euros a day. Furthermore it gets more and more difficult to receive a place in a therapy for the adolescents and the costs in connection to that have to be financed through donations.

The atmosphere that people from other countries experience here in Austria is very ruff, so we want to act against this and give examples to show that a living together of people coming from different countries is possible indeed and to show that there are a lot of people in Austria who care about unattended underage refugees. Thus we want to change the actual society into one that enables a familiar cooperation.

Thank you for joining us on our way!

Margit Pollheimer

Love does not know any difference concerning the color of the skin, the origin or the nationality. (Don Bosco)

How can you support us?

The Don Bosco refugee residential accommodation is reliant on you!

You can help us in four different ways:

Ideational-mental-spiritual

We are convinced that the Don Bosco refugee residential accommodation is no “product” only out of human effort, but is guided by gods bless. A lot of people accompanied and supported our work with their prayers. This mental atmosphere is the basis of all human efforts. We kindly ask you to continue praying for our work and for the people, whom we are allowed to be there for, and thus give the sorrows and hardships into the healing space of god’s endless love.

Contributions in kind

The Don Bosco refugee residential accommodation is a “living organism”. Many of our real assets already have signs of wear and a “functional end”. Whether it is the refrigerator, the TV, the old kitchenette, sports equipment or toys – we are always looking for things we can use. Our staff of Abraham and Tobias has got a list full of real assets we need. Please contact us by phone or mail and tell us what you have or we tell you what we need.

Donations

We would not be able to do our work without donations. Every Euro that does not need to be legitimated with an exactly defined utilization in front of our donors enables us to use our resources in a not bureaucratic and appropriate way: whether it is used for the allocation of additional offers concerning leisure time or education for our juveniles, or whether it is used for emergency assistance for migrants or for necessary rebuilding or adaptation. We are reliant to those donations and begging for them.

WHAT COUNTS, IS THE HUMAN

The encounter among humans is not replaceable through material values. Our adolescents in Abraham and the many children and families that we are able to reach through Tobias, are people like you and me, who want to be taken serious, who need the feeling of being precious and important. Who spends some time with those people, gives them hope. We are looking for volunteers that are interested in creating the juveniles' leisure time, accompany them on their educational way and to bring their abilities (musical, creative, sportive, technical) into service. Our team members are trying to achieve encounters among humans, which are gainful for both sides.