

Balsam Project

UNWG joined a world effort to alleviate the suffering of children living in refugee camps. By allocating funds to The Balsam project located in Turkey we are contributing to cover part of their basic needs such as food, health, shelter, and education.

A little background on how we found this project. Last year three members of the Guild arranged a trip to visit Adoor Copii, an orphanage UNWG sponsors in Romania. We had a brief stop over to meet members of UNWG Affiliates in Geneva, Rome and Vienna. The whole journey was an enriching and intense experience. While in Vienna, we met with the founder of The Balsam project, Marie Therese, who has devoted herself to help refugees and personally travels to the border between Turkey and Syria to bring them food and clothes and mostly hope for a better future. We were introduced to a Syrian family with three young children who were fortunate to stay with an Austrian family that opened their home for them. We were touched and inspired by the Austrian hosts generosity and warmth. We had a unique opportunity to see the Syrian family and hear the horrors they survived before arriving to Vienna.

We are painfully aware that the number of children in vulnerable situations grows every day, therefore we are committed to double our efforts in fundraising events and other activities. We want to be able to offer our assistance to many more children to cover the needs of children living in extreme poverty or in high risk areas all over the world.

Project Balsam is also the winner of the UN Secretary-General Award for Staff Voluntarism 2015.