

Member Updates



The Relief Organization of the Swiss Commandery in 2018/19

The Order of St. John in Switzerland is active in the following areas:

Switzerland:

Support of "Villa YoYo": a playground and protected interior area for children in districts of large Swiss cities with high levels of immigrants. Two new "Villa YoYos" were opened, in Neuchâtel and in Winterthur near Zurich; a total of 17 are now in operation. Swiss Knights work at all of these; the President of the Villa Yoyo organization as well as a number of its directors are members of the Order. The focus of activity is the integration of immigrants into Swiss society and the prevention of violence. The children learn social skills and gain self-confidence.

International Transports: an activity in collaboration with "Aide et Assistance" of the Swiss Relief Organization of the Order of Malta, and also in collaboration with other JOIN members. A number of shipments of hospital and school material, used as well as new, were sent, mainly to countries in Eastern Europe. For the gathering of donated material, the Maltese maintain a warehouse near Bern while our Order has another at Embrach near Zurich.

Local activities: our organisation **JHGS Johanniter Hilfsgemeinschaft Schweiz** provides practical and financial assistance for the sick, the disabled, prisoners, refugees and others in need with projects in Basel, Bern, Geneva, Lausanne and Zurich. This effort, including new projects, is being expanded.

International:

Europe, Romania, Sibiu: Charity event in Au Castle / Canton Zurich in August, 2018. Support of two projects in collaboration with the Lutheran Church of Sibiu (formerly Hermannstadt).

Europe, Romania, Bucharest: visits and financial support for a school for unprivileged children: "school is cool", in collaboration with the Fundatio JoYo.

Africa, Madagascar: "AMADIA", a clinic for the treatment of diabetes in cooperation with the Relief Organization of the French Commandery: Collaboration with Prof. Assal, Geneva, who works with medical doctors and nurses to train local medical crews. Regular video conferences between Geneva and the clinic are held. "ANDRANOVELONA", a new medical station: run by the French Commandery, also supported by the Swiss and the German Commandery of Rhineland-Palatinate-Saar.

South-America, Peru, Truchillo: "ARPEGGIO", a way of building social competence and self-confidence in unprivileged children through playing a musical instrument. Visits and music lessons were funded by members of the Order.

South Sudan: Construction and operation of a new maternity ward in cooperation with the German JUH Johanniter Unfallhilfe (Auslandshilfe).

Syria, Aleppo: Support of the "Saint-Louis" hospital in Aleppo. A charity concert was held in Lausanne in December, 2018, sponsored by two former Swiss Ambassadors, one a member of our Order, the other of the Knights of Malta.