

Spreading hope and help

On June 29, 2014 three sisters of the clubs Soroptimist International Club Vaduz/Liechtenstein and Soroptimist International Club Goldes/Südsteiermark went to Bosnia, to spread the organized help in the villages Prud, Vojskova and Zorice. Totally EUR 30'000 could be given to victims of the big flood in spring.

Monika Studer (first and also incoming president of Club Vaduz/Liechtenstein), Johanna Kohlenberger (first president of Club Goldes/Südsteiermark) und Angelika Prentner (active president of Club Goldes/Südsteiermark) went to Bosnia on Sunday, June 29, to distribute the donations of their club projects international Golf tournament and Salamanzar Rally to the victims of the flood in Bosnia. With these two successful projects Euro 30.000,- could be collected and given to selected persons or families in the villages Prud, Vojskova and Zorice. We chose people earning no income, who either had to support children, or were ill or completely without help or family. The three Ladies were accompanied by Anela Nuic, a young student of architecture in Graz, who speaks the local language and has family nearby. She took over the organisation in the villages and did all the translation work. The family of Anela is also amongst the victims of the flood who have lost everything. The four ladies have been accompanied by some officers of the Austrian army.

The situation they found in the villages was hard to bear. A lot of help does not reach the people who need it. For instance there are stores of clothes in Serbia but the will not be moved or have not been moved to Bosnia. More examples of miscoordination of help exist. This is the reason why the two clubs decided to make a list of persons who need it most and distribute the donations in small sums given personally to each person respectively family.

The People in Bosnia were deeply grateful and appreciated the help of the two Soroptimist Clubs. They have lost everything which they have built up after the last war. The houses are destroyed completely, especially their cellars and their ground floor. Everywhere you can see heaps of wet furniture at the side of the streets. Doors, windows, wooden floors – everything has to be extracted and rebuilt. Broken windows are everywhere. Some dead animals are still lying in the landscape although the major part has already been brought to incineration plants in Serbia. Many people were not able to return to their homes, because the houses have to be cleaned and fumigated previously. The Austrian army gives support in helping people to generate clean drinking water.

Upon an estimation of the Austrian army people in this region will need help and support for another three years to recover from the catastrophe this spring.