



*EMEA Volunteer Chapter*

# 2017: Another successful year for community support across the EMEA Region



Together we'll go far



# Another successful year for the EMEA Volunteer Chapter

With special thanks to our Leadership Committee and Volunteer Chapter members

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Milan team members campaigning for Cystic Fibrosis Research



Frankfurt team members during CSC



Dublin's donation to One in Four

2017 was the third year for the EMEA Volunteer Chapter. Led by EMEA Volunteer Chapter President, Jelena Rolih, the EMEA Volunteer Chapter yet again coordinated many community support efforts across the region. Volunteer participation in September's Community Support Campaign was outstanding, a team member from EMEA was nominated for Volunteer of the Year and Volunteer Service Award, International giving grants were approved and generally team members showed dedication to their local communities participating in local volunteering events throughout the year.

As the year end approaches the EMEA Chapter Leadership Committee would like to thank all team members across the region for your efforts and commitment over the past 12 months.

### **EMEA Volunteer Chapter Leadership Committee:**

Jelena Rolih (Paris), President

Eral Yilmaz (Istanbul), Vice President / Membership Chair

Katri Sutinen (Frankfurt), Communications Chair

Frank Pizzo (London), Executive Sponsor

Jennifer Myers (Minneapolis), Consultant

### **EMEA Volunteer Chapter local representatives**

Kartik Gandesha (Dubai), Irmina O'Briain (Dublin), Alex Hasselberg (Frankfurt), Eral Yilmaz (Istanbul), Thornton Botes & Moipone Nesengani (Johannesburg), Pedro Montero (Madrid), Renata Walicek (Milan), Alice Sedorne (Paris), Laurence Magloire (Luxembourg) and Kirsty Abbott (London).

Going forward into 2018 there is an opening for the Communications Chair position.

# 2017 year-round continued efforts and initiatives

Offices across region continued to participate in local community events



Berfu volunteering



Johannesburg team building a home



Istanbul team members during CSC 2017

## **Volunteer Service Award winner: Berfu Pakkan fosters abandoned kittens and helps multiple organizations**

Berfu Pakkan, team member from the Istanbul representative office, earned two significant achievements in 2017: Wells Fargo Volunteer Service Award and EMEA Volunteer Chapter's Volunteer of the Year award. Berfu is most involved with animal shelters and participates in events to bottle-feed abandoned kittens, and help rescue and rehabilitate stray animals. She is also involved with LOSEV, a Turkish charity for children with leukemia. She is also an active supporter of the Istanbul Office's Community Support Campaign activities. Over the past couple of years, they have partnered with the Foundation to support Women's Work by translating microfinance applications for low-income women. Berfu donated the \$1,000 grant she was given as a reward to a charity that buys shoes and winter boots for low-income children in Turkey.

## **Dubai team participates in social responsibility initiative**

DIFC Branch TM's participated in corporate social responsibility initiative to provide meals and water to 2,500 construction workers in around the Dubai International Financial Centre (DIFC) on the morning of 22nd May. The construction workers are part of teams extending and developing the infrastructure within the DIFC and work throughout the summer months outdoors where temperatures hover in the range 105-115F degrees. This volunteering effort was organised by the DIFC and Wells Fargo team members played a key part in this initiative. Later in the year the team also successfully collaborated with a local charity for a clothes donation.

## **Johannesburg team members volunteer on the Nelson Mandela Build Week**

The Johannesburg Rep Office team volunteered in July 2017 on the Nelson Mandela Build Week on a house near the Itemoheng Primary School in Drieziek, Orange Farm. Orange Farm is a township located approximately 45 km from Johannesburg. Approximately 85% of the people work in Johannesburg. Most people use the train to get to work. Around 35% of the residents are unemployed and the statistics rise every year. Many of the roads aren't tarred and Habitat for Humanity South Africa has had regular building projects in the area. The team worked on and built a house for a home recipient in the town.

## **Year round efforts in Dublin**

Dublin team supports various local charities and has ongoing events throughout the year. The team also successfully received a grant for \$10k through WF International Giving Program for Laura Lynn, Ireland's Children Hospice. Team members are participating in various events to collect funds during December, such as "dress down December", Christmas jumper day and Christmas games day.

## **Solidarity Market in Madrid**

In December Madrid team participated in the sixth consecutive Solidarity Market in their office building sponsoring two charities "the Caring Cookie" which supports a Day Center for the poor and the homeless and YMCA the largest and the oldest youth charity in the world focused on helping young people play a fulfilling role within their communities.

# Exceptional efforts across the EMEA Region for September's Community Support Campaign

Close to 200 hours were recorded by EMEA offices, which is an amazing result that we can be extremely proud of!

## Numerous volunteer projects in local communities



Johannesburg team members volunteering

Close to 200 hours were recorded by EMEA offices (excluding London), which is a result that we can all be proud of.

**Dublin** team members had several events such as bake sale, table quiz, dress down month and the team raised total of €4,151.85. Funds were donated to One in Four, a charity that provides professional support to men and women who had experienced childhood sexual abuse.

**Johannesburg** team members tested their painting skills at a nonprofit organization focused on children in Johannesburg. Volunteers refurbished and painted a toy library at Cotlands, an organization that helps children with education and social crises issues. The team volunteered for a total of 24 hours. The organization's early childhood development programs are based on best practice principles ensuring the holistic development of the children they serve. Some of their other programs include nutrition, health, and psychosocial support.



Hans the Pony collecting funds for a local charity in Frankfurt

**Frankfurt** team members helped polish the city's appearance by cleaning up some of the litter in banks of the Frankfurt Main River for the second consecutive year. The team also participated for the first time in the international Pony Race, raising funds for a local charity called "Hearts Desire" that provides children and teenagers who are suffering from cancer with courage to fight the illness, or if they cannot, one last wish.

**Istanbul** representative office spent for the second year a day in September recording audio books for visually impaired children. The team used a specially designed recording studio owned by a local municipality.



Paris team clothes donation

**Madrid** team visited Mother Teresa of Calcutta Soup Kitchen to help serve a lunch meal to a group of 100 people.

**Paris** office relocated to new premises in September and the team took the opportunity to donate old furniture to a local charity La Ressourcerie. This charity also coordinated the dismantling and removal of the furniture, by using employees who are currently out of the basic employment scheme. The team also contributed to micro credit lending through Kiva and donated clothes to a local charity that battles against social marginalization.

**Milan** team participated in The Foundation for Cystic Fibrosis Research's annual campaign "A Cyclamen for Cystic Fibrosis." The foundation promotes, selects, and funds projects in advanced research with the scope of improving the length and the quality of the life of the patients.