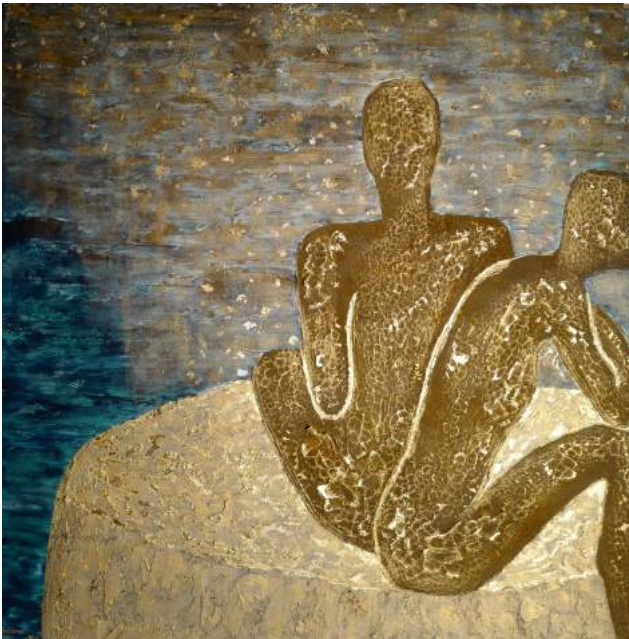


# Heartwings NGO

CHANGE IS POSSIBLE - NEWSLETTER 3/2020



## Hilfe! Help! Ayuda!

Women are waiting on the stairs in front of our office, the phone is ringing, WhatsApp messages asking for help in different languages, letters, mail requests, etc.

Never before have we been so much aware of all the hardships, unbearable suffering and crippling existential fears in the red-light milieu.

Whom shall we help and how? We receive so many and so different cries for help: food, clothes, emergency money, new job, shelter. We cannot always present a solution on a silver platter right away. Often we don't have all the resources it takes. There is never a standard solution, because each woman is unique in her abilities and needs. Waiting is not popular. Yet waiting causes stretching, which not only in sports feels wholesome and releasing. While awaiting solutions, women

finally come to rest, begin to dream about their future and then - with or without our help ☺ - dare to take first creative steps towards a totally changed perspective on life. As you read, take as well a moment to be inspired by the "wait"! We have experienced ourselves that sometimes everything seems to fall apart. But in the midst of the confusion, new trust grows, which only God can activate and His peace comforts. The fog rises and a morning breaks on the horizon! Thank you so much for your faithful help, all the desperately needed resources and finances, which finally make the wait of the many stranded women here a joy. Many thanks for everything!

*My Lord and God, all my aspirations are known to you,  
and my groaning has not escaped you! For in you I hope!  
You shall answer me.*

I urgently need help!!! I am 18 years young. I work as a prostitute which destroys me psychologically more and more each day. I have no money, no place to sleep and often eat nothing for days. I want to get out of this! Please help me!

17:24

The car is packed with all her belongings. We drive the young woman to her new home.

«What made you guys help me, no one really helped me before?!» We explain: «It's a miracle! We don't have our own house yet, where we could accommodate you and offer you a job. We lack the financial resources. Surprisingly, however, a week before your cry for help, we were offered by someone a place to stay and work. It seems as if

everything has been prepared in advance by an invisible hand, just for you." Completely overwhelmed and with tears in her eyes, she expresses her gratitude and says, "And I thought God forgot about me."

Home office is not the main focus of Heartwings. We were more than ever needed in the last few months! The distress in the milieu is existential. We are fully booked every day with visits in our office and outreaches in the red-light district.

We are currently experiencing a wave of women from the Dominican Republic who are coming here via Spain to work as prostitutes. «Mucho mucho cold here! Only have flip flops.» Her colleague adds: «No money for food, so now I thin! Thought here in Switzerland is better. But earn nothing. Can no longer even go home!»



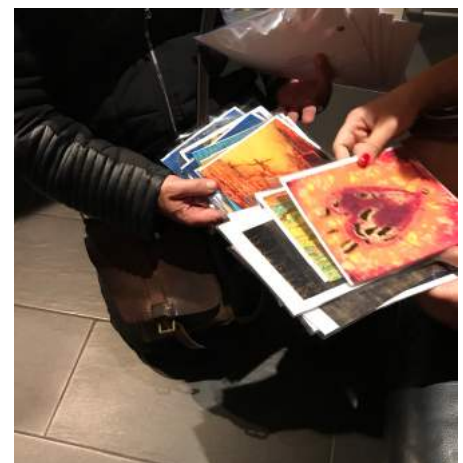
Like wildfire, word has spread in the red-light district that Heartwings provides emergency aid. The women even seek us out in groups. During their first visit they are still a bit shy because they don't know us and don't speak a word of German. Usually, four of them squeeze themselves together on the small couch. They feel more at ease with tea and coffee. Talk about their families and show us pictures, teach us Spanish, gain trust and even share their stories of abuse with us. Our office becomes a home in a foreign country. To top it off, we are able to provide the women with snacks, warm clothes & shoes, gifts and Migros vouchers.

We are receiving a lot of creative and generous support from you in this emergency situation! You make it possible that the hungry get food, warm clothes and gifts. Thank you for your financial support, the beautiful gifts and the warm clothing.



Fierce exchange in a brothel: Recently we visited a club we already have known for a long time. The women who had to work there were delighted to receive the lovely, well-filled gift bags, and Dorothee's art cards touched their hearts. But all of a sudden, the atmosphere changed. The front door was slammed, and three guys cursed in the stairwell: «What's going on here? Who disturbs our brothel business? We will kick you out!» The women were intimidated, and fear arose among them!

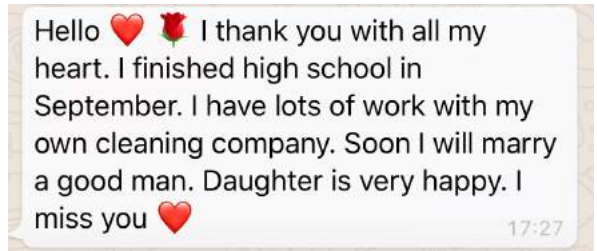
«What are these gifts?» the leader of the men's group shouted! «Do I also get one?» As he then unexpectedly introduced himself as the owner of the house, we fearlessly asked him what had happened to the previous owner, who had always granted Heartwings access to the "red house" without any problems? Embarrassed and visibly moved, the young boss apologized: «What, you know my Dad! I'm very sorry for my rude temper and that I'm so drunk!» Then he overemphasized: «But just to let you know, these women are all working here voluntarily!» However, the body language of these women expressed a totally different statement. Now the boss was polite and we told him about our work in the red-light district and how we experienced healing from deep wounds of the past.





In the chaos of the first lockdown, Elena was unable to travel back to her home country in time. She stranded in Switzerland. We talked about this breaking trial in the previous newsletter. «I am shit! I am stupid!», said Elena over and over again. She explained to us that she herself was to blame for everything. She had dug her own grave by prostituting herself. Till the end of the lockdown, week after week, we spent a lot of time with Elena. She cleaned our office, made our outreach bags, and wrapped art cards against pay. The involvement gave her structure and new self-confidence. During work, piece by piece, she took us deeper into her life story. In the midst of chaos she experienced inner peace and calmness. The hamster wheel of survival broke. For the first time she found time to reflect her own story. We could observe this inner change: Instead of black clothes she suddenly wears color. The messy hair turns into a pink hairstyle look. Her eyes shine again. Even via Facetime her daughter notices the change. Elena proudly translates for us what her daughter said: «Mom you are changing. You are becoming a good Mom!»

The lockdown is over, the borders are starting to open. «I am good!» With these words Elena says goodbye to us and goes back to her home country. At the beginning of December we receive the following SMS from Elena:



One of the highlights of this year's art vernissage was the musical performance by Carola. Due to Corona, she lost her job in her home country Spain. Her children are still in school, her husband is in a wheelchair, government contributions are not sufficient. Her family falls through the social net. In total poverty, Carola ends up in prostitution in Zurich for the first time in her mid-40s. «I do not want to fuck fuck - I am embarrassed.»

Carola's passion is singing. Therefore, we came up with the idea to engage her for our art vernissage and to generously pay her in exchange. «Thank you for believing in me! You are the only ones who promote my dream.» While Carola sings, time stands still. This moment was deeply touching. In fact, the entire vernissage weekend was very special. We are moved by the generous visitors and the many paintings that were sold. The money which Carola earned at her performance made it possible for her to fly back home and finally embrace her family after seven months.



According to our Federal Constitution, the strength of our people should be measured by the welfare of the weak! But unfortunately, our society likes to close eyes when it comes to the sad realities in the red-light district, where human dignity is hardly respected or protected. Therefore, we directly show people in political positions of responsibility the red-light district. This is the only way they can see for themselves. Most politicians reacted shocked and stunned. Our liberal legislation allows pimping, human trafficking and organized crime to make high earnings at the expense of vulnerable lives. Change is possible! End the silence! Be the change!

For 12 years our board member Elisabeth Widmer was responsible for our association accounting. She always did it with exactness and passion. Over all these years she actually did a 20% part-time job on a voluntary basis, which we gratefully would like to acknowledge as our "largest donation" to date! Due to age, there is now a replacement. For the future we wish Elisabeth and her family God's rich blessings!

Philippe Abt and his team at Trevista Treuhand- und Revisionsgesellschaft AG will take over our accounting as of 2021. Thank you very much!



More women than ever are seeking us out and try to leave prostitution! Due to this "good problem" we can no longer manage our day-to-day office work. The women are our priority! We are therefore delighted to receive support from Zilla Maag. Since December, she is employed by Heartwings on a 40% basis.



Thanks to your help, Heartwings has been able to support its long-standing partner organizations in over 15 countries with financial Corona emergency assistance.

Cookies for Freedom: Claudio Sostizzo and his innovative team came up with a creative and excellent cookie baking mix. The entire proceeds from the sale of these delicious gourmet temptations will be donated to Heartwings! More information on [www.cookiesforfreedom.ch](http://www.cookiesforfreedom.ch)



Don't worry, be happy! At the end of 2019, we were lacking financial resources and didn't know how to go on! But we were amazed and are amazed how faithfully our heavenly boss works out miracles. Every year finances are an adventure.

As pictured on the left: Despite thunderclouds, the birds are carefree, happy and hopeful.

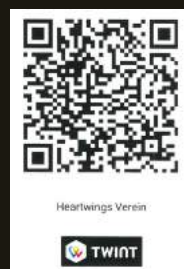
**From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you for all your support. Whether financially or materially! We wish you serenity and hope in the midst of this time!**

### Account details for donation

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