

Heartwings Verein

CHANGE IS POSSIBLE - NEWSLETTER 3/2021



«Isn't your work in the red light district dangerous?» «Your working environment is marked by abuse, exploitation and human trafficking - how do you deal with this?» «Aren't you afraid of pimps when you accompany women away from forced prostitution to better job opportunities?» Concerned questions like these are often asked. And yet, with Heartwings, we have been experiencing for over 13 years that change is possible. Broken dreams and hearts receive supporting wings of hope! The first years were marked by painful "learning by doing" lessons. We have not given up even in times of need and difficulty, for example when our finances, staff, possibilities or own strengths were limited. Especially in these times our identity has grown like the wings of an eagle in a storm. For it was precisely in the stormy headwinds that we experienced breakthroughs and miracles.

The way we experienced it in the founding phase, our old logo appeared: A bit heavy and loaded. Our new winged logo shows how Heartwings has changed. You can sense lightness when you look at it. A new era with exciting challenges has dawned! Now, many women want to break out of prostitution. In fact, so many that it almost took us a bit by surprise. We are now continuously developing appropriate tools to offer better help.

«Be the change» – is our slogan. We can't expect this from the women in the milieu if we aren't ready for it ourselves. In this newsletter, we as a team therefore write quite honestly about the processes that this work triggers in us.



«Oh crap, I missed the approval appointment at the migration office! Can you call and get me a new appointment?», asks a client. I think: «Do you have any other wish, my dear? You're all grown up, I've reminded you several times about the appointment. Now you gotta take care of it yourself. I don't think you'll get your permit this year.» Working with traumatized women comes along with a number of problems, most of which are caused by the women themselves. I give and risk everything for the women, sometimes going beyond my own limits. And then they don't make it after all. My natural reaction is the one described above. However, I am shown otherwise every day. God always gives women another chance after every situation, no matter how badly they messed up, usually even better chances. Where my grace and favour ended a long time ago, he doubles up and blesses the women. In the previous case, the Office turned a blind eye. One day later we had the appointment and one week later we celebrated the receipt of the permit. Undeserved. The woman said: «I managed it all by myself!» Once more, I do not have to fight for my right. It's about something else. Freedom cannot be earned. It is grace and a gift of love.

«Yay look at our permit!» Proudly and with tears in their eyes, Lea and Anna show us their B-residence permits.
«I am Anna. A normal woman with a normal job and with a proper Swiss resident permit.»

In spring 2021, Heartwings started a cleaning business in the second labor market to provide alternative work for the women. Today, we already have a number of private clients. In the beginning, the women are trained by a cleaning specialist and accompanied on every work assignment. All money is given to the woman. Work experience promotes their reintegration into society and increases their self-esteem. Our goal is independent women. We want them to be integrated into the primary labor market as quickly as possible. Miraculously, the managing director of the renowned company RFM contacted us. He offered the prospective cleaning specialists a recognized ISO-certified training course including a diploma. After that, they have the opportunity for a prestigious internship position, followed by the possibility of a permanent position. Today, the first women already hold their diploma in their hands, working more and more independently. Even more women were already eager to seize the chance of a new life and were recruited.

«Today is my day», a newly hired woman is pleased.



❤ Thank you. That you believe in me, that you are the only ones who support me in everything, that you have never been angry with me no matter what I have done. Thank you for giving me such warmth, attention and recognition. And giving me so much courage and simply giving me peace, even if I have not yet achieved everything. You are so important to me and a big part of my life. You have taken me as I am in my most difficult life situations. And for that I thank you, I can't put it into words how grateful I am. Because you have given perspective to my life again.

14:34



Oops, I forgot we are going on outreach at Langstrasse this afternoon. In the morning rush I had forgotten my jacket. Outside it's freezing cold. Luckily we have the Ladies Lounge Boutique. Without hesitation, I grab a long coat from the donated clothes to keep me warm for the afternoon.

Two hours later, we are in a shabby room in a typical brothel on Langstrasse. A woman is deeply touched by our visit.

On the way out she walks close behind me. «Your coat is so beautiful », I hear her whisper. Without hesitating I answer: «Thank you dear, do you want it?» Completely perplexed she looks at me. She can't believe it. It fits like a glove. The woman has a big smile on her face.

The moment is magic. That afternoon I understood that God can create a moment of happiness even out of my chaos. For Him I don't have to be perfect, I simply need to be present.



The competitive pressure in the prostitution business is enormous. To get the customer's attention, the women have to look perfect, be sexy. They are forced to invest the little and hard-earned money in their outward appearance: Nails, hair, waxing and clothes.

At the suggestion of the women, we want to combine the necessary with the beautiful. One of our employees rejoiced: «I love doing gel nails, it's my passion. I have all the utensils for a nail studio at home. I just never had the chance to start.» And so, in the next few weeks, a nail studio will be created in our office. All the professional equipment was donated to us, including furniture and furnishing.

Getting your nails done is something intimate. It gives us the opportunity to talk to the women in private. They get peace, quietness and on top of that fancy nails.



Thank you Heartwings! You have saved my life and given me wings to wonderful change. Your work saves lives and I am the proof of it! May your work continue to grow, as many more women need this help!

14:41

«Oh crap! I forgot to organise a hand model for the nail refresher course.»



Several miracles have to happen now! And then immediately I had a flash of inspiration. I knew exactly to which one of our women I had to go. Hoping she is at home, has time and untouched fingernails (which would truly be a miracle), I drove to her place. «Please be at home», it echoed in my head as I nervously pressed the doorbell. Silence. Then the door opener buzzed. WOW! The first miracle, I thought to myself. But that is not enough. «You can't believe how happy I am that you're here!» I said as my eyes wandered straight to her fingernails. Natural! I asked: «Are you free on Monday so I can practice on your fingernails?» Laughing, she hugged me and said: «I don't believe it! I was about to leave the house to get my nails done with the last bit of money. But something stopped me!» I love such moments. When I have no choice but to trust. And God's plan even far better is than mine.



«The appointment is urgent», these words have been pounding in my head for the last two weeks.

They make me despair, make me angry. For a fortnight, Carolina was supposed to appear at the authorities office for this "urgent appointment". Carolina, however, is in her home country and does not exactly know when she will return. «Does Carolina realise how hard it has been for Heartwings to reach this point? How much it has cost the association so far?», I ask myself. And now, at this final stage towards legality, she sits comfortably at home. As a counsellor at Heartwings, I know that full commitment, dedication and love are no guarantee for success. Especially not when it comes to working with traumatised people. But how many more chances can Carolina squander before it is too late?

When she showed up at our office two weeks later than planned, I gave up. With quiet satisfaction I said to myself: «There are no second chances with the Swiss authorities.» Without any real prospect of success, I nonetheless called the authority. Surprised and not without resentment, I learn that Carolina's omission has no consequences. She receives a new appointment in no time.

I am affected by the unkindness of my own heart. Isn't grace precisely that? Receiving everything even though you have done nothing for it. Have I not already experienced this grace many times in my own life? As a human being, I have a limited supply of grace. May God therefore fill me with His every day.





Dear Heartwings ❤️❤️ I wanted to say thank you for all you have done for me, I appreciate this very much. You were there for me when I felt lost and didn't know what to do. You have not condemned me, on the contrary, you have always told me how valuable I am. I have found hope again thanks to you. 😊 Someday I will be able to help other prostitutes too. ❤️

14:48



During the pandemic, a lot of new things were released. As a result, the work expanded to completely new dimensions. And our team has surpassed itself and is on an overtaking course. But during this time I also felt uncertainty and somehow off-color. I was overwhelmed with the speed of growth and the ever-changing situations. In the process, I lost overview and, to be honest, almost felt a little left behind. I realized that the younger ones were blossoming and I began to understand that my old thinking was getting in the way of work. I learned to let go voluntarily in order to give space to new dynamics. One example among many others: Due to a lack of space, I have released my beloved art studio on Langstrasse. The room is now used as an office. This triggered an unexpected process in me: Being a leader does not mean ruling from top to bottom. Rather, it means being in cooperation with one another, so that new and cool things start to flow.

My identity is not in what I do or have done, but in what I carry within me and what I am. Like labor pains in childbirth, when something new is born: I now know it is no longer about my own garden. It is about something higher that is already being built invisibly. I let go and I am free. I am incredibly grateful for such a wonderful, loyal and creative team.



Golden Bowl: We are a weak vessel. But in the admission of one's own fragility flows precious gold. The value lies not in the outer vessel, in what man makes, but in the content - the imperishable gold. A treasure that becomes visible.

For 13 years we have been on the move as Heartwings in the red light district. With a lot of courage we founded the association at that time and we both invested ourselves full time in the women in the red-light district. Knowing that pimps and prostitutes will not pay us wages. But we received a promise from God: He will take care of us. For the finances, the premises and also very privately for our family. From the beginning, we put all our time and focus on the women in the red light district and not on fundraising, while remembering this promise. Our work is not determined by available or unavailable money. Our work is determined solely by the distress of the women in the red-light district. We respond by investing all the time and money we can so that women can experience change. The greatest miracle is and remains the financial supply. Every year we are in the red on the last day of the year. We are incredibly grateful to be able to take such incredible steps and to see how freedom can be experienced by so many. This year we were able to release unexpectedly high amounts of money to help many women and children from prostitution with their difficulties. On our website www.heartwings.ch you will find much more information about what has become possible this year. We are moved that you, as loyal donors, make this possible! Thank you very much!

Account details Donations

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