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## Special Monthly Edition

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### Camps Presevo, Bujanovac and Vranje

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#### Borderfree in a Nutshell

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“borderfree association” was launched, with the goal to concentrate humanitarian engagements, on the 9th of September 2015. The engagement originated in the spontaneous help actions which cared about the momentary situation of refugees in the Balkan.

The association supports humanitarian projects and processes for the purpose of a sustainable coordination of existing, as well as future projects and has neither religious-nationalistic, nor politically motivated agenda. The association stands for humanitarian values such as respect, tolerance and open-mindedness and would like to contribute, with its engagement, in the reaching

of the vision of a humanitarian life for everyone.

The majority of the founders are from the Balkan. Some of them had to flee their country when they were children or teenagers and are therefore strongly connected to the topic. Through their origin they were connected to aid organisations and projects on site in Serbia and were therefore able to intervene purposefully and in a well-coordinated manner.

While working hard to improve the lives of refugees, “borderfree association” strongly distances itself from illegal activities and efforts to subvert the state and police.

“borderfree association” is registered in Switzerland, Serbia and Greece.

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## “Its nice, that someone thinks of us aswell”

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While cleaning the house in greece we have found between 150 and 200 pants for doctors. We donated those pants to the local hospital here in Preševo. This people work almost everyday with refugees and do a fantastic job with a lot of love, they treat them like its their own family!

They were very thankful and happy that for once someone thought of them.

They especially send their love to Vanja, Samir and Rabija.

They still remember the times when they were all together helping thousands of refugees on the steets of Preševo.

They will never forget.



English:

We work almost every day with refugees and try to do our work with love. We try to try and treat them as they were our own family members. We received working clothes from the organisation Borderfree Association, which is for our daily work. We are very thankful to them, it's nice that someone thinks of us and appreciates our work. Thank you Vanja, Samir, Rabija and Bojan!

Original-Comment of Zekushe R. Selimi:

Ne punojme gati çdo dite me refugjat, dhe punen tone gjithmone e kemi punuar me dashuri. Mوندohemi çdo dite qe te gjithë njerezit ti konsiderojme si familje. Prej organizates Boarderfree kemi pranuar nje pjese te uniformes te cilet na sherbejne per punen tone te perditshme. Jemi shume falenderues organizates Boarderfree, eshte kenaqesi kur dikush e vlereson punen ton! Thank you Vanja, Samir, Rabija and Bojan!



BOJAN ILIC  
SPORT COORDINATOR PRESEVO, BUJANOVAC, VRANJE

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## Stories from our students

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Borderfree takes care of school for adults in the camp. Borderfree was founded by Swiss people in Switzerland. But the volunteers are from different countries and they teach us in Presevo but also people in Bujanovac and Vranje.

In the beginning, there was no building for school, so everyone was packed into one room. There were other people having classes, kids playing around. Because of that we met a lot of people from other countries. Now we have a space only for us and are not disturbed by other people. So our teachers can do a proper job. Our teachers are always very very nice! They are very clever and kind.

Every day we learn a lot of new things. For example: Verbs, the structure of a proper sentence, vocabulary etc.

But the most important thing is that we are taught by our different levels of knowledge. The books that we have are the best we got so far. There are also books in different languages like Dari, Pashto, Farsi etc. for everyone. There are people now that want to learn all of the different languages, but first we learn English and German.

We also like the Borderfree school as a building very much, we like going to school there.

We hope, that when we arrive to our destinations, that we will meet our teachers again.

We want to read more stories in the Borderfree Newspaper and wish Borderfree all the success there is, we hope you will exist for a long time!

Thanks so much to Borderfree!

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## Farsi

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سازمان Borderfree مسئول مدارس بزرگسالان در کمپ میباشد. این سازمان توسط مردم سوئیس در کشور سوئیس تاسیس شده است اما داوطلبان بسیاری از کشورهای گوناگون در آن فعالیت میکنند. Borderfree علاوه بر پرشوو (Preševo)، در بویانواتس (Bujanovac) و ورانیه (Vranje) نیز فعالیت میکند.

در ابتدا ساختمان ویژه ای برای مدرسه وجود نداشت و همه در یک اتاق جمع می شدیم. افراد دیگری نیز بودند که کلاس درس داشتند و بچه ها در اطراف بازی می کردند. همین موضوع باعث شد تا افراد زیادی را از کشورهای گوناگون ملاقات نماییم. اکنون، ما محل مخصوص خود را برای کلاس داریم و کسی مزاحم ما نمیشود، نتیجتاً معلم های ما میتوانند کار خود را بشکل شایسته ای انجام دهند. معلمان ما بسیار مهربان، خوش برخورد و باهوش هستند.

روزانه نکات تازه ای یاد میگیریم. بعنوان مثال: افعال، جمله بندی اصولی، مکالمه و غیره. آنچه که در

آموزش ما بسیار مهم است اینست که آموزش ما متناسب با سطح سواد و معلومات ما میباشد. کتاب هایی که در اختیار ما هست، بهترین کتاب

هایی است که تاکنون دریافت کرده ایم. این کتاب ها به زبان های گوناگون از جمله دری، پشتو و فارسی در اختیار همه قرار دارد. افرادی هستند که دوست دارند زبان های مختلفی را یاد بگیرند اما در حله اول ما زبان انگلیسی و آلمانی را یاد می گیریم.

ما ساختمان مدرسه Borderfree را نیز دوست داریم و از رفتن به این مدرسه لذت میبریم.

امیدواریم وقتی به مقصد نهایی خود رسیدیم، دوباره معلم های خود را ملاقات کنیم.

دوست داریم داستان های بیشتری در روزنامه ی Borderfree بخوانیم و موفقیت های بیشتری برای Borderfree آرزو میکنیم و امیدواریم این سازمان تداوم یابد!

سپاس فراوان از Borderfree

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## Poems

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Every time you teach us, every time we learn something we listen in silence. Everyone else laughs at us, now. But when we are working and do our business, you will ask us how we got here, and we will tell you: because of our teachers!

هر بار که به ما میاموزی، هر بار که چیزی از تو یاد میگیریم، در سکوت گوش فرا میدهیم.  
اکنون، همه به ما می خندند.  
اما وقتی سرگرم کار خود هستیم، از ما میپرسی چگونه اینجا آمدیم. و ما خواهیم گفت: بخاطر معلممان!

Look at the nature, the trees, the flowers, the grass: how it grows in silence  
Look at the stars, the moon, the sun: how they move in silence  
We need silence to be able to touch souls!

به طبیعت نگاه کن، درختان، گلها، علف ها، که چگونه در سکوت رشد می کنند  
به ستاره ها نگاه کن، به ماه، به خورشید: که چگونه در سکوت حرکت می کنند  
ما، برای لمس قلب ها، به سکوت محتاجیم!

My honey, my darling  
Let me light up the sky  
Let me light it for you  
Let me tell you  
How much i miss you!

بگذار آسمان را روشن کنم  
بگذار برای تو روشن کنم  
بگذار به تو بگویم  
شیرین من، عزیز من  
که چقدر دل تنگ تو ام!



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FIROUZA, MEDINA, ZOLHIJA  
CAMP PRESEVO



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## Doctor, please no shot tomorrow!

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In September some of the children started going to the local schools. There was a lot of work before the start was possible. The children had to do a check up with the doctors. They were searched for lice and did some health check. Now two girls had infections. One of them had an ear infection. She received several shots at the hospital here in Presevo, so the infection couldn't spread. The other girl had tonsillitis and received several shots for the same reasons. I had the pleasure to drive those two girls to the hospital here in Presevo. Although they were laughing and joking all the time, it was clear they were very nervous about their visit in the hospital.

Just before the time to receive the shot, they hug their parents and Ivana, the nurse in the camp in Presevo, one last time and make their way very brave to the seat where it will happen!

One, two, three. It's all done, no crying,

no screaming. On the way back I decide to reward my heroes of the day with some sweets and stop by a shop. I hide the sweets in my jacket and they are very confused about where I had left what I had bought in the shop. After we get out the sweets "randomly" fall out of my pockets and i hear a loud "AAHAAA!!"

We also had a case in which a school girl couldn't see what was written on the board in front of her, we managed to get her some glasses and now she's able to follow up in school the same way her classmates do!

Now the children go to school every-day and learn Serbian, English, French, Algebra and Geography.



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JELENA DJENIC  
COORDINATOR PRESEVO, BUJANOVAC, VRANJE

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## Oh what a great day!

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Our project with Mr. Rade has finally come to a very positive conclusion. After much effort on our side to complete his dentures and his effort in coming from Vranje to Presevo on the bus at 6:30 in morning around 7 times, his rehabilitation is finally complete. Now he is able to eat and chew food normally and has a beautiful smile to go with his charming personality.

Srpski:  
Nas projekat sa gospodinom Radetom je konacno dosao do pozitivnog ishoda.  
Posle mnogo napora i sa nase i sa njegove strane, njegova rehabilitacija je konacno zavrshena.  
Radujemo se zajedno sa njim jer mu je vraćena funkcija zvakanja a i na njegovom licu sada sija veliki i lep osmeh. Divno iskustvo za sve nas.



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## Interview sa gospodina Radeta

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**Alexandra: Gospodine Rade, kako ste culi za nasu organizaciju?**

Gosp. Rade: Procitao sam u novinama „Srpski Venac“ tekst o vama, da radite sa migrantima i lokalnim stanovnistvom i odmah sam se javio i pitao za pomoc.

**Sta mislite o radu naše organizacije?**

Bas mi se svidja da ima ljudi koji se brinu i za druge, koji nemaju puno u zivotu i koji beze od rata. Cini mi se da vi ne pravite razliku izmedju izbeglica i nasih ljudi. Covek je za vas covek i uvek treba da se pomogne gde moze!

**Da li Vam je bilo naporno da dolazite kod nas?**

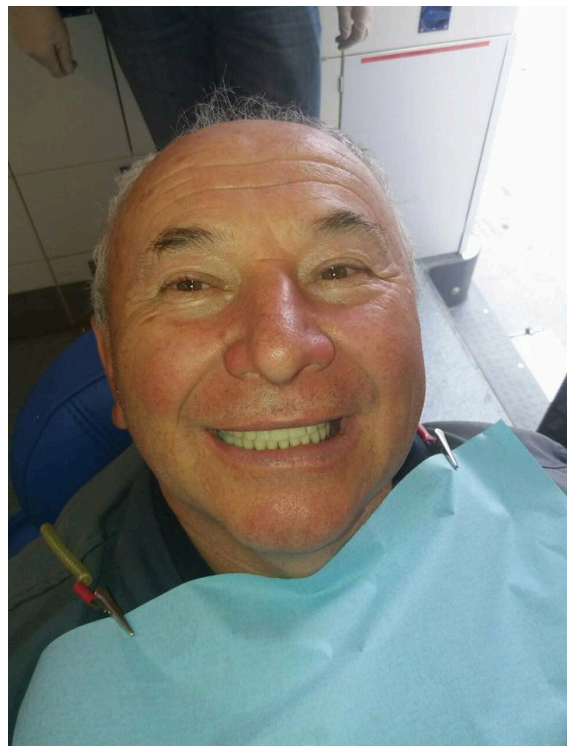
Ne, nije mi bilo naporno. Uvek ste mi organizovali prevoz ili autobusom ili je neko iz vaše organizacije dolazio po mene i vraćao me kući.

**Kako vam je bilo pre nego sto ste dobili protezu?**

Mnogo sam se mucio, bukvalno sam grizao sa desnima. Nisam mogao lepo da sazvacem hranu zbog cega su poceli problemi sa zelucem. Često sam jeo i samo tecnu i pasiranu hranu.

**Sta mislite o nasem radu?**

Mnogo lepo radite, stvarno ste pravi humanitarci. Nikad se nisam brinuo ni plasio. Nikakve bolove nisam imao.



Posebno mi se svidja sto volite i iskreno zelite i da popicete sa ljudima. Uvek ste me docekali sa osmehom i lepim rečima. Niste bili samo moji doktori već i prijatelji.

**Kako vam je sada sa protezom?**

Fantastično. Osećam se odlično. Proteze me ni malo ne žuljaju, osećaj je kao da su moji zubi. Radujem se da ću konačno lepo jesti i odmoriti zeludac. Ja sam covek vedre naravi i uvek se smejem, ali sada cu to ciniti jos vise i bez stida, jer moj osmeh je sada fantastican.

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## Interview with Mr Rade

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**Alexandra: Mr Rade, how did you hear about our organisation?**

Mr Rade: I read an article in the local newspaper called "Srpski Venac". I messaged you immediately and asked for your help.

**What do you think about the work our organisation does?**

I like the fact that there are people who take care of others who do not have much in life and who are leaving their homes because of war. It seems to me that you do not differentiate between refugees and other people. A human is a human for you, and you always help where you can!

**Was it hard for you to come to Presevo?**

No, it was not hard for me. You have always organised transport or a bus ticket or someone from your organisation came to pick me up and then brought me home again.

**How was it before you got a prosthesis?**

I was struggling a lot, I was only biting with my gums. I was not able to consume food, because of which I had problems with my stomach. I often only ate liquids and soft food.

**What do you think of our work?**

You work very well, you really are humanitarians. I never worried or was scared. I did not have any pain.

I particularly like that you are also interested to have a conversation. You always greeted for me with a smile and nice words. You were not just my doctors but friends too.

**How is your life now that you have your prosthesis?**

Fantastic. I feel great. The prosthesis does not bother me in any way, it feels like they are my own teeth.

I'm glad I'm finally going to eat properly and relieve my stomach. I am a man with a cheerful nature and I always laugh, but now I will do so more and more without shame, because my smile now looks fantastic.



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## Za sreću je potrebno malo

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Posle vrelih julskih i avgustovskih dana u Srbiji konacno je dosao prijatniji i sveziji septembar, a sa njim i povratak normalnih sportskih aktivnosti u kampovima Presevo, Bujanovac i Vranje. U popodnevnim casovima sa terena izbeglickih kampova se ponovo cuju glasni uzvici dece i odraslih koji se raspravljaju da li je gol ili ne, da li je faul ili ne, da li je neko igrao rukom ili je lopta izašla u kornjer, kao i one lepse strane kao sto je proslavljanje postignutog gola ili proslavljanje konacne pobede. Svadja, tuga, radost, smeh! Sve je to normalno za ovu igru za koju ljudi kazu da je najvaznija sporedna stvar na svetu. FUDBAL! Igra koju kada igramo zaboravljamo na sve ostalo, na sve stvari koje se desavaju oko nas i gde se usredsredjujemo samo na nju i na konacni cilj a to je pobeda! Bas ova igra i ova fizicka aktivnost je

potrebna ovim ljudima koji su bezeci od rata napustili svoju zemlju, svoje domove, svoje porodice. Bas ova igra ih cini sretnim i zadovoljnim dok je igraju! U ovoj igri za mene nema gubitnika, svi oni su pobednici kada u takvom stanju mogu da izadju na ove male i improvizovane terene sa osmehom na licu i zeljom za igrom i pobedom! Gledajuci ih takve covek shvati da se zivot sastoji od malih stvari i da za sreću ne treba mnogo. Jednom recju ponosan sam na sve ove ljude! Nadam se da ce uskoro biti na onom putu na kojem stvarno zele biti!

P.S Uzivajte dragi moji u zivotu i onom sto imate!! Nemoj te nikada biti nezadovoljni!! Od goreg uvek ima nesto gore!! Sreća je u malim stvarima.



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## You don't need much to be happy

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### English:

After the hot summer days in July and August, fresh breezes arrived in September and the normal sport activities returned to the camps of Presevo, Bujanovac and Vranje. In the afternoons you can hear voices, loud cries by children and adults who argue, whether or not it is a goal, whether or not it is a foul, whether or not a hand touched the ball, or if the ball has gone out of bounds. The most beautiful thing is when they celebrate a goal or the final victory. Celebration, sadness, joy, laughter! It's all normal in this game, which is said to be the most important team sport in the world.

FOOTBALL!! A game where you forget everything around the world and where you only focus on the last goal, and that is the victory! This game and this physical activity are enormously important for the people in the camps who have left their country, their homes, their families because of the war. It makes everyone happy and everyone is glad to be part of the team! In this game there are no losers, they are all winners when in such situations they can come out onto these small and improvised fields with a smile on their face and the wish to play and win !! When watching, I always notice that life consists of little things and that it doesn't take much to be happy. I am proud of all these people! I hope they will soon be where they want to go!

P.S Enjoy and appreciate everything we have in life! Don't be dissatisfied! It can always be worse! Happiness lies in the small things.



BOJAN ILIC  
SPORT COORDINATOR  
PRESEVO, BUJANOVAC, VRANJE

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## A portrait of Kiem

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Every resident of the camp has their own story of how and why they took the journey to Serbia, sometimes voluntarily and sometimes by force. One of these stories belongs to Kiem, the only Vietnamese in the camp along with his cousin where no one else speaks their language.

Kiem and his cousin travelled to Romania in April, 2017 with 15 other Vietnamese to work in a construction site. The contract was for 3 months and it was written that they would work Monday-Friday, 8 hours daily. The reality however, was different. They were forced to work 10 hours a day plus Saturdays without any extra payment. When Kiem went to the administration to complain, they told him, they would pay eventually, which they have not. The work was hard, Kiem says. He and his cousin wanted to leave but their passports were held by the company they were working for. So they decided one day in June just to leave without leaving any words to anyone.

They walked to the Hungarian border. They knew that they would not be able to cross the border, therefore they waited for it to get dark and around 9pm they entered Hungary illegally. But they were caught immediately by the Hungarian police and taken to the police station. There they were investigated and random questions like "Where are you from?", "What are you doing here?" were asked. And then they were also asked if they wanted to stay in a refugee camp in Hungary which they agreed to. The police later brought them some papers to sign in Hungarian and told them it was to stay in a refugee camp in Hungary and not understanding the document, Kiem

and his cousin signed the papers. After waiting in the police station a bit longer, they were taken to the Serbian border. This did not make sense to Kiem at all, after all he just signed a paper to stay in Hungary or so he thought. He went to the police to ask about it but was sent beyond the border and was not let back in Hungary.

On the border was a camp, Kiem and his cousin were exhausted and sought shelter in there for the night. There, they told their stories to people and HCIT (Humanitarian Center for Integration and Tolerance) was contacted. They came to the camp which Kiem and his cousin were staying and took them to Belgrade for registration. After all the procedure were done, the authorities gave Kiem and his cousin their registration papers and sent them to Presevo on 19.6.2017.



None of these were what Kiem has dreamed about when he was on his way from Vietnam to Romania for work. He wanted to simply earn some money and send it to his family of a wife, a daughter and baby-to-born in a few months. When he realised that the job in Romania would not satisfy these



wishes, he wanted to go to Budapest, Hungary and get in contact with the Vietnamese community there to find a job for a few months, save some money and then travel to France where he has some friends to support him finding a job there. But all has changed. Now he wants to go back to his family, to his country. He already applied to IOM (International Organisation for Migration) who contacted the Vietnamese Embassy in Romania (there is none in Serbia) for the paperwork. About a month ago he got a letter from the embassy asking about the reason he is here in Serbia, where he lives in Vietnam etc. He tells that the embassy is now preparing the new passports for him and his cousin. He thinks that they may get ready in October. In the meanwhile, he talks to his family everyday on facebook.

Before arriving to Presevo he was not able to do that and his family was worried but at least now they know that he is okay and coming home soon.

Lastly, I ask him about his daily life in the camp, if it is hard living with people that he can only communicate in English. He says that it is indeed. He learnt some English back in Vietnam already but never had to use it until he arrived here.

He has an online dictionary application on his phone and he uses that when he does not know which word to use.

On Saturdays he helps the IOM to organise the tables and chairs, carrying the water and tasks like that. He also plays football with the other residents. He says that he has some good friends that he really likes here but he wants to go back because he really misses his family which I can relate to. Hopefully he will make it soon back to Vietnam and reunite with the family.

To be continued...



DILARA SABANOGLU  
VOLONTEER CAMP PRESEVO, BUJANOVAC AND VRANJE