



FOCUS: Philanthropy celebrates unique stories of solidarity connected to key European policy areas such as climate, social Europe, research, and international cooperation. Through showcasing the human face of philanthropy, we want to shed light on ordinary citizens driven by their passion for the common good and engage in meaningful dialogue with a wider public. This project seeks to drive collaboration and dialogue proving that European solidarity transcends borders and political restraints.





HA'S MOMENT OF LIFT: HEARING FOR THE FIRST TIME

SWITZERLAND



Hear the World Foundation

Photo by:
Tim Barker

#WeArePhilanthropy

It was a moving moment when little Ha's cochlear implant was activated at a children's hospital in Hanoi. The girl was able to hear for the first time in her life. Ha is one of ten children from Vietnam born with profound hearing loss who was provided with cochlear implants and audio-verbal therapy by the Swiss Hear the World Foundation in partnership with the Global Foundation for Children with Hearing Loss. As it is the reality for many families in Vietnam, Ha's parents would have never been able to cover the costs of the implant and the surgery and Ha would never have had the chance to hear properly. Thanks to the donation, the little girl is able to learn to listen and talk, develop as her hearing peers, and to be prepared to attend mainstream school.



DEMENTIA-FRIENDLY CARE FOR ALL

BELGIUM



Cera

Photo by:
Leo De Bock

#WeArePhilanthropy



Every 4 seconds somebody somewhere in the world gets dementia. An estimated 131,800 people in Flanders suffer from dementia.

For the whole of Belgium, the number is about 202,000. The chance is 1 in 5 that someone will develop dementia in their lifetime. So the prospect of dementia is very real: for you or your loved ones.

Good dementia care means personal care. It means having an eye for talents and possibilities. It means paying attention to what the person with dementia finds important. It means tailored care.

So don't look at people with dementia from a purely medical perspective. Look at what makes these people human. And these things are sometimes earrings, staying up late, or enjoying gardening.





TANGO WITHOUT LIMITATION

UKRAINE



Ukrainian Philanthropists' Forum

Photo by:

Oksana Gomonuk

#WeArePhilanthropy

"The retro holiday of Poshtova Street took place for six years in a row, the last time in 2019. Due to quarantine, the holiday was canceled this year. The initiators and organizers on a volunteer basis were active Rivne residents: a local historian, a researcher, and a guardian of the cultural and historical heritage of the city, Halyna Danylichuk, residents of old houses of this street. They led by activist and volunteer Lyubov Mobikhovat, with the support of photographer, owner of the Museum of Photography, Alexander Kharvat.

The festival actively attended by theater figures, folk artists, painters, musicians, photographers, etc. Organizations on this street, such as Invasport, are also assisted in part by sponsors. In recent years, the Department of Culture and Tourism of Rivne has joined the organization.

The holiday has become popular and not only Rivne residents but also guests from other cities and even countries join the celebration. Masters of folk art of other Ukrainian towns and volunteers from Sweden, Poland, Belarus come. The dress code is clothes in a retro style. There are various competitions, flash mobs, fairs, exhibitions, and workshops."



EARLY MARRIAGE IS NOT A DESTINY

TURKEY



UNFPA Turkey

In Turkey tens of thousands of girls face with early and forced marriage each year. This situation not only causes children to be deprived of rights to freedom, education and employment, but also leads to negative health consequences. Early pregnancy and motherhood may result in miscarriages, injuries, suicide attempts or deaths. UNFPA Turkey, which has been working on sexual and reproductive health rights since 1971, chose to combat this problem in cooperation with those who have experienced early marriage. 'Health mediators' selected from local people participate in trainings on maternal and reproductive health; then they carry the right information to all the houses filtering through their real-life experiences. As wounds of women who were married off early heal, girls' lives change. They get stronger together.

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COLOURFUL HOPES FOR CHILDREN

TURKEY



Colourful Hopes Association

#WeArePhilanthropy



"The district of Sur, Diyarbakir, in the southeast of Turkey has become a challenging living area, after the armed conflicts in 2015. The losses, forced migration and poverty have made children introverted and pessimistic about their future.

A group of children's rights activists created an oasis in the middle of difficulties by founding Colorful Hopes Association. They designed 'Life Skills Training' program which includes workshops such as gender equality, ecology, photography, drama, and music. They created toy and book libraries, and organized festivals almost for 150 children, ranging from 4 to 18 years of age.

One of the children's comment is the best indicator of how children learned the importance of solidarity in dealing with difficult times: "I learned that friendship is an indispensable element of our coexistence."





FOR A BRIGHTER LIFE

PORTUGAL



Fundação Oriente

Photo by:
Carla Frias

#WeArePhilanthropy



In Mozambique there are many myths and superstitions surrounding albinism. Some people believe that those who suffer from the congenital disorder, hold supernatural powers making their birth a curse for the family and community. Chilling accounts depict horrific acts of violence against newborn albinos. The situation is so critical, that mothers are forced to abandon their children, exposing them to situations of extreme isolation and danger. The people who are meant to protect are the ones committing the atrocious crimes.

This picture illustrates the family involvement promoted by Kanimambo's missions, backed by the continual support of Oriente Foundation. The focus of this initiative is to make sure that albino children's growth and education takes place within a healthy and loving environment, in which protection and care are always ensured.

FUNDAÇÃO ORIENTE





DANCE IN PLURAL

PORTUGAL



Fundação LIGA

Photo by:

Elisabeth Vieira Alvarez

#WeArePhilanthropy



Dance as art. On a plural stage, an inclusive stage that just like art, stands for absolute freedom and exists beyond boundaries. Born more than 25 years ago, Plural is a cutting-edge dance company that pioneered inclusive dance in Portugal, introducing inclusive choreographic projects and dance presentations, while merging both disabled dancers with abled dancers as well as professional dancers with amateur dancers. Plural embodies the concept of an artistic gathering that thrives for the constant reinterpretation of Human Diversity.

This impressive form of artistic body expression that relies on the fusion of contemporary and inclusive dance has been presented in many stages around the world, such as Portugal, Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom and the USA through a total of 27 productions.



PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS – AN ORGANIC COOPERATION

SPAIN



Fundación Monte Mediterráneo

Fundación Monte Mediterráneo, together with entre amigos, converted a horticultura plant into organic and trained young people from a slum in Sevilla, the biggest slum in Spain, in organic horticulture. One and a half years later, they created their own distribution company and presented their products at an organic fair in Sevilla.

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BELLA DE NONNA

ITALY



Fondazione Varrone Cassa di Risparmio di Rieti

Photo by:

Cosimo Boccia

#WeArePhilanthropy

Ms Elisa sees her granddaughter again after two months, using a tablet donated by the Foundation. We are in Contigliano, which became a red zone between March and April 2020 at the beginning of Coronavirus emergency. The scene takes place in the Covid Center which was set up in a retirement home by the municipality and the local health authority.



Bitte kein Geschirr auf die Fensterbänke

OFF-PREMISES ENGAGEMENT

SWITZERLAND



Christoph Merian Foundation

Photo by:

Kathrin Schulthess

#WeArePhilanthropy

Everyone is welcome at the Gassenküche (soup kitchen) in Basel, Switzerland, also on Sundays for brunch. Homeless people and people living in poverty get a free breakfast or a warm meal for 3 Swiss francs. It is a nice and friendly place where you can also have a chat or a bit of advice; which is also a basic need the team covers with its approximately 50 volunteers. When the dining room had to be closed due to the Corona pandemic, the Gassenküche was quickly converted into a takeaway - to the great gratitude of the customers, as the picture shows. The Christoph Merian Stiftung (CMS) has been supporting the institution since its beginnings 32 years ago, in accordance with its foundation's purpose, currently with a total contribution of 410,000 Swiss francs for the period 2017-2020.



TEAMWORK FOR COASTAL RESILIENCE

SWITZERLAND



Swiss Re Foundation

Photo by:
Christian Bobst

#WeArePhilanthropy

Local volunteers in Puerto Morelos, Mexico, enter the water as part of their training to examine damaged reefs.

No threat to human well-being requires teamwork more than environmental degradation and climate risk. Both make disasters more likely and more destructive as they weaken natural and artificial defences. Here, a team of volunteers (including scientists, local divers and tourist guides) get trained to assess the status of coral reef health as they can dramatically reduce the force of hurricanes and tropical storms and mitigate erosion and flooding. For reefs to protect coasts, humans must protect reefs.

With The Nature Conservancy, the Swiss Re Foundation is helping people on Mexico's Caribbean coast preserve restore their reef for generations to come.



INTERCULTURAL BOOK BOX

GERMANY



Pill Mayer Stiftung für interkulturellen Dialog

Photo by:
Irene Pill

#WeArePhilanthropy



Kids of a Kindergarten are happy with the Intercultural Book Box of the Pill Mayer Foundation for Intercultural Dialogue.

The Box contains exciting, intriguing books which are especially useful to foster intercultural dialogue. With the help of these books children learn about other languages, customs and religions.

The Intercultural Book Boxes are an excellent tool to show girls and boys how to live in a culturally diverse world, to gain new perspectives and to interact with others in a respectful way. They are one way to promote peace through understanding.

WE GIVE A MEAL AND HOPE

SERBIA



Nasa Kuca (Our House)

#WeArePhilanthropy

In the times we live in, life itself is going at a very fast pace. Those who can follow that rhythm are accepted in the community, but what happens to people who for various reasons are prevented from being part of that common rhythm?

Society looks at them differently and they inevitably become part of a minority that is "marked" in one way or another.

People with disabilities are the "invisible heroes" of everyday life, who with all their challenges bravely step forward, fighting many imposed obstacles in life. Older people, victims of transition in our country, also belong to the vulnerable population and need support and help, in order to maintain a somewhat acceptable quality of life.

"It's not our disabilities, it's our abilities that count"
- Chris Burke



KENE SPACE

ITALY



Fondazione Pianoterra

Photo by:

Mohamed Keita

#WeArePhilanthropy



Arrived in Italy still a boy, Mohamed Keita found in photography his vocation and his reason for living. Later he developed the idea of teaching what he learned to other young people in Africa to offer an alternative to street life and travel. In August 2017, he crowned his dream with the support of Fondazione Pianoterra. He opened a space in the district of Kanadajiguila, in the western suburbs of Mali's capital Bamako, which he called KENE in the Mandingo language. KENE is a permanent photography workshop for children from 10 years of age, as well as an educational space, a place for relationships and care, and the creation of memory of the neighborhood through the daily production of images. In the photo is Moussa, 15, a student of the KENE studio, during a session of the photographic portrait workshop.



A MURAL PAINTED BY MYMIND

IRELAND



The Ireland Funds

Photo by:
MyMind

#WeArePhilanthropy



MyMind has created a unique movement for community-based mental health services that work towards giving every person in Ireland equal access to mental health support early, affordably, directly, without stigma or delay.

A MURAL PAINTED BY MYMIND

AUSTRIA



Blühendes Österreich – REWE International
gemeinnützige Privatstiftung

#WeArePhilanthropy

The Austrian Foundation “Blühendes Österreich – REWE International gemeinnützige Privatstiftung” founded in cooperation with the NGO GLOBAL 2000 a highly successful citizen science app for documenting butterflies in whole Austria.

Butterflies contribute to pollination and the sensitive species are an important indicator for a functional and healthy ecosystem. It is of highly importance to stop the ongoing species extinction.

With the app “Schmetterlinge Österreichs” everyone can be part of this innovative science project by uploading butterfly pictures. In 2019 the contribution was overwhelming: more than 16.000 voluntary butterfly-observers uploaded 106.098 moments of happiness. The app has grown to one of Europe’s largest community of butterfly-lovers and is one of the biggest nature-sighting projects.



MAKING COMPASSION VISIBLE - HELLO MASK

SWITZERLAND



Gebert Ruf Stiftung

Photo by:

Alain Herzog

#WeArePhilanthropy

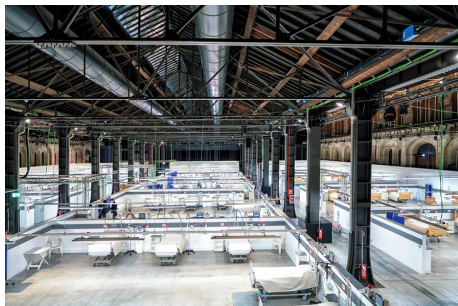
HelloMask – a new transparent medical mask to improve the patients’ quality of life. The HelloMask concept actually originated from one member of our team, Diane B., when she was acting as a storyteller for hospitalized children, very often suffering from cancer. The goal was to develop a new type of transparent material having all the requirements for the certification of a new medical mask. This innovative material will be used to create a first-of-its-class fully transparent medical mask product.

The concept is simple, but its technical implementation is a scientific challenge. To tackle it, two Swiss scientific institutions, EPFL (Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne) and Empa (Swiss Federal Laboratories for Materials Science and Technology) joined their research forces, a few years ago.

Financial support from foundations was essential in order to realize it.

LA OFFICINE DELLA SALUTE IN TURIN

ITALY



Fondazione CRT - Cassa di Risparmio di Torino

Photo by:

Michele D'Ottavio

#WeArePhilanthropy

During the Coronavirus emergency, Foundation CRT made part of the OGR - Officine Grandi Riparazioni available to the Community as a temporary hospital with 100 beds. The OGR were built in the late XIX century to repair railway vehicles. During the war the OGR were bombed and eventually abandoned in the 90'. Thanks to Foundation CRT the OGR started their new life in 2017 with an investment of 100 million euros to redevelop the space and give it back to the community: from a railway workshop to a creativity and innovation workshop to “repair” art, culture, research and technology. Among the greatest examples of venture philanthropy in Europe, today the OGR have temporarily become health workshops to take care of the most precious good for people: life itself.



STRENGTH IN FRAGILITY

ITALY



The Nando and Elso Peretti Foundation

Photo by:

Silea Pio di Savoia

#WeArePhilanthropy



Tereza is a 60-year-old woman who is blind and has mobility problems. She is in front of her hut in Hai Matara, a village in South Sudan. Because of the civil war that has destroyed her country, Tereza risks her life every day but cannot leave her village. To support Tereza and the other victims of an unprecedented humanitarian crisis, the Foundation has been supporting actions in South Sudan since 2017 to protect displaced persons and refugees, to ensure basic medical care, food security and education. It has so far allocated €2.5 million to South Sudan. For 20 years we have been promoting and protecting the human rights of the most vulnerable people, supporting projects aimed at poverty reduction, education, health promotion and environmental conservation.



A PERFECT TANDEM

SWITZERLAND



UBS Foundation for Social Issues and Education

Photo by:
Sophie Stieger

#WeArePhilanthropy

One bike, two men and many reasons to smile: Vincent and Simon met in a bike workshop of Velafrica in Bern. Vincent, a local guy, chose Velafrica for a social gap year while Simon is a refugee from Eritrea who takes part in their integration program. Every day he repairs old bicycles in a tandem with a German speaking mechanic or volunteer. That way he can improve his German, learn more about Swiss culture and gain work experience. It helps him settle into Switzerland and hopefully to find a job. But that is not all. Because the bikes he repairs will be shipped to Africa where local partners run bike businesses and workshops, creating a livelihood for themselves and jobs for others. Now that's what we call a win-win situation.



MEMBERS OF THE FUTURE GENERATIONS IN COMMUNION WITH THE CREATORS OF THE PAST CROATIA



Foundation for Partnership and Civil
Society Development

Photo by:
Goranka Črnac

#WeArePhilanthropy



A community that wants to give all of its members an equal chance for a better life is a community that adapts every opportunity in the interest of its citizens - the interest of the common good. The commendable cities and municipalities of the Istrian County have decided to contribute to the Philanthropic Fund of Cities and Municipalities that offers financial support to small projects for a better tomorrow - small projects that require a big heart. Creating new content in local communities, preserving traditional, cultural and natural heritage and volunteering are just some of the areas of the activities encouraged by the Fund.

Together, the valuable achievements are created - an example is a project that show to us how the wisdom of the elderly, and children's creativity can work together, entitled "Hotel for insects" in the city of Buzet. Intergenerational solidarity is an essential factor of any society, because in order to replicate the good and correct the bad, members of the future generations can and must learn from our creators of the past.



GOURMET CHEFS COOKING FOR THE HOMELESS

DENMARK



Dreyers Fond

Photo by:

Katherine Krebs

#WeArePhilanthropy

During the corona pandemic Alchemist, a Michelin 2-star restaurant in Copenhagen, has used their high-tech kitchens for the project JunkFood – providing meals to the homeless and the people on the street. Due to the lockdown of shelters because of the risk of infection, this group has been extremely vulnerable during the crisis. The project, led by chef Rasmus Munk and a strong team of voluntary chefs, is supported by Seier Capital, Oak Foundation and the danish foundation Dreyers Fond. The food is specially prepared for homeless people with a focus on being nutritious, calorie dense and tasty, and at the same time easy to chew and digest. During the corona pandemic lockdown JunkFood has been feeding around 500 hungry mouths daily, and thanks to the donations the project has continued in a new location after restaurant Alchemist re-opened.

WE GOT HERE BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT DID

ROMANIA



ARC

#WeArePhilanthropy



COVID19 hit Romania in March 2020, with the state emergency declared on the 16th of March. After the Colectiv fire in 2015, when 64 people died in a club, civil society knew that the medical system would be too fragile to deal with another large crisis.

Starting from the 18th of March, we launched ARC Emergency Fund and invited companies and individuals to support us in buying PCR equipment, as well as protective gear for doctors. We managed to raise 1.3 million euro and distributed materials all over the country, with the help of local partner NGOs. Our impact means that over 50 hospitals have received equipment and gear, thousands of doctors have more protection when working with COVID19 patients, a faster diagnosis and larger samples with the help of the PCR machines.



WOMEN LEADING CHANGE IN THEIR ECOSYSTEM

BELGIUM



Fondation Marie et Alain Philippson

Photo by:

Amit Kumar Singh

#WeArePhilanthropy



What if the women of West Africa held the keys to their communities' self-reliance? Who could best inspire them and guide them in their journey?

In early 2017, rural women from India spent 30 days in Malian villages, days and nights, living full time with local villagers. Malian villagers had never experienced anything like it, so much so they didn't see it as part of a "development project". Instead they saw Manjari Foundation's Self-Help Group members as their Indian sisters, sharing their own life experiences, showing them how to replicate their own successes.

Many peer exchanges later, and with the help of local NGO Camide and Belgium's Philippson Foundation, today thousands of Malian women are running their own SHGs, well on the way to replicate the success of their Indians counterparts.



FONDATION MARIE & ALAIN PHILIPPSON
SUSTAINABLE HUMAN DEVELOPMENT





MORE SPACE TO MOVE AND PLAY

NORWAY



Sparebankstiftelsen DNB

Photo by:

Marit Fagnastøl

The inner-city school, Lakkegata, had one of Oslo's smallest schoolyards. To provide more space for outdoor activities for the children in the area, the parents mobilized and organized an "Action group to expand the Lakkegata school yard". Through several years they worked to finance and develop the formerly small asphalted area into a great activity park. Sparebankstiftelsen DNB was one of several funders, along with supporting organizations and volunteers. On September 12, 2019, Lakkegata School's new and expanded schoolyard opened with a big celebration. It now has lots of space for everyone, and features a skate park, climbing walls, a playground and green grass on the previously asphalted surface.

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LIFE VIBRATIONS

RUSSIA



OMK-Uchastiye Charitable Foundation

Photo by:

Vyacheslav Khabarov

#WeArePhilanthropy



What does it feel like to be in an absolute auditory peace, to live with the constant feeling of the beat of waves, to live in the land of the deaf?

It turns out that this land has its ambassadors of peace, harmony and friendship. That's what the «Piano Theatre» for children with hearing loss from Nizhny Novgorod has revealed to us.

And once, the "OMK-Uchastiye" Charitable Foundation brought this amazing theater to the citizens of the Vyksa city at the "Art-Ovrag" festival in 2019. One can teach children to dance, learn a poem and share it with the world, or one can teach children to compose their own dance, their own poem, and create their own world of improvisation and interaction. By the middle of the performance, all the spectators forgot that these children had hearing loss, and only the stormy applause at the end reminded us of this. As you might be aware, the audience should not clap to a deaf artist, but instead should raise their hands and twist – or vibrate with – their wrists. And this is the key word – to vibrate – and to be as gentle and subtle so that you can feel the vibration of life. We still need to learn it from them!



BOOK BAG FOR EVERY BABY BORN IN FINLAND

FINLAND



Finnish Cultural Foundation

#WeArePhilanthropy

Listening to regular read-aloud stories boosts children's vocabulary, supports their emotional development and has a major influence on their future literacy and school performance. Reading aloud is one of the key factors in boosting the equality between children and families, regardless of their social or economic background.

A book bag is given to every baby born in Finland 2019–2021. The campaign is funded by The Finnish Cultural Foundation, a private foundation dedicated to promoting art, science, and other fields of intellectual and cultural endeavour in Finland.

The bag includes a rhyme book for babies with information for parents, a bedtime story book for toddlers, height chart with information on children's verbal development and facts about reading, rhyme cards and invitation to library in Finnish, Swedish or Sami, which are the official languages in Finland. In addition, information materials are available also in Arabic, Sorani, Somali, Spanish, Russian, Estonian and English for immigrant families.

Lukukeskus – The Finnish Reading Center distributes the book bags to public child health care clinics tend to the health of children under school age in Finland. These clinics are free-of-charge and they reach almost every child and family in Finland. This means in a year 50,000 book bags and 100,000 books.



WE WELCOME REFUGEES

BELGIUM



P&V Foundation

Photo by:

Virginie Nguyen Hoang

#WeArePhilanthropy



Not far from Brussels, the young people of Kraainem FC meet around their passion for football. The club known for its diversity has broadened its scope with the We Welcome Refugees project. Since 2015, the club has opened its doors to unaccompanied minors to participate in weekly training sessions, but also conversation tables and other club activities. It is often their first contact with Belgian society.

Joao Cabral Silva, U17 coach, thanks the young migrants who trained today. It's an occasion to discover cultural differences. Many migrants from Afghanistan have only known cricket and are introduced for the first time to the rules of football. This project has already enabled more than 2,000 unaccompanied minors to participate. For P&V Foundation, this is an exemplary project of integration through sport.





ON THE WAY TO HAPPINESS

RUSSIA



Amway Charitable Foundation
«Responsible for the Future»

#WeArePhilanthropy



The picture shows a mother and her adopted little son. Looking at their happy smiles it seems that now that the child has become part of the family, all the problems have been solved and the hardest part is over. But the truth is – it is not over yet. A very challenging process of the child's adaptation to the family is still ahead, and then – adaptation to nursery, school and society as a whole.

To assist the family through this difficult journey, the help of professionals is indispensable. In December 2019, Amway Charitable Foundation «Responsible for the Future» launched a unique project "IamInCharge", which enables indifferent people to volunteer, organize their own events and raise the necessary funds for the work of the specialized remote service to help foster families.





BAREFOOTED ON THE "RAMPE DEI POGGI"

ITALY



Fondazione Cassa Risparmio Firenze

Photo by:

Marco Borrelli

Barefoot ... on the nineteenth-century complex "delle Rampe e delle Vasche" near to the Arno river, designed by the architect Giuseppe Poggi. The recovery of this part of the hill was one of the most important interventions in the history of the CR Firenze Foundation. After a century, it brought light and water back to this part of the hill. For the inauguration, last summer, the Foundations and the Municipality organized a big party for the city with thousands of enthusiastic Florentines involved. Among the groups that animated the celebrations, we can see in the picture some of the students of the "All'Opera" project, which is also supported by the Cr Firenze Foundation. The project put on stage a famous work of Florence tradition every year under the direction of Venti Lucenti at the Teatro del Maggio Musicale Fiorentino.

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