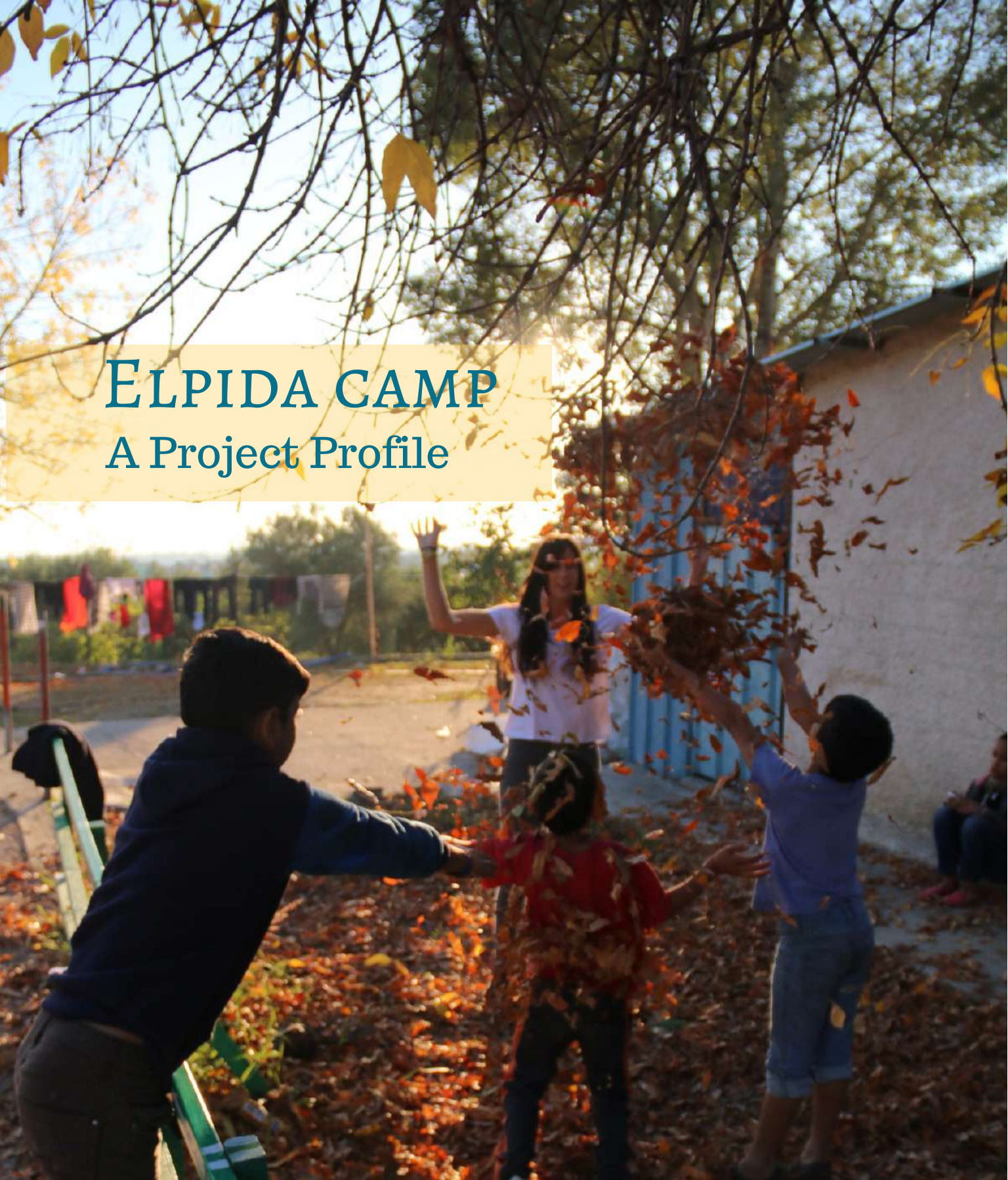


# ELPIDA CAMP

## A Project Profile



ΕΛΠΙΔΑ



*Together for*  
**BETTER DAYS**



# ELPIDA

ΕΛΠΙΔΑ

"WE CREATE SPACES THAT FOSTER PARTICIPATION, COMMUNITY, AND HUMANITY."

OVER 460  
VOLUNTEERS



FROM 37  
DIFFERENT  
COUNTRIES



ORGANIZED  
OVER 45  
DIFFERENT  
ACTIVITIES



FOR HUNDREDS  
OF RESIDENTS

After the Macedonian borders closed thousands of asylum seekers were stranded in inhumane camps lacking basic necessities. This inspired us to co-found the Elpida Project in Thessaloniki. In partnership with the Radcliffe Foundation we transformed an abandoned factory into a welcoming temporary home where refugees could live with dignity and respect.

We aimed to create a dignified long-term living space that promoted independence, dialogue, integration, equality, and empowerment as well as providing education, activities, and access to medical care and information. Elpida was the first official camp in Greece to not only meet minimum humanitarian standards, but also to exceed them.

We catered to 250 people between May 2016 to December 2016, over half of whom were children, and we designed and furnished 9 different activity spaces which were gender and age specific. Elpida was a pilot project that depended on the collaboration and respect from the government, volunteer-run NGOs and large NGOs.



*Elpida: The word elpida means hope in the Greek language, but what does that word really mean to me? I hope to start a family, and I hope to have a loving home. That's what the word elpida means to me; it means home. Home is where the heart is, home is where family is, and home is where I feel loved.*

*-Loren Samuel, Volunteer*



## Together for BETTER DAYS

Better Days is a grassroots organization formed in November 2015 by a small group of passionate individuals. Better Days creates projects that address the ever-changing circumstances and needs of refugees and asylum seekers. We look for areas of intervention where our organizational strengths can contribute: creativity, innovation, humanity and collaboration. Whether we are doing emergency response, legal support or creating new systems for long term accommodation, we continue to emphasize the importance of participatory practices, supporting and collaborating with local efforts, and fostering agency among our beneficiaries. The Better Days core team is comprised of passionate, long-term volunteers dedicated to fulfilling our mission.

Better Days is a diverse international team united by a fierce determination to bring humanity and compassion in the delivery of humanitarian aid. Restoring dignity to, and creating space for choice among our beneficiaries is the base on which we have grown upon.





# ACTIVITIES



Our activities program led over 45 gender and age specific activities ranging from sports, to art, to language classes.

The Better Days Activity Program was customized in response to the first "Elpida Residents Skills & Needs Assessment" which identified needs based on popular demand and enabled us to design an activity curriculum that responded to residents' requests.

SEWING



SPORTS



ART



YOGA



CINEMA







# LANGUAGE CLASSES



Language classes were extremely important and very popular with our residents as language skills are an essential part of the integration process and everyday life in their future communities. With this in mind classes accommodated the varying skill levels and interests of participants.



The adult language curriculum included three levels of English courses taught daily as well as beginning Spanish and German. Residents taught beginning Arabic to volunteers.

**EN**

**THREE LEVELS  
ADULT ENGLISH**

**DE**

**BASIC ADULT  
GERMAN**

**AR**

**RESIDENT TAUGHT  
ARABIC FOR  
VOLUNTEERS**

**ES**

**BASIC ADULT  
SPANISH**

# FREE CLOTHING SHOP

Together we built a fully stocked FREE clothing shop. The objective: to bring a sense of normalcy into residents' lives to distribute essential items in a dignified way.



To maximize choice and reduce waste we implemented a system by which residents received credits which functioned as currency for the shop.

This allowed residents and fair and dignified way to "shop" for clothing that they wanted.



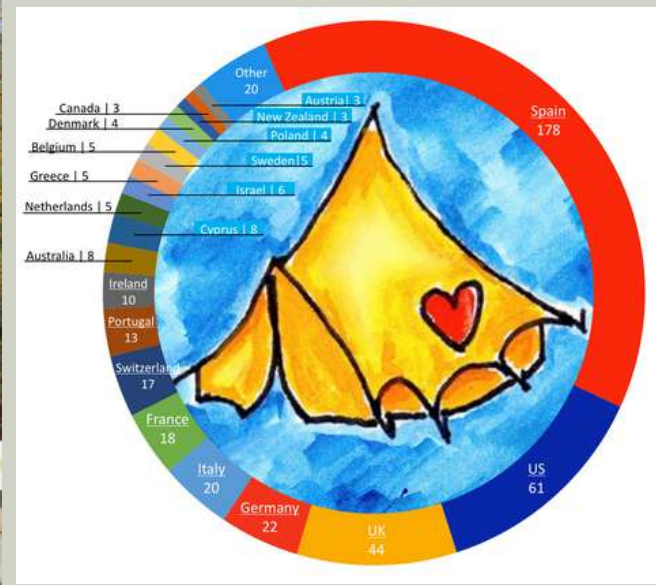


# VOLUNTEERS

The Together for Better Days team was 100% volunteer led and run. Volunteers are the heart and soul of Better Days. Our volunteers come from all over the world. We had over 37 different nationalities helping us to design and build warm welcoming spaces, plan activities and operate Elpida.



## 37 DIFFERENT NATIONALITIES WORKING TOGETHER







# VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Our training provided an important foundation for each and every one of our volunteers to hit the ground running. We encouraged responsibility, creativity and innovation from everyone.

Training provided important protection and safeguarding guidelines to all of our volunteers. After training volunteers were prepared to identify and refer protection cases through the correct channels in order to minimize risk to everyone.



INTRODUCTIONS -30 MINUTES



INFORMATION AND BACKGROUND ABOUT BETTER DAYS & ELPIDA -30 MINUTES



INFORMATION ABOUT THE LEGAL SITUATION IN GREECE -30 MINUTES



TOUR OF ELPIDA - 45 MINUTES



PROTECTION TRAINING & REFERRAL PATHWAYS -3 HOURS



CODE OF CONDUCT, RULES, REGULATIONS & PROCEDURES -1HOURS



Additional trainings, provided by Israaid, supplemented our training and offered more depth on topics such as: child protection, attachment, self-care, and trauma





# VOLUNTEER COORDINATION

Better Days is part of a much larger volunteer movement. Our volunteer management, coordination and training has been built and maintained by our core team of dedicated, long-term volunteers. These systems were developed and continually adapted to meet the needs of our volunteers and our community. We simultaneously innovated while consulting with professionals to incorporate best practices into everything we do.

We coordinated activities to ensure consistency and reliability. This meant our residents could rely on their favorite activities to be uninterrupted and seamless regardless of regular volunteer turnover.







# INFRASTRUCTURE

We designed and operated an infrastructure workshop where trained volunteers and residents could build and maintain community spaces, create furniture, and teach skills to members of the community.

size?  
money?







# COMMUNITY BUILDING & PARTICIPATORY PRACTICES



Forum, participatory work, dialogue, etc (maya)  
volunteer circle work and core team support



# SPACE DESIGN AND MANAGEMENT

Our infrastructure workshop designed and built social and activity spaces that facilitated community engagement, learning, and relaxation.

We managed the master schedule and space allocation for our programs, and those run by our partners and collaborators.



## MEN'S & WOMEN'S

### SPACES



## ACTIVITY SPACE



## TEA LOUNGE



## SPORTS AREA





# OUR PARTNERS AND COLLABORATORS

Elpida was a pilot project that depended on the collaboration and respect of the government, volunteer run NGOs, and International NGOs. All partners and participants had crucial roles in bringing this project to life.

Thank you to our Cofounders, The Radcliffe Foundation, and to Team Rubicon who operated a 24/7 medical clinic on site.



Thank you to our collaborators:

Médecins du Monde, Emergency Response Center International, Terre des Hommes, Nurture Project International, The Kennedy Foundation, Israaid, The Timber Project, Humanity Crew, WASH, Vanessa Reid, Maya Rimer, and Mike Zuckerman.