

The work of a HERO: Our visit at Father Antonios' "Ark of the World."



On February, 4 our TOOLS FOR LIFE delegation Dr. Sabine Rothenberger, board member of the Foundation, Panos Papadegerogos and Apostolis Zisis, both from ROTHENBERGER Greece, visited the institution Ark of the World in order to present the 12.200 € that have been raised for this wonderful project.

Mrs. Marina Katsimpali, a volunteer supporting Father Antonios since the beginning and Mrs. Stamatia Georgandi, Father Antonios' wife gave us a warm welcome and introduced the history and development of the Ark to us. Father Antonios could not be there

as he was called to one of the Greek Islands, where he is building up another home for Ark of The world. It will support the needy children from the islands. We spoke to him via Skype and promised him to pass on his deep thankfulness for our initiative.

After that we started a round tour through the building of the Ark and got a glimpse of the daily life there. The interior is very clean and warm. Bright colors, paintings and pictures of the children and their helpers decorate the walls. Many areas remind of a school building, with classrooms, desks and computers. All of these collected from volunteers who support the Ark. There are also a first aid and a dentist room.

One of the children's biggest problems is their dental care. Every afternoon one or two dentists come on a volunteer basis to cure the children.

There are several afternoon activities, children can choose from, such as arts, sports, photography, literature etc. All classes are led by teachers who voluntarily share their knowledge with the children. Also some young adults, who grew up at the Ark themselves give classes.

On the top level of the building is a theater that also serves as church on Sundays. It is open to everyone who wants to come.

During our visit three cooks were preparing lunch. Everyday 400 children come to eat a warm meal at the Ark of the World. There is not enough space for all of them at once, so they learned to take turns.



We also visited the Kindergarten, where the little children are. They come from families with single parents needing a full day childcare to make a living. There are also children from the Ark's orphan home. They come from poor or war struck countries and lost their parents.



We enjoyed a very warm welcome at the Ark – the kids sang a Greek and an English song for us. They also prepared a very nice painting that a little girl presented to us. To see children enjoying the wonderful and warm atmosphere at the safe place Ark of the World was overwhelming. Here they may be what they are: children.



The TOOLS FOR LIFE funds will probably be used to buy a little bus for the 40 children of the orphan home. At present bringing them to school every morning is a huge organizational effort: volunteers collect them every morning and evening, each taking 3 or 4 children in their private cars.

We will keep in touch with Father Antonios and his Ark and are very happy to be able to support his project. We will report news and progress and publish pictures from the new bus as soon as its there.

Dr. Sabine Rothenberger for TOOLS FOR LIFE