



**Our First Five Years:  
A Consolidated Annual Report  
2016-2020**



Humanity Now offers direct relief to refugees,  
creating a bridge between those who are suffering and  
those who want to help.

## OUR FIRST FIVE YEARS

Humanity Now is celebrating our fifth year of providing critical supplies and services to displaced people in Greece. As we consider our progress so far, we've put together this report to share our thoughts on who we are, what we do, why we do it, and, maybe most importantly, how we make it happen. In the pages that follow, we hope to convey the principle that effective small-scale initiatives make a big difference in the lives of thousands.



**February 2018: Intervolve Supply Warehouse, Larissa, Greece**

**Humanity Now (left to right): Jen Maraveyias, Dana Sachs, Carol Atwood, Stephanie Meyers**

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**2019: Vathy Camp, Samos Island, Greece**

## WHY IS THERE AN ONGOING EMERGENCY IN GREECE?

In 2015, an unprecedented number of displaced people arrived in boats on Greek shores. Most had fled violence and war in Syria, Afghanistan, and Iraq. On the Aegean Islands, thousands would arrive in a single day. In fact, over 800,000 people reached Greece in 2015 alone. They were lucky to have survived the crossing—thousands drowned—but they stepped ashore with little but the clothes on their backs. They needed food, shelter, medicine, blankets, diapers—everything, really—but the Greek government, the European Union, and large international aid organizations were unprepared to address the crisis.

At that moment, an unlikely coalition of volunteers stepped forward to help. Greek citizens, European college students, retirees, and even refugees themselves all joined together to address the humanitarian disaster. They handed out basics, like sandwiches, bottled water, and warm clothes. They provided tents for people sleeping outside. Their effort wasn't perfect, but, together, they helped mitigate disaster.

In time, European governments and aid organizations took on more responsibility for asylum seekers arriving in Greece, but they have never fully addressed the unrelenting need. In this context, a robust grassroots movement remains essential to the humanitarian effort. Humanity Now plays a vital role in that movement.



**2019: Lifejacket Graveyard, Lesvos Island**

## HOW HUMANITY NOW HELPS

Since 2016, Humanity Now has funded small-scale relief efforts in Greece. We travel there regularly to observe conditions on the ground and fund practical solutions to ongoing problems. While larger humanitarian actors, like the Greek government, the European Union, and international charities, provide basic infrastructure for refugee camps, grassroots teams fill gaps, like installing shower facilities, funding garbage removal, building playgrounds, and distributing fruit and donated clothing.



2018: Kitchen Renovation, One Happy Family Community Center

**By giving to Humanity Now, our donors bypass top-heavy mainstream charities and invest funds directly in small-scale operations that quickly and nimbly reduce suffering. Every dollar we raise goes to the projects we support in Greece.**

Humanity Now thrives because of long-lasting relationships with local aid teams, which allow us to invest in cost-effective and efficient projects. In one recent project, for example, Humanity Now spent \$1462 to buy an X-ray machine for a dental clinic in a refugee camp on Lesbos Island where volunteer dentists see as many as 30 patients a day. The amount of money we spent was actually modest, but the impact of our investment is huge. As our partner at the clinic put it, "Dental pain is one of the most awful types of pain that you can have...so the psychological impact of good dental care is tremendous." Again and again, Humanity Now ensures that every dollar makes a difference.



2020: Volunteer-Run Dental Clinic, Crisis Management Association

## THE VALUE OF OUR PARTNERSHIPS

**We call Humanity Now a “bridge” for a simple reason: Our most important role lies in connecting donors with aid teams who can use funding most effectively.**

In September 2020, for example, a fire destroyed Moria Camp on Lesbos Island, leaving 13,000 residents without shelter. **Within days of the fire, Humanity Now launched an emergency campaign to support our partner teams on Lesbos.** Our funds were soon providing essential aid, including garbage removal, food, and clothing. After the Greek government and European Union established a new camp, we turned our attention to addressing deficiencies there. And, because Humanity Now believes in finding permanent solutions to displacement, we also support efforts to transfer vulnerable people out of camps and into stable housing.



**2020: Fire Destroys Moria Camp**

In addition to supporting general initiatives, Humanity Now targets funding for vulnerable populations like the elderly, the disabled, unaccompanied minors, single and pregnant women.



**2019: Supplies for Homeless LGBTQ Asylum Seekers, Safe Place International**

For example, refugees and migrants from the LGBTQ community often live in the shadows and face particular dangers. By teaming up with organizations that specifically focus on this population, Humanity Now has successfully provided safe shelter, transportation, food vouchers, and basic supplies. **Our Survival Backpack Project distributed emergency gear to gay, lesbian, and transgender refugees and migrants living on the streets of Athens.**

Occasionally, people ask how we can provide effective funding when we aren't based in Greece. We succeed because we travel there regularly and maintain strong relationships with partners on the ground. On every visit, we meet to share observations and advice, then come up with funding plans for the months ahead. Back in the United States, we maintain close contact through video conferencing, email, and messaging platforms. **We succeed because of our trusted partners; they succeed because of you.**

2016

**Greatest Challenges**

- Borders close, trapping thousands of refugees and migrants in Greece
- Tens of thousands fill makeshift camps
- Greece struggles to open and maintain official facilities

**What We Learned**

**You don't need a lot of money to have an impact.** Small-scale, targeted funding can reduce suffering. At a volunteer-run "baby-washing station" in a makeshift camp in Northern Greece, the simple provision of baby bathtubs, hot water, soap, diapers and onesies allowed new moms to keep their infants clean and healthy.

**How We Helped**

- **Emergency Aid:** food, diapers, hygiene products, tent improvements
- **Ongoing Needs:** cleaning supplies, cooking equipment
- **Preparing for Future:** community center



May 2016: An Unofficial Makeshift Camp in Northern Greece

**\$45,000**

Donations received and distributed

**10**

Projects Funded



**Diapers**



**Meals**



**Reusable Dishes**

2017

### Greatest Challenges

- Extreme conditions in government-run camps (snakes and rodents, heat, severe winter cold)
- Instability exacerbates mental and physical health challenges
- Inappropriate shelter for long-term stays

### What We Learned

Humanity Now met directly with displaced people to better understand their needs and find solutions to help. As a result, we provided food staples so that they could cook for themselves and cleaning supplies so that they could make their cramped living spaces more decent. **Working together in this way, we improved their situation and helped them regain their sense of autonomy.**

### How We Helped

- **Emergency:** food, clothing, medical and dental aid, LGBTQ housing, supplies for pregnant women and nursing mothers
- **Ongoing Needs:** cleaning supplies, kitchen equipment, washing machines, heating oil, children’s playground and toys
- **Preparing for Future:** carpentry workshop, trauma-informed education, kitchen gardens in a camp



January 2017: Softex, a Government-Run Camp in Northern Greece

\$71,762

Donations received and distributed

13

Projects funded



Eggs



Flipflops



Kitchen Gardens



2018

### Greatest Challenges

- Insufficient infrastructure—showers, toilets, tents—in over-crowded camps
- Under-served populations in hard-to-reach locations
- Increasing demand for educational and vocational training
- Long-term effects of displacement on mental health and well being

### What We Learned

Two years into our effort, refugees and migrants were continuing to arrive in Greece, straining a fragile relief apparatus. **Recognizing that displaced people needed hope for the future as well as short-term supplies, we increased our funding for educational and job-training initiatives.** By supporting a carpentry workshop for refugees on Lesbos Island, we gave people an opportunity to learn useful skills that could help them in the future. The project also provided tools to build simple furniture, improving their living conditions.

### How We Helped

- **Emergency:** food, diapers, hygiene products, clothing for unaccompanied minors, medical supplies
- **Ongoing Needs:** heating oil, kitchen renovation, LGBTQ community support, bus tickets, mattresses, solar panels
- **Preparing for Future:** job and educational training, carpentry workshop supplies, agricultural initiative, tailoring program



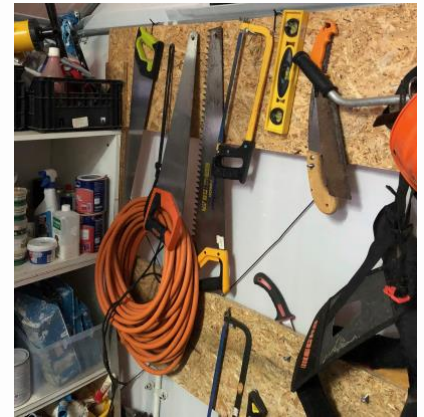
2018: Moria Camp on Lesbos Island

\$66,313

Donations received and distributed

15

Projects funded



Tools/Supplies for carpentry workshop



Mattresses



Soap

2019

### Greatest Challenges

- Surge in arrivals leads to extraordinary over-crowding in Aegean Island camps
- Swelling numbers create critical deficiencies in basic hygiene—garbage removal, cleaning supplies, soap
- As conditions deteriorate, violence, drug abuse, and mental health emergencies increase
- Inflexible aid projects fail because they cannot adapt to evolving conditions

### What We Learned

In 2015, a large international charity spent millions to open a refugee reception center, then closed it months later, after refugees stopped arriving at the nearby beach. **Humanity Now learned to build flexibility into every funding decision.** When Orange House, an Athens community center, had to relocate in 2019, for example, the organization disassembled the Humanity Now-funded rooftop solar panels and transported them to the new location where they continue to provide low-cost hot water for clients today.

### How We Helped

- **Emergency:** Food, diapers, hygiene supplies, clothing for unaccompanied minors, shelter improvements, sleeping bags, raincoats, LGBTQ community support, medical supplies, sea rescue support
- **Ongoing Needs:** garbage removal, toilets, laundry, bus tickets, strollers, translation services, library, and children’s playground
- **Preparing for Future:** job and educational training: carpentry, food industry, agricultural



2019: Trash Outside Moria Camp, Lesbos

\$144,221

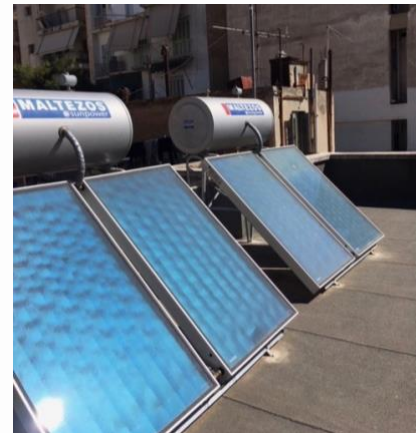
Donations received and distributed

26

Projects Funded



Garbage Bags



Solar Heating Panels



Laundry Support to prevent scabies in a camp

2020

### Greatest Challenges

- Continuing overcrowding in camps on the Aegean Islands
- Covid-19 pandemic threatens already-vulnerable populations
- Fire destroys Moria Camp, leaving 13,000 former residents without shelter

### What We Learned

The Covid-19 pandemic tested Humanity Now like nothing we'd ever faced. **When travel restrictions kept us from Greece, we video-conferenced with our partners to maintain our effectiveness. We also relied heavily on our invaluable community volunteers, who live in camps and keep grassroots teams running throughout quarantine.** Later in the year, these adaptations helped Humanity Now respond to a second major disaster when fire destroyed Moria Camp, leaving thousands without shelter or basic supplies. Our strengthened relationships allowed us to quickly distribute clothes, increase garbage removal, and install hot showers in a tent camp.

### How We Helped

- **Emergency:** food, diapers, hygiene supplies, medical supplies, LGBTQ community support, hand sanitizer, masks
- **Ongoing Needs:** translation services, garbage removal, mosquito nets, hot water shower installation, toilets, laundry, medical and legal aid to get vulnerable people into stable housing
- **Preparing for Future:** job training: restaurant, agricultural



**September 2020:  
Fire destroys  
Moria Camp on  
Lesvos Island**

**\$120,235**

Donations received  
and distributed

**24**

Projects Funded



**Covid Quarantine  
Rooms**



**Hand Sanitizer**



**Basic Hygiene Packs**

## PARTNERS AND ADVISORS

**Humanity Now works with grassroots partners and advisors to provide goods and services to displaced people in Greece.** Our partners run the projects that we support with funding. Our advisors help us choose the most effective aid teams and help guide our spending in terms of region and type of aid. Here, two of them explain why our methods work.

*"What was really special since the beginning of our collaboration is the way that Humanity Now works with partner organizations. While most organizations keep a strict approach on how they would like to spend the fundings, Humanity Now always showed flexibility and understanding that the situation in Athens, Greece, evolves rapidly. This partnership has been a tremendous support for our organization since we are a grassroots organization: any support makes a big difference."*



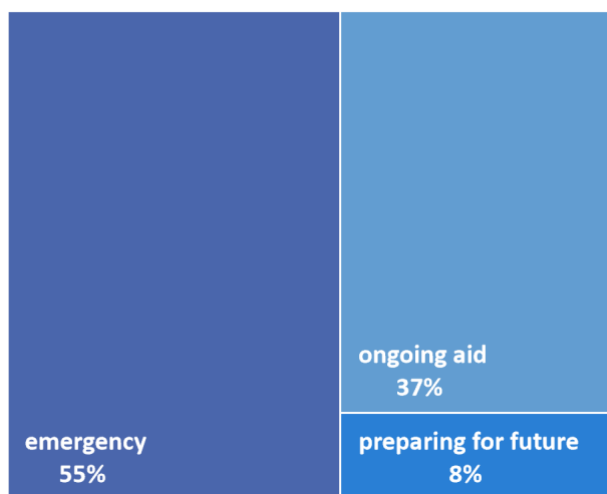
*Marina Liakis (grassroots partner)  
Co-Founder and Director  
Zaatar/Orange House, Athens*

*"It's not only [Humanity Now's] flexibility in helping to fill gaps, but as well their continuous long term support that they are offering here in Greece and specifically on Samos that makes their efforts incredibly meaningful, impactful and valuable."*

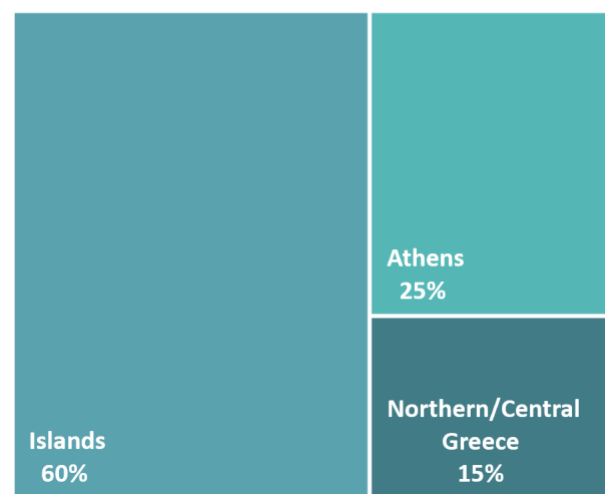


*Cyril Romann (advisor)  
Field Manager Greek Islands  
ChooseLove*

Donation Distributions by Sector  
2016-2020

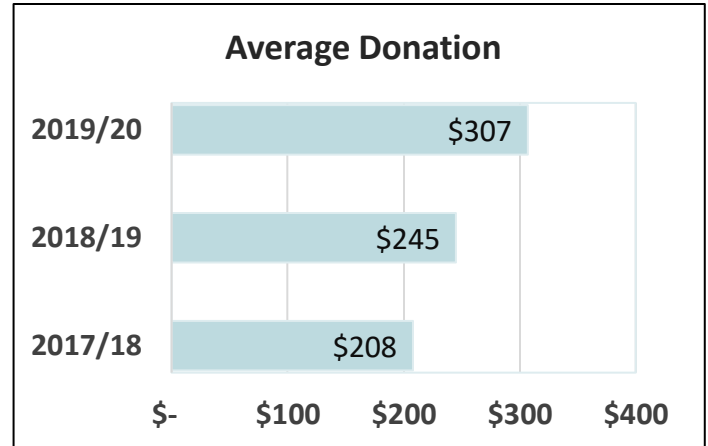
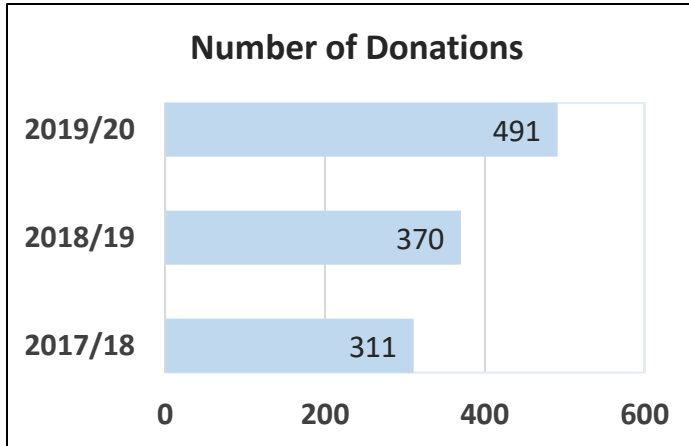


Donation Distributions by Area  
2016-2020



## OUR DONORS

Our donor base is growing both in number and size of gift. It is made up of individuals and family foundations from across the country and around the world. Among our donors, 64 percent have given more than once.



### Some reasons why our donors support us:

*"Perhaps the name of the organization says it best: Humanity Now. Not later. Not for a one-time feel-good jolt. Continuing. And not because the recipients of this exemplary nonprofit are the easiest to serve, or readily appealing to donors. In fact, helping refugees from Middle East countries in Greece poses daunting problems and raising funds for them is a continuing, uphill slog. And that is the greatness of Humanity Now."*

*Paul Wilkes*

*"The benefits are tangible: bananas for kids, an x-ray machine for a dental office, garbage collection. Things that the locals need and are asking for.... The beneficiaries are refugees, who besides being poor are also incredibly brave, having survived war and famine and persecution, followed by a terrible journey to get to a place where they were hoping for help."*

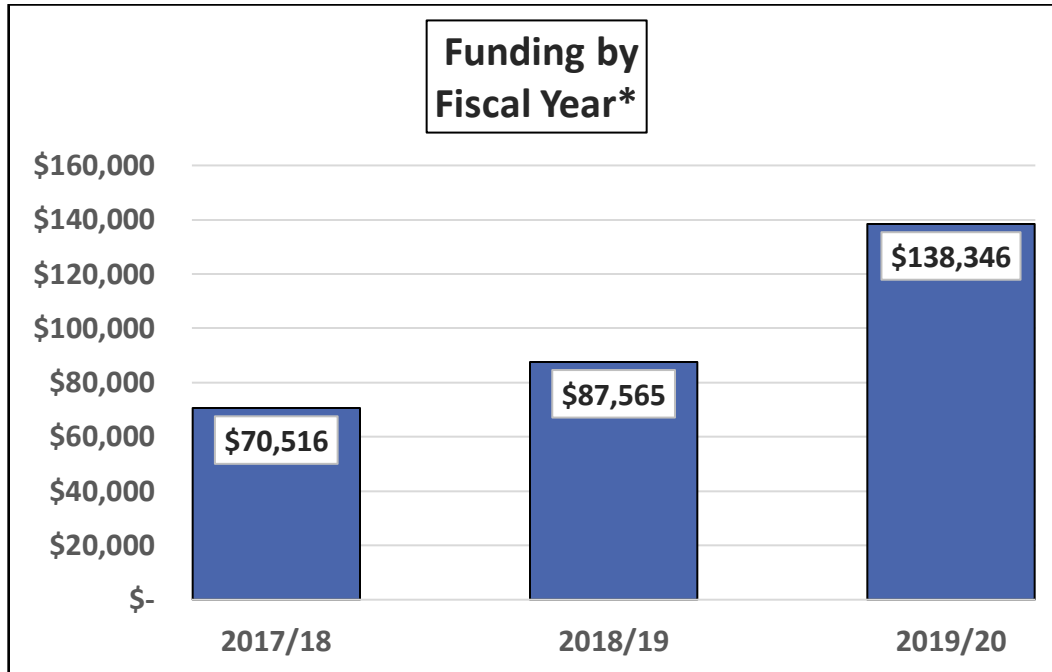
*Kirk Citron*

*"I'll never be in the position to add a wing to a hospital or endow a scholarship fund, but it was easy for me to make a modest monthly contribution to Humanity Now. Maybe I can help buy a refrigerator so a kid can go to sleep with a full belly, better pay attention in school, and earn the scholarship that someone else endows. I support Humanity Now because they are truly changing the world."*

*Laura Goodman-Bryan*

## FINANCIALS

Humanity Now is an entirely volunteer-run organization. The four founders donate their time and pay all administrative, travel, and fundraising expenses themselves. **This model allows Humanity Now to spend 100 percent of the money it raises on humanitarian projects in Greece.**



\*Humanity Now's fiscal year runs from July 1 to June 30. These numbers are from our IRS form 990 filings. For fiscal year 2016/17 Humanity Now was not required to prepare the long-form filing because donations were less than \$50,000.

**Click below or visit our website for full financial reports.**

[2017/18 IRS Form 990](#)

[2018/19 IRS Form 990](#)

[2019/20 IRS Form 990](#)



**2017: Fundraiser, Wilmington, NC**

## LOOKING TOWARD THE FUTURE

As Humanity Now enters our sixth year of providing humanitarian aid in Greece, we strive to do even better work in the future. To that end, we are focusing on achieving three specific goals:

1. In terms of finding the most effective ways to help, nothing beats seeing the situation on the ground. **We plan to return to Greece this year.**
2. The miserable humanitarian situation in Greece and around the world is the result of an unethical response to tragedy and need. Displaced people deserve permanent homes, not tents in camps. With that principle in mind, **Humanity Now commits to not only reducing suffering but also to lobbying for change.**
3. We do our best work when we hear firsthand from the people we are trying to help. **We will increase direct engagement with aid recipients in order to better understand and address their needs.**



**2019: One Happy Family,  
Kitchen Team, Lesbos Island**



**2020: Movement On The Ground,  
Trash Collection Team, Samos Island**

**Community volunteers are vital to our projects.**

## WHO WE ARE



*InterVolve Warehouse,  
Larissa*

**Dana Sachs** is a journalist and the author of four books. In April of 2016, she made her first trip to Greece to volunteer with the grassroots aid movement that had formed to support refugees and migrants

in that country. Within a year, she had teamed up with Stephanie, Jen and Carol to create Humanity Now. Dana writes Humanity Now's reports and letters, helping explain our work to our donors.



*Home For All,  
Lesvos Island*

Before moving to North Carolina, **Stephanie Meyers** worked in various political organizations and was assistant to the president of Brown University and assistant to the president of the New

York Public Library. For over a decade now, she has been active in nonprofit organizations. Because Stephanie enjoys giving people the opportunity to support worthy causes, she leads fundraising operations for Humanity Now.



*Humans4Humanity,  
Lesvos Island*

**Carol Atwood**, a native New Yorker, is an attorney by profession. After practicing law on Wall Street, she switched to the public sector, specializing in affordable housing. In North Carolina, Carol

has served on several boards, including as treasurer of Lakeside Partners, Inc., a nonprofit that builds permanent supportive housing. Carol manages our legal and financial responsibilities.



*InterVolve,  
Koutsochero Camp*

**Jen Maraveyas** began her career in the pharmaceutical industry, but she later discovered a passion for education. For twenty years, she volunteered and worked professionally in public and private

schools. Jen keeps track of Humanity Now records, helps us communicate with partners in Greece, and makes our letters and reports look beautiful.

### 2020-2021 Board of Directors

**President:** Dana Sachs • **Vice President:** Stephanie Meyers  
**Treasurer:** Carol Atwood • **Secretary:** Jen Maraveyas

### Humanity Now

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<https://humanity-now.org/>



## OUR 2020 GRASSROOTS PARTNERS



## Other Partners and Projects 2016-2020

Action for Education	LAVA Project	Schoolbox Project
Attika	Lesvos LGBTQI+	Social Solidarity Clinic
Flying Help	Lesvos Solidarity: Pikpa/Mosaik	Solidarity Fields
Get Shit Done Team	LGBTQI+ Refugees Welcome in Greece	Squats
Non-Government Camps	Lighthouse Relief	Starfish Foundation
Healthbridge	Refugee Refuge	Still I Rise
Humans4Humanity	Samos Social Market	Swiss Cross
Khora	Samos Volunteers	We Are One