



# The AWB Refugee Support Project

## End of Year Update 2017



### *Dear AWB Friends and Supporters,*

As we move into the new year, we'd like to share this update with you and thank you for helping make the AWB Refugee Support Project happen! In 2015-16, millions of refugees from the Middle East and Africa migrated from conflict zones to potential safe haven in Europe. Many have started new lives while many are still displaced, facing significant challenges. Most are dealing with deep trauma from war, dangerous migration, displacement and loss. Your support has brought trauma healing to thousands of refugees this year. Here are some highlights of how you've helped make this happening

### *Supporting Refugees in the US*

AWB has been mentoring refugee support projects for people resettling in the United States for the past several years. Our trained volunteers provide acupuncture treatments to help refugees process trauma so that they can move forward with their lives. In early September, two new AWB affiliated clinics for refugee support opened in the Washington DC area: Acupuncturists Without Borders of the National Capitol Area offering "free acupuncture treatments for immigrants, refugees, and neighbors in need." Another refugee support clinic is due to open soon in Seattle, WA in collaboration with the International Rescue Committee.

## Treatments for Refugees in Greece

In May 2016, AWB began offering trauma healing ear acupuncture in Greek refugee camps. Greece is a unique place for refugees: While many people made it to other parts of Europe in early 2016, tens of thousands were not so fortunate. The Greek border closed in March 2016, stranding 60,000 refugees (many women and children) who had made it across the Aegean Sea in dangerous boats, but could not continue to other European countries before the border closure. The Greek economy cannot support thousands of people seeking asylum so most refugees continue to live in 50 Greek refugee camps under very difficult conditions.

Nine teams of AWB volunteers have done thousands of treatments in the EKO Station, Piraeus Port, Ritsona and Oinyfyta refugee camps since May 2016. In October, AWB began coordinating new projects for refugee support in Athens: at one of the large residential hotels where families live in very challenging conditions, and with the Melissa Network which provides social services for migrant women.

## Training Greek Acupuncturists



*AWB Team and Greek acupuncturists at Oinyfyta camp*

AWB is the *first organization that we know of* that has brought trauma reduction acupuncture to refugee camps in Greece. Our mission is to create as much “capacity” as possible, which is why we are now training Greek acupuncturists to offer treatments.

## AWB’s Work in the Coming Year...

*Click on this link to see a new video about AWB’s trauma healing work in Greek refugee camps:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=youtu.be&v=Fjp7coAbp6w&app=desktop>



*Trauma treatments for children at Oinyfyta camp*

AWB will be focus on:

- Sending more teams of AWB volunteer who want to serve
- Expand AWB’s program to other refugee camps
- Training and support for more Greek acupuncturists to provide trauma healing treatments in the camps on an ongoing basis. AWB hopes to raise enough funds to provide small stipends for Greek practitioners, as well as supplies and transportation funds which are currently provided.

**Thank you for your support in 2017!  
Please help us continue this work in  
2018. Click below to donate:**

donate