

Lifegate in October 2023

This has been a month that we in our country, and the world, will not forget so soon and whose events we cannot yet put behind us. We are at war and we are all feeling the daily effects. Nevertheless, we would like to take a brief look back and remember the good sides of this month.

Right after the first days of the war, we in the team decided, as in the Corona times, to continue working as quickly as possible to give stability to the children, young people, their parents and our team. We are delighted that after just a few days, almost all of the children and young people are back in our support programs and this has been a big step forward under the present circumstances.

...(Almost) everything revolves around good food...

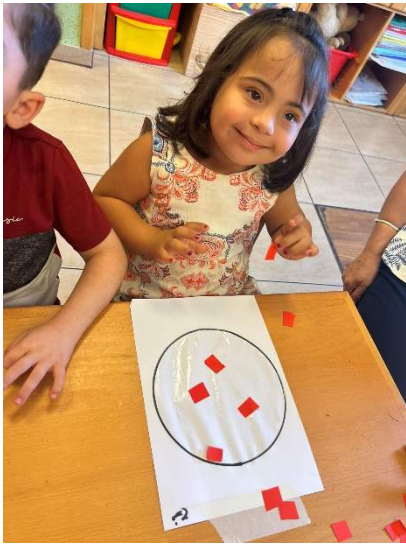
Kneading a pizza dough and preparing it together promotes the fine motor skills of the little pizza bakers and is also a small group activity with a "tasty end".



We like to combine the birthday parties in one month and then the children celebrate together with our team the beginning of this new year in their lives with all the other children in our care.



We like to use learning games in the individual development of the youngest children.



All about the olive harvest

There are many olive trees on our neighboring land that we bought last year, and they are bearing plenty of olives this year. The olive harvest is always a small cultural event in our country. The extended family, young and old, all join in the picking and bring a small picnic. They spend a few days together and help each other. The children get these days off school and enjoy being involved. This often reminds me of earlier times in Germany when the fall vacations were associated with the potato harvest, especially in rural areas, and whole families would sit around the potato fire and enjoy the fellowship. It is an opportunity for the children at Lifegate to combine spending time in nature with participating in the tradition.

It is thanks to the olives that we have such a tasty and healthy oil; we put them in a vinegar and spice mixtures and can enjoy them all year round as a savory side dish with our meals. Last but not least, the trees are pruned out after the harvest and we use the wood to make our Christmas decorations and craft utensils. In the New Testament, the apostle Paul uses the image of the olive tree in his letter to the Romans and says that the root is and remains the people of Israel; if we believe in Jesus, we are grafted into this tree as branches, but the roots provide for us. The Good Samaritan used olive oil to treat the wounds of the man who fell among the robbers on the way to Jerusalem, Israel's kings were anointed with this oil and if you had oil and flour in your jars (the widow and the prophet Elijah in 1 Kings 17), you could bake bread and provide for your family. We will be creating a landscape of games and adventures around the olive trees. The trees are our living companions.



Children from the special school harvesting olives

"Lifegate is built on rock"

We knew from rock samples that we had a rocky subsoil in our backyard. When we started building the underground storage rooms, we were surprised to find that there really is a big rock there. An initially lighter excavator had to be replaced by a heavy excavator, which is now chiseling up this rock and digging the pit for the construction. But this means that our storage rooms will be well protected by the rock. A beautiful image: "To be founded on rock". And so it is in daily life: our rock is the risen Lord Jesus Christ.



Supply of medical aids currently somewhat limited

The current security situation on our roads does not allow our service and repair vehicle to reach more distant places at the moment. That is why we are limiting ourselves to people from the towns and villages near us and helping local facilities where children and young people with disabilities live. We also provide our Lifegate children and children from the Caritas Baby Hospital with wheelchairs, walking aids and standing aids. If the security situation allows, our service will also reach other places in the West Bank. Our orthopaedic technology department is also currently paused, as German specialists have been recalled for safety reasons. Here, too, we hope to return soon and continue this important work.



In the auxiliary workshop

Training and workshops

Daniel Badra works in our laundry and now operates the washing machines and helps our manager Naval in this department. He is now also learning how to iron and fold laundry. Next year, with our help, the young man will find and fill a job in a laundry.



Daniel and Naval in the Lifegate laundry

Some young people are unable to reach us due to partially blocked-off roads and have to be patient. Others from nearby towns come to us every day.

We are delighted that we were able to send the "follow-up delivery" to our outlet store in Tauberbischofsheim, which is not a matter of course these days, and we are now hoping and praying that the boxes will arrive safely in Germany. Many people are waiting for the beautiful products and especially this year the sale will help us a lot!



This year's olive oil is also waiting for our team to go to the olive press to help with the bottling and labeling. We have already built a lot of wooden packaging in our workshops to secure the 5 liter containers. Many of these packages are then converted by creative customers into nesting boxes for the local birdlife in Germany or put to other good uses.



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From the team

Erik Prätorius, his wife Luise and son Samuel arrived in the country a week before the outbreak of war and moved into their rented apartment in Jerusalem. The German organization Coworkers sent Erik (curative educator) to support our early intervention work and for further training measures in the Lifegate team. Erik had already supported our work several times as a volunteer and also knows Lifegate very well from his work on the board in Germany. The young family decided to stay in the country despite the difficult situation and Erik is preparing for his task in an intensive Arabic course. Officially, the German Foreign Office has recommended that Germans leave the Palestinian territories. Nevertheless, I am doing what I can to support our local team and ask for your prayers, and particularly, under the present circumstances, that you pray for their personal safety.

Thank you very much Burghard and the Lifegate team