

solidarnost je naša snaga

Solidarity with war refugees

REPORT FOR REFUGEE FOUNDATION DONATION DISTRIBUTION

December 1st 2016

One week ago, a friend and fellow activist from Novi Sad had contacted us to tell us that they wanted to donate € 80 towards helping refugees and undocumented peoples in Belgrade. We met with the staff and volunteers at the Refugee Foundation Daily Drop-In Centre and asked what they needed us to purchase for them with this money. They had identified that they had just begun a toy donation drive, and were collecting toys and art supplies for the children at the centre. We had noticed in the past that the centre did not have many toys for the children to play with. Those who we spoke with told us that they had sent out a request for toy donations through social media, so we decided to spend a portion of the money that was donated towards buying new toys for the children. We met our friend at 10:00 and went straight to the store to buy toys. We then bought chocolate and cookies for the children, as well as apples and mandarins. With the donation, we were able to buy board games, puzzles, dolls, action figures, yo-yos, and musical instruments, to name a few. The children were ecstatic when they saw the toys and they immediately grabbed what they could get their hands on. It was evident that something as simple as a small doll was something that the children had not seen or played with for a long time. These things are not considered necessities that are brought on their journey with their families as they cross borders, and most donations are clothing or food, so toys are the luxury that they do not have access to. The donation was a generous one, especially by Serbian wage standards, so we were thrilled to have the opportunity to do this. We spent time playing with the children in the centre, and we were there for their English lessons as well.

Following the donation distribution, we took our friend from Novi Sad to see the abandoned storage facilities behind Belgrade's bus and train stations, as well as the park by the Economics University. We felt that it was important for someone who does not live in Belgrade to see what the conditions are like that some refugees and asylum seekers are living in. We came at the end of the Hot Food Idomeni's meal distribution. Inside of the storage facilities, garbage was piling up again, and outside of the buildings, all of the bags that are waiting for garbage pick-up are still there, four days later. In addition to the hundreds of bags from the Barracks Clean-Up Action, there is no more room in the over-flowing dumpsters for peoples' garbage. It may take a few more days yet for the city to come empty the dumpsters.

**IZBEGLICE SU
DOBRODOŠLE!**



**REFUGEES ARE
WELCOME!**



اللاجئين هي موضع ترحيب!



پناهندگان خوش آمدید!



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