

ISSUE 6

APR. - JUN. 2021

Quarterly NEWSLETTER



HELLENIC RED CROSS



144 YEARS OF CONTRIBUTION & SOLIDARITY



Message from the President of the HRC

This year’s 144th anniversary from the founding of the Hellenic Red Cross is dedicated to the fight against the coronavirus pandemic, so let’s applaud the superhuman efforts of our Nurses, who have actively contributed in the fight against the pandemic, through their participation in the Eleftheria (Freedom) vaccination program on a daily basis. Let’s give a big round of applause in order to support, empower and thank the volunteers and the employees of the Hellenic Red Cross for the important work they have been providing from the outset of the crisis, as unsung heroes and supporters in the State’s efforts.

By their example, they strengthen social cohesion and solidarity and inspire civil society, aiding, through altruistic acts, the vulnerable social groups which are at risk of marginali-

sation and social exclusion. They give their very best while dealing with the multiple challenges faced by our fellow people on a daily basis. We admire them and give them a big round of applause, so that it may be heard around the world as a token of our gratitude and support.

Best Regards to all Red Crossers,

The President of the HRC

Dr. Antonios Avgerinos

Dr. Antonios Avgerinos

Pharmacist, Major General (Retired)



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COVID-19

The HRC's huge contribution to the fight for 'Freedom'

The HRC, during the COVID-19 pandemic, continued, intensified and multiplied the actions to provide Primary Health Care, succeeding in relieving the ESY (Greek Healthcare System) through programs and actions implemented by the Nursing Services of the Health Sector, both in Athens and at 28 Regional Branches of the HRC.

The Nursing Staff begins administering vaccinations

In response to the Ministry of Health's request to vaccinate the population against Covid-19, the HRC has been actively participating in the 'Freedom' program since the beginning of May.

Specifically, the HRC's Nursing personnel has been staffing the 2nd Vaccination Centre at the Hellinikon Fencing Hall, supporting its entire operation with 60 Nurses from Athens and its Regional Branches. Indeed, the nurses' movement from the Regional Branches and their accommodation was ensured thanks to the initiative of HRC President, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, providing them with the best possible living conditions during their work at the vaccination centres of Attica.

In addition, 130 volunteers from all three HRC Corps have been

offering secretarial support to citizens arriving at the Prometheus Vaccination Centre in HELEXPO, at the Peristeri Vaccination Centre and at the Hellinikon Fencing Hall Vaccination Centre.

The actions implemented by the Health Sector of the HRC include:

- The presence of mobile health teams at Accommodation Centres for displaced populations, both at Reception and Identification Centres and at the Accommodation Centres within the region of Attica.
- Its permanent Centres provide health services, actions for the Promotion of Health and Hygiene, while also facilitating the access of vulnerable population groups to specialized health services.
- Home Nursing Services in Athens, Thessaloniki and Patras which offer home health services to patients with chronic diseases, the elderly, vulnerable groups and patients leaving nursing facilities.
- Active surveillance actions carried out at the entry points of archaeological sites, Courthouses, Land Registry Offices, Correctional Facilities and hospitals.
- Rapid antigen tests for Covid-19 carried out in various parts of Greece on a daily basis.



The DG Sante rapid testing project has been successfully launched by mobile teams consisting of nurses from the Hellenic Red Cross, who have been carrying out continuous sampling of the vulnerable population hosted at Reception and Accommodation Centres (RIC) throughout the country.

The European Commission's DG Sante program, in cooperation with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent, which is funded by the European Union, aims to reduce the morbidity, mortality and social consequences of the coronavirus, by preventing, slowing down or stopping its transmission in high-risk EU Member-States. In addition to Greece, this program is also being implemented in Austria, Germany, Italy, Malta, Portugal and Spain.

Launch of the DG Sante programme





**Immediate intervention
in the fire-stricken areas
of Corinthia and Megara**



The Volunteers of the Hellenic Red Cross, from the early hours of the great crisis caused by the fire that broke out in Schino, Corinthia, headed to the area with the appropriate logistical equipment and offered their valuable services to citizens and fire-fighters, substantially contributing to the fight against the fire in the broader region of Corinthia and Megara.

The HRC teams, with the support of the Mayor of Megara, Mr. Grigoris Stamoulis and in consultation with the Civil Protection, turned the Regional Clinic of Alepochori into a First Aid and Accommodation Station for Residents, offering their services on a 24-hour basis and operating wherever

deemed necessary. At the same time, they carried out continuous patrols with the purpose of identifying signs of possible rekindling and offered essential items to fire-fighters, while actively participating in the preventive evacuation of the areas.

**Account opened in support
of the fire victims**

The HRC, recognizing the gravity of the situation, immediately opened a bank account in support of the fire victims, with the aim of making the amount collected available to citizens who saw their life's work turned into ashes from one moment to the next.



Support for the stray animals of the Friends of Animals of Nea Filadelfeia

On the occasion of the International World Stray Animal Day, the Hellenic Red Cross collected and provided food and bedding for stray animals hosted by the Friends of Animals of Nea Filadelfeia.

Meanwhile, volunteers of the Hellenic Red Cross carried out the necessary daily walks of the animals, offering moments of joy to our little friends.



Hellenic Red Cross volunteers save Rocky from the hellscape of a raging inferno

Volunteer-rescuers of the HRC who were patrolling Schino, Corinthia, spotted Rocky, an adorable dog, hiding among the flames, frightened and injured. Rocky had lost his owners during the area's evacuation and was wandering alone and helpless in the hellscape created by the

raging inferno. The volunteers of the Hellenic Red Cross picked him up and, after cleaning the wounds on his legs caused by the fire, safely moved him to the area's Veterinary Hospital for further examinations, while also making sure that he was reunited with his owner.



HRC celebrates the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day to the tune of ‘Jerusalema’

This year’s World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day celebration took place online due to the pandemic, on Saturday, May 8, 2021. Numerous prominent personalities from major political parties attended the large online conference, sending a message of support to the Asso-

ciation’s huge effort to stand alongside the Greek State in the midst of a pandemic.

At the same time, volunteers from all the corps of the Hellenic Red Cross danced to the tune of the Jerusalema in various parts of Athens, sending their own message to a world

that is going through difficult times due to the coronavirus and the restrictive measures that have been imposed. In fact, the dance tribute had particular resonance among the online audience, gathering thousands of views on Social Media, while also being promoted by all major TV stations.



Grand event at the Zappeion Megaron for the anniversary of the founding of the HRC

With a commemorative event at the Zappeion Megaron on Thursday, June 10, the HRC celebrated the 144th anniversary of its founding, honouring its history, tradition and legacy and, at the same time, awarding the Nursing Department, which responded immediately and contributed the utmost, on a daily basis, to the state’s vaccination effort through the ‘Freedom’ program.

They also honoured the thousands of volunteers who are the unsung heroes and supporters of the Greek State during the pandemic and numerous natural disasters (earthquakes, fires, floods, etc.). It is worth noting that at least 40 prominent state and political figures warmly saluted the work of the Hellenic Red Cross.

The Hellenic Parliament illuminated in honour of the HRC

On the day of the anniversary, the Greek State paid its respects by illuminating the building of the Greek Parliament and the White Tower of Thessaloniki with the emblem of the HRC.



HRC and E.S.A.K.E. send a powerful message of solidarity

The Hellenic Red Cross, in collaboration with the Greek Basket League (E.S.A.K.E.), created videos with the participation of major Greek basketball stars, such as Nikos Zisis, Giorgos Papagiannis, Vangelis Mantzaris, Loukas Mavrokefalidis and Vassilis

Mouratos, aiming at raising awareness among the public and especially young people, in order to encourage them to participate in the multitude of voluntary activities implemented by the HRC for the benefit of Greek society.



The Super League and the HRC join forces

The Hellenic Red Cross and the Super League have concluded a partnership which aims to actively contribute towards the promotion and cultivation of sportsmanship and volunteering in the country, while ensuring the smooth and safe conduct of the championship games.

Under the new partnership, the HRC will offer health coverage at the Super League games throughout Greece, along with training on First Aid

and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) to the personnel of the Super League and the FCs/members (coaches, trainers, employees, academy coaches, etc.) as well as the relevant Training Certification which it provides, that is valid for five years.

In addition, joint voluntary blood donations are planned throughout Greece, as well as various other actions to be announced in the near future.



Continuous strengthening of the blood bank in the midst of the pandemic

The HRC carried out large blood donations in order to actively contribute to the strengthening of blood banks, as the needs due to the pandemic are enormous, pointing

out, at every opportunity, the importance of voluntary blood donations through the programs and actions it has been recently implementing.

Major blood donation in collaboration with Atromitos FC

On Saturday, May 15, 2021, the Hellenic Red Cross and Atromitos FC co-organised a voluntary blood donation with great success and a huge turnout, reminding the public that blood donation is one of the most important acts of volunteering and contribution for our fellow people. This action was supported by Peristeri B.C., the Peristeri Gymnastics Association and the organized fans of Atromitos. In fact, the First Vice-President and CEO of Atromitos F.C., Mrs. Katia Koxenoglou, offered the team uniform to the President of the HRC as a memento of the successful action they carried out jointly. It is worth noting that, for the needs of the action's promotion, the HRC created a video with famous football stars, including Lazaros Christodouloupoulos, Javier

Ubides, as well as basketball player Panagiotis Vasilopoulos.

Furthermore, the Hellenic Red Cross, on the occasion of the World Blood Donor Day, organized a large blood donation, in cooperation with the ZAK-CRET Sports store on Ermou Street. The blood donation managed to collect 37 blood bags, which were allocated for the needs of the General Hospital G. Gennimatas.

Lastly, on the World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day, the HRC and the Hellenic-French School of Ursulines co-organized a large voluntary blood donation at the historic School's site, under the auspices of the Municipality of Filothei-Psychiko.



Memorandum of cooperation with the historic Athens & Epidaurus Festival

On Wednesday, 23 June 2021, the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos signed a memorandum of cooperation with the Administration of the historic Athens & Epidaurus Festival.

The purpose of the cooperation is twofold. It concerns,

on the one hand, the health coverage and the response to emergencies with the proper and safe provision of First Aid by specialized teams of the HRC at all the cultural events of the Festival, and, on the other hand, the implementation of rapid antigen testing for the festival's employees.





The HRC offers joy to the children of the earthquake victims of Elassona

The Hellenic Red Cross offered joyful and carefree moments to the children of the earthquake victims of Elassona during the Easter. Specifically, on Saturday, April 24, 2021, the HRC planned a large event that involved cre-

ative activities & recreational actions for all the children hosted at the shelters of the earthquake-stricken areas. Our young friends were given gifts, Easter candles and chocolate eggs, while HRC volunteers specialized in So-

cial Welfare provided creative and recreational activities for the children (painting, artistic creations) in specially configured areas, tents or outdoors, and organised team games and sports.



Painting as a tool of Psychosocial Support for the children of the Kara Tepe refugee camp in Lesvos

As part of the psychosocial support provided by the Hellenic Red Cross at the Lesvos Migrant Reception and Identification Centre, psychological support sessions were held for minors hosted at the Kara Tepe centre, who are primar-

ily dealing with behavioural and sleep problems. One of the main activities that have been included in the sessions is the children's expression through painting. This way, specialists who are providing psychosocial support to chil-

dren with difficulty or the inability to express themselves through words are able to approach the children and their environment in a more appropriate and focused manner.

Hellenic Red Cross volunteers provide First Aid for an injured footballer

A Hellenic Red Cross team, consisting of Samaritans-Rescuers of the HRC Regional Branches of Elassona and Larissa, responded immediately to the emergency that arose at a football match in Elassona and, with their timely, crucial and effective intervention, helped save the life of a player who was se-

riously injured and lost consciousness during the game.

Following the positive outcome of his adventure, the young footballer, Giorgos Gerentes, thanked the volunteers of the Hellenic Red Cross, noting among other things: "Another difficult moment for me has passed and, for-

tunately, everything is fine. I would like to thank, from the bottom of my heart, the people of the Red Cross who never left my side as we waited for the ambulance to arrive and for the care they provided me with, playing a crucial role in my current well-being».



Award to Dionysia Koureta for her commendable act

The President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, congratulated and awarded the athlete and stu-

dent of the 2nd General Senior High School of Patras, Dionysia Koureta, for her brave and commendable act. On

Saturday, May 8, the young lady rescued three people who were in danger of drowning on the Rio beach in Patras.



Contributing without expecting anything in return

With composure and determination, the volunteer Samaritan-Rescuer of the HRC Regional Branch of Patras, Argyro Pefani, offered the necessary first aid to the vic-

tim of a traffic accident that occurred on Friday, May 14, 2021 in Patras, substantially contributing to saving a human life. The Hellenic Red Cross volunteer detected the

abandoned victim and offered immediate first aid until the ambulance arrived, once again confirming the fact that proper first aid knowledge can be truly life-saving.

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OF THE
HELLENIC RED CROSS
BECOME THE NEXT DOOR HERO



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