

ISSUE 11
JUL. - SEPT. 2022

Quarterly NEWSLETTER



HELLENIC RED CROSS



WHEREVER THERE'S A NEED

Message from the President of the HRC

The Hellenic Red Cross, the oldest and largest Humanitarian and Voluntary Organization in Greece, founded in 1877, has always acted in support of the Greek State, both in dealing with emergencies (natural disasters, refugee/migration, pandemic, etc.) and in addressing long-standing social issues, actively demonstrating how closely intertwined it is with our nation's history. With the support of its 86 active Regional Branches throughout the country, it implements daily programs and actions for the benefit of Greek society, with contribution towards all social groups as its guide and compass. At the same time, with a strong sense of responsibility, it ensures the advancement of International Humanitarian Law, the principles of the Movement and of Humanitarian Values, passionately contributing to the strengthening of human rights in Greece.

Our primary goal and concern is the HRC's sustainability and its credibility on both the domestic and the international stage. The major challenge is to be able to prove to the world, to Greek society, that we are worthy successors and deserving heirs to the great legacy of our thousands of volunteers, who, through their example and contribution, have become synonymous with support, solidarity and altruism. It is particularly difficult to implement this challenge, as it requires volunteers who must be absolutely loyal to the fundamental principles of the movement and are constantly governed by a spirit of collectivity, solidarity and self-discipline, which will make them inspire society to believe in the Hellenic Red Cross. We



have developed a new strategy with innovative, high-quality initiatives and actions, which are based on a dynamic, virtuous practice, that is also based on a wide range of activities for the benefit of the community. As a unifying institution, we also wish to support the work of the State, the Greek State, aligning ourselves with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. We want to create a modern, social, innovative, transparent and solidarity-based HRC, that will become a safe haven and custodian for society.

Best Regards to all Red Crossers,
The President of the HRC

Dr. Antonios Argerimos

Pharmacist, Major General (Retired)



C O N T E N T S

The Samaritan-Rescuer volunteers of the HRC in the front line of the battle against the flames at Penteli, Anthousa, Gerakas, Pallini and Drafi	4-5	The HRC firmly on the side of visitors at the Acropolis archaeological site	14
The HRC firmly on the side of the civilians of Ukraine	6	The Hellenic Red Cross honours the World First Aid Day by organizing a major action at Syntagma Square	15
The HRC supports vulnerable social groups in the midst of a heat wave	7	The HRC sends a resounding message for the prevention and treatment of drowning in Greece	16
HRC volunteers play a key role in the EKO Rally Acropolis 2022	8-9	Students who excelled at the Competitions of the HRC are awarded at a glamorous ceremony held at the Zappeion Megaron	17
The stylish Booth of the HRC draws all eyes at the 86th Thessaloniki International Fair	10-11	Paralympian Panos Triantafyllou supports the Hellenic Red Cross in attracting new volunteers	18
The Deputy Minister of Sports, Mr. Lefteris Avgenakishonours the President of the Hellenic Red Cross at a special event in Heraklion	12	The volunteers of the Hellenic Red Cross honour gold medallist Lefteris Petrounias	19
Super League honours the President of the HRC	13		

The Samaritan-Rescuer volunteers of the Hellenic Red Cross in the front line of the battle against the flames at Penteli, Anthousa, Gerakas, Pallini and Drafi

From the outset of the great fire that broke out in Penteli, teams of Samaritan-Rescuer volunteers from the Athens Branch of the Hellenic Red Cross rushed to frontline of the battle against the flames, offering their valuable services both to the extinguishing operations and to the care of residents, who were forced to leave their homes as a precautionary measure.

The specially trained teams of HRC volunteers, with rescue

equipment and vehicles, in consultation with the Civil Protection and the Fire Service, placed themselves on the side of fire-fighters who were attempting to extinguish the fire. At the same time, HRC rescue vehicles continuously patrolled the fire-stricken zones, in order to locate new fires and residents who had not yet left their homes and needed help moving to safety, while also searching and releasing domestic animals that had been trapped in houses during

the preventive evacuation.

Hellenic Red Cross First Aid Station

The volunteers of the HRC immediately established a First Aid Station, in order to offer all kinds of assistance to residents and fire-fighters who were experiencing respiratory problems due to the dense smoke, or had suffered burns from the constant battle against the flames.



Account opened and financial aid gathered for fire victims

The Hellenic Red Cross, with the valuable support of the Antenna Group, has opened a bank account for the fire victims of the stricken areas, as well as for the domestic animals that were left without shelter, with the aim of raising the largest possible sum. The response of the public was moving, as a substantial amount was raised, which will be made directly available to the victims.

Battling the flames on the fiery front of Crete

The Hellenic Red Cross was actively involved in the great battle with the flames on the fiery front of Crete, utilizing all its forces to assist the citizens and the state services, as they attempted to extinguish the major fire that destroyed everything in its path.

HRC volunteers provided a remarkable and commendable contribution to the residents of the village of Melampes, which was surrounded by flames before it could be evacuated. Nevertheless, the Samaritan-Rescuer volunteers managed to reach the residents and offer them First Aid and relief goods.

In fact, the Deputy Regional Governor of Rethymno, Ms. Maria Lioni, publicly thanked the HRC volunteers through the Hellenic Broadcasting Corporation (ERT) for their overall contribution in the battle against the fiery front of Crete.



The HRC firmly on the side of the civilians of Ukraine

During July-September 2022, the Hellenic Red Cross successfully completed another 3 humanitarian missions in support of Ukrainian civilians, one of which was destined for neighbouring Moldova, where a large number of displaced Ukrainians reside, reaching a total of 9 missions since the outbreak of hostilities. The 140 tons of humanitarian aid (long self-life food, bottled water, electric generators, antiseptic supplies, etc.) that the HRC dispatched during this period have already been made available to those affected by the devastating

war, actively assisting in dealing with the protracted humanitarian crisis in the region.

It should be noted that the HRC's mission departed on July 27 with the humanitarian aid (40 tons), collected following the call by the Deputy Ministry of Sports to the country's sports family. The humanitarian aid was gathered at various GGA-supervised sports facilities throughout and was then sent for packaging at the Main Warehouse of the HRC in Athens. The material was subsequently transported by HRC vehicles

to Chernivtsi, Ukraine, where the Main Warehouse of the Ukrainian Red Cross is located.

Meanwhile, the HRC Mobile Health Unit, staffed by professional Nurses and Samaritan-Rescuer volunteers, has remained in Siret (Ukrainian-Romanian border) since the onset of the hostilities, offering Primary Health Care to displaced Ukrainians and earning the recognition of both the local authorities and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.



The Hellenic Red Cross supports vulnerable social groups in the midst of a heat wave

The Hellenic Red Cross mobilized its professional and volunteer workforce (22/7) throughout the summer, in order to provide support and relief to the homeless, other citizens and tourists affected by the particularly high temperatures. The actions took place in the areas of Thiseio and Syntagma Square.

During these actions, HRC teams, staffed with social workers, nurses and volunteers from all three (3) Corps of the HRC (Social Welfare, Health & Samaritan-Rescuers and Lifeguards), distributed essential supplies (bottled water, soft drinks, direct social assistance parcels for the homeless population) to the homeless, oth-

er citizens and tourists affected by the high temperatures. At the same time, First Aid and Mental Health First Aid were also offered, along with information on the air-conditioned temporary accommodation areas made available by the local government.

HRC volunteers play a key role in the EKO Rally Acropolis 2022

The Hellenic Red Cross, with its experienced and specialized Samaritan-Rescuer volunteers and its logistical equipment, was instrumental in the successful conduct of this year's EKO Rally Acropolis. Specifically, HRC volunteers provided full Health and Rescue Coverage at all stages of the EKO Rally Acropolis, in Attica, Peloponnese and Central Greece, from the start of the route and the impressive special stage at the Olympic Stadium (OAKA) (8/9) to the big finish line in Lamia (11/9). They managed to intervene quickly and effectively in dozens of emergencies that occurred throughout the

4-day race. A total 210 of Samaritan-Rescuer volunteers participated in the Health and Rescue Coverage from 12 different Regional Branches of the Hellenic Red Cross, utilizing 22 rescue & health-care vehicles, rescue cutters and line rescue equipment. Demonstrating a strong sense of responsibility, cooperation and professionalism, the volunteers of the HRC received the praises of the organizers (FIA, O.M.A.E., Deputy Ministry of Sports) of the EKO Rally Acropolis. In fact, both the Deputy Minister of Sports, Mr. Lefteris Avgenakis, and the e-Safety observer of the In-

ternational Automobile Federation, Cem Boneval, stated that they were impressed by the excellent organization and response of the volunteers of the HRC during the 15 particularly demanding special routes of the famous «Rally of the Gods». The President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, was invited to open the super special stage at the Olympic Stadium (8/9), as a small token of the State's appreciation for the immense and unwavering contribution of the HRC and its tireless volunteers to Greek society.





The stylish Booth of the HRC draws all eyes at the 86th Thessaloniki International Fair

The HRC's Booth at the 86th Thessaloniki International Fair officially opened on Sunday, September 11, 2022, at the presence of the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, drawing a large number of visitors and sending a strong message of social contribution and solidarity in every direction.

The opening ceremony was honoured by the presence of numerous representatives from the Greek State and

Political Leadership. They all congratulated the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, for the Organization's multifaceted humanitarian action, as well as the regenerative and steadily rising course that the Hellenic Red Cross has charted in recent years, with a new innovative, social, modern, effective, transparent and solidarity-based profile.

It should be noted that the Prime Minister of Greece, Mr. Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the Min-

ister of Health, Mr. Thanos Plevris, the Minister for Climate Crisis and Civil Protection, Mr. Christos Stylianides, the Minister of Rural Development and Food, Mr. Georgios Georgantas, the Deputy Minister to the Prime Minister and Government Representative, Mr. Giannis Economou and the Chief of the Hellenic Police, Mr. Konstantinos Skoumas, visited the stylish and impressive booth of the HRC.



The Deputy Minister of Sports, Mr. Lefteris Avgenakis honours the President of the Hellenic Red Cross at a special event in Heraklion

At a glamorous event held at the Karteros Beach Sports Center, in Heraklion, Crete on Sunday (17/7), entitled «Sports, from dream to achievement», the Deputy Minister of Culture & Sports,

Mr. Lefteris Avgenakis honoured the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, as a small token of recognition for the Organization's vast humanitarian effort and its continuous and suc-

cessful cooperation with the Deputy Ministry of Sports. The President of the HRC attended the event, accompanied by the Secretary General of the HRC, Mr. Georgios Skoumas.



Super League honours the President of the HRC

At the Superleague's glamorous event for the draw of the new football championship, the President of the Hellenic Red Cross, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos was awarded for the Organization's immense humanitarian work offered to Greek society on a daily basis and the continuous support it provides to all sporting events throughout the country.

In particular, the President of the Hellenic Red Cross re-

ceived the Corporate Social Responsibility Award by the Greek Super League. During his speech, the President of the HRC pointed out that the Hellenic Red Cross will continue to support Greek sports with all its resources, providing Primary Health Care with its specialized volunteers, while also implementing a series of actions aimed at strengthening sportsmanship and volunteering in Greece.



The Hellenic Red Cross firmly on the side of visitors at the Acropolis archaeological site

The Hellenic Red Cross, with its specialized staff and certified Volunteers of the Health & Samaritan-Rescuer & Lifeguard Sectors, offers its services at the archaeological site of the Acropolis every single day, immediately and effectively dealing with hundreds of emergencies which arise, as tourists flock by the thousands to admire the historic monument. Indicative of the HRC's huge contribution is the fact that, during June-August 2022, according to the

official incident records, the volunteers and staff of the HRC successfully addressed 318 emergencies (upper and lower limb injuries, contusions, sprains, etc.).

It should be noted that the commendable contribution of the Hellenic Red Cross to the Acropolis archaeological site, where it has been providing Primary Health Coverage since 2019, when the Memorandum of Cooperation with the Ministry of Culture was signed,

is reflected in the thank-you letter sent by the Minister of Culture, Lina Mendoni, to the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos. The Minister praised the work of the volunteers and the staff of the HRC, noting, inter alia, that their outstanding presence allows visitors to safely enjoy their visit, knowing that there are experienced rescue workers of the HRC ready to intervene at any moment, in any emergency.



The Hellenic Red Cross honours the World First Aid Day by organizing a major action at Syntagma Square

The Hellenic Red Cross, as part of the celebration for the World First Aid Day (10/9), held a major action at Syntagma Square on Saturday, 10 September 2022, with the aim of promoting the importance of first aid knowledge among adults and children.

The instructors of the Health Education Service of the Hellenic Red Cross Health Sector visited Syntagma Square, where they offered first aid demonstrations to passers-by, distributed emergency preparedness instructions and informational material. The goal

of the action was to highlight the importance and necessity of First Aid knowledge, as its proper use can save lives and avert injuries that might otherwise lead to permanent disabilities.

The Hellenic Red Cross sends a resounding message for the prevention and treatment of drowning in Greece

On Thursday, July 21, 2022, the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC) successfully held its informational workshop at the Astir Hotel in Patras with the support of the Region of Western Greece, for the prevention and treatment of drowning in Greece. The President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, the Deputy Regional Governor of Western Greece, Mr. Charalampos Bonanos and representatives of the Port Authority and the Metropolis

of Patras also attended the event.

The workshop was held as part of the World Drowning Prevention Day (25/7). During the workshop, distinguished speakers presented measures for the prevention and treatment of drowning, placing particular emphasis on high-risk groups, such as children and the elderly, while also highlighting the actions and work of the Hellenic Lifeguard.

At the end of the workshop, the President of the HRC delivered honorary plaques to the Director of the Lifeguard School of the Hellenic Red Cross, Ms. Eleni Soultanaki, for her substantial contribution to the advancement and development of the Hellenic Red Cross Lifeguard School, and to Professor Vassilis Alexopoulos for his immense, timeless contribution to the sensitive field of healthcare.



Students who excelled at the Panhellenic Competitions of the HRC are awarded at a glamorous ceremony held at the Zappeion Megaron

The awarding ceremony was held at the packed Peristyle of the Zappeion Megaron (2/7), for students who participated in the three Panhellenic youth competitions organized by the Youth Sector of the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC), sending a message of hope for healthy youth in all directions. Attending the event, as representative of the President of the Greek Government, was the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs, Mr. Kostis Hatzidakis, the Deputy Minister of Education and Religious Affairs, Ms. Zeta

Makri, the Deputy Minister of Migration and Asylum, Ms. Sofia Voultepsi, the Secretary General for Social Solidarity and Fight against Poverty, Mr. George Stamatis, the President of the HRC, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos and the Secretary General, Mr. Georgios Skoumas, along with numerous representatives of the State and the Political Leadership of the country.

The Hellenic Red Cross gave primary and secondary school students the opportunity to engage in creative activities

and to test their abilities (essay writing, painting, model building), while also learning about the supreme values of humanitarianism, volunteering, solidarity and fair play. In addition to the awarding ceremony, the audience enjoyed songs by the HRC Youth Musical Ensemble, along with a wonderful performance by Eva Tsachra. The entrance to the Zappeion Megaron also held an exhibition of paintings and models that the children created using recycled materials.





Paralympian Panos Triantafyllou supports the Hellenic Red Cross in attracting new volunteers

The top Greek athlete and two-time Paralympian, Panos Triantafyllou, on his own initiative, starred in a TV spot created by the HRC, aiming to attract new volunteers who will immediately strengthen the huge effort made by the

Organization on a daily basis, in order to respond to society's constant challenges. The message includes audio-visual material with various actions of the HRC, highlighting the substantial contribution of its volunteers in dealing with

emergencies (fires, floods, earthquakes, wars, etc.), as well as the continuous support it provides to all vulnerable social groups throughout Greece.



The volunteers of the Hellenic Red Cross honour gold medallist Lefteris Petrounias

A team of volunteers from the Hellenic Red Cross welcomed Lefteris Petrounias at the Athens International Airport «El. Venizelos» (22/8), as he returned from Munich and the European Artistic Gymnastics Championship, carrying the

gold medal in his luggage.

The volunteers welcomed the top Greek athlete and “messenger” of the HRC Youth Sector at the airport, offering him a bouquet and a congratulatory letter from HRC Presi-

dent, Dr. Antonios Avgerinos, for the huge honour he has given to Greece, winning his sixth gold medal in a European Championship.

ΓΙΝΕ ΕΘΕΛΟΝΤΗΣ

ΣΑΜΑΡΕΙΤΗΣ - ΔΙΑΣΩΣΤΗΣ

ΟΙ ΕΓΓΡΑΦΕΣ
ΞΕΚΙΝΗΣΑΝ

μπες στο www.samarites.gr
και συμπλήρωσε την φόρμα εγγραφής

Για περισσότερες πληροφορίες κάλεστε στο 210 52 48 132

Contact us:

www.redcross.gr

