

## Emmaus Helsinki: Report of activities for 2010

Emmaus Helsinki was founded in 1966 and is today a **community of volunteers**. In 2010 around 70 persons participated in the work of Emmaus Helsinki. The volunteers range in age from 15 to 90 years, and they work according to their possibilities in their free time, some once a month, some several times a week. Emmaus Helsinki also offers some trainee positions to long-term unemployed persons and to students from vocational schools. Each working day, about ten persons gather around the lunch table. The work consists of collecting donated items (with a rented van twice a week), sorting, pricing and selling them in our two second-hand shops (both shops are open 5 days a week), packing clothes, cooking and cleaning, as well as participating in various meetings and campaigns. The administrative work is done by the members of the board, elected at the annual meeting of the association.

The **income** from our second-hand sales in 2010 was 226 614 €. Our main **costs** are the rents for the two shops and the salary for the manager of the bigger shop. More than 20 % of the income was given as solidarity support, most of it to partners within the Emmaus movement.

**Yayasan Penghibur** in Indonesia, has been our partner since 1984. Today our support to their home for orphaned and destitute children on the island of Java, is channelled through a Finnish sponsorship association. They received 9 000 euro in 2010.

**Pag-La-Yiri** is a big women's association in Zabre in Burkina Faso. Since 2008 we have supported their sewing centre where 15 women are trained to become seamstresses. This has been part of a larger project together with the Finnish women's association Marttaliitto, which receives support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Finland. This joined project lasted two years and ended in 2010. Emmaus Helsinki's financial contribution to the sewing centre in 2010 was 3 307 €. After a visit by two of our board members in Pag-La-Yiri in November, the board decided to continue our support in 2011.

**Cuna Nazareth** in Peru runs two day-care centres for poor children in Lima and provides advice and moral support to the families. In order to diminish the need for outside support to the day-care centres, Cuna Nazareth wants to set up income generating activities. On a plot of land that has been bought with the help of Emmaus International they plan to start a recycling centre (traperia). In 2010 the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Finland granted support for 2011-2013 for training disadvantaged young persons in the profession of recycling. This project is a common initiative of Emmaus Helsinki, Emmaus Westervik, Emmaus Åland and the Finnish Swallows (all members of the Emmaus movement). Our contribution to Cuna Nazareth in 2010 was 3 372 €.

Within **Emmaus International** we have in 2010 supported the **water and sanitation programme in Benin**, with 2 000 €. Here the local inhabitants together with EI are providing clean water and sanitary facilities to 65 000 inhabitants in the Nokoué lake area. To **Emmaus Metokan**, also in Benin, we gave 1 000 € to help in bringing water and electricity to a school. We also gave 1 000 € to help **flood victims in Benin** in 2010.

In June a delegation of four persons from Emmaus Helsinki participated in the big solidarity sale, **Salon Emmaus in Paris**, selling products that had been made by our sewing workshop. The income of 730 € was part of the international solidarity to the Asian Emmaus groups.

Our annual **Solidarity Sale** took place at the 'World Village' festival in Helsinki in May and brought 1 200 €, which was given to EI. In 2010 an additional sum of 10 000 € was given to Emmaus International's solidarity fund.

Within **Emmaus Europe** we take part in the Poland-Ukraine collective, and have supported **Emmaus Rzeszow** in Poland with 2 000 € and **Emmaus Oselya** in Lviv in Ukraine with 3 000 €. Both communities offer a home and a place of work to homeless persons.

The **Missing Persons Family Support Centre in Lithuania** received 1 300 € for their Girl Group project that aims to prevent young girls from becoming victims of trafficking.

We are also participating in the European **container-programme**. Together with Emmaus Westervik we sent in 2010 three big truckloads of clothing, shoes and household things to the **Polish Emmaus-groups**. Our part of the packing and shipping costs amounted to around 3 000 €.

Some material has also been given to social institutions in **Estonia**. Twice we brought a wan-load of furniture and household things to Kohila, to a service centre for elderly and handicapped and to **Kati-koti**, a home for mentally handicapped persons. Kati-koti also received 1 000 €, that was used to improve the security in the building in case of fire.

In Helsinki we support several associations and institutions working with the **homeless and poor in Helsinki** by giving used clothing and shoes. In addition, **KRIS**, an association that helps former prisoners, and **Vailla Vakinaista Asuntoa**, that helps homeless people, both received 2 000 €.

Kovaosaisten Ystävät (The Friends of the Underprivileged) is renting our small apartment in the suburbs of Helsinki to a homeless person needing support.

Emmaus Helsinki is an active member of **Emmaus Finland, Emmaus Europe and Emmaus International**. In 2010 we organized solidarity days for the right to water, the right to housing, as well as for the rights of women and children. In September we participated in Emmaus Finland's seminar on sustainable development and degrowth. Inspired by Emmaus Europe we have also started to improve our environmental practices.

Since several years we take part in **Kierrätysliike** (Recycling movement). We participated in the annual Downshifting week in April, as well as in the Don't Buy Anything Day in November.

We promote the "Three K principle": Käytä, Korjaa, Kierrätä (Use, Fix, Recycle) by engaging interested volunteers in mending clothes in a nursing home and in redesigning and sewing new products out of old clothing that cannot be sold. The income from these products are given to the sewing centre in Burkina Faso.

We are also a member of **KEPA**, the Finnish umbrella organization for development NGOs, and we participate in its lobbying campaigns and training sessions. One of our board members is part of the KEPA-board.

The complete annual report, in Finnish, including the financial report and some photos, can be found on our website <http://www.emmaushelsinki.fi/fi/toimintakertomus.html>

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