

Heartwings Verein

CHANGE IS POSSIBLE - NEWSLETTER 2/2022



IN THE FIRE

Seduction, the bait laid out in the red light district. Each of the women has her own tragic bait story: poverty in the country of origin, sexual abuse, drug addiction, loverboy, sugardaddy, etc. The dream becomes a nightmare and there's hardly any escape from the captivity. Once the hook is swallowed, the fish wriggles, it is gutted and lands on a spit above the blazing flames. We from the Heartwings charity also know the heat of these blazing flames.

In 2021 we started small, giving prostitutes the opportunity of change by employing them as cleaners. This work integration program, which we now call "Employment for Freedom", has grown faster than expected. We employ former prostitutes paying a fair wage and organize alternative permanent accommodation and work permits. The project is not cost bearing, rather more has led to the additional cost of hiring of support staff. Our salary and rental costs have increased rapidly. Despite the flow of donations to date, the costs are not covered. What should we do? How can we continue?

A battle against worries and fears for the future is blazing within us. Rationally, in view of our large financial deficit, we should immediately take emergency measures: Issue layoffs, take austerity measures, close Employment for Freedom. However, we have witnessed the change in the women rescued out of prostitution with our own eyes. Every day they take a step forward. Healing and a process of release become visible in their newfound confidence: Eyes that shine with hope & mouths that speak forgiveness. For the first time, they courageously talk about their time in the red light district. They have exchanged their street wear for feminine, elegant dresses - each individual and unique. Their posture upright and their hearts once again allow feelings to penetrate. Every day we experience - Change is possible.

That is why we remain steadfast in this "trial by fire". We believe that by the end of next month we will be able to pay the salaries of all those who have left the red light district and those who work for us. This will take a sizable miracle. We trust that change is financially possible. Thank you for your support. In the sometimes catastrophic, unbearable circumstances over the last few years, God has taught us not to burn out, but to become stronger than ever. Because even in the fire, we are never alone.

Even if you go through the fire, I am with you. You will not be burned and the flames will not harm you - Picture description





Heartwings launched a work integration project - Employment for Freedom in the spring of 2021 (see video clip). The project was born out of sheer necessity, the will to address the needs of women in prostitution and to fulfill their desire to leave prostitution and live and work with a legal status. We are already blown over by the experiences we have had in the short time since the project started: many more women than we thought dare to take their leave out of prostitution.

We were surprised by the speed with which the women managed to leave prostitution and integrate into a life of regular employment. These women are fighters, when given a helping hand, they seize their chance for a new life. There is a certain stigma associated with working in prostitution. It is this stigma and shame that our clients struggle with most. The German course, the work contract, the internships, the excursions, the experiences and the interaction within the team all increase their self-esteem and promote the process of inclusion. The good references and work certificates we provide and the personal praise do the rest. In the past few months this project has already been able to help ten women leave prostitution. Four of them have already moved on and found follow-up employment in Switzerland or abroad. Another six are currently working full time in the project, one of which part-time.

The news that Heartwings assists a way out of prostitution onto a path of legality and self-employment, has spread like wildfire in the red light district. Unfortunately, not all the women who would like to work at Heartwings - Employment for Freedom - can be enrolled. There are so many women who want to leave prostitution and find a way to fulfill the dreams they have for themselves, and their children.

We saw the plight of women in prostitution, heard their pleas for a way out and immediately acted with the means available to us. It was not our priority to have perfect financial security before starting the project. This has cost us much sweat, courage and resources. Despite our current financial difficulties, we can not help but meet the need and attend to the misery.



Scan the QR code & watch the video clip on Employment for Freedom. The clip is also on our website www.heartwings.ch.



Every few weeks, together with the former prostitutes, we go on an excursion to a place of interest according to their wishes. We have discovered that many of the women who have worked in the Zurich brothels, even for a long time, have no idea that Zurich has a zoo or a lake. The last excursion took us to Lake Cauma in the Swiss mountains. Whilst we were enjoying a coffee in an inn, the landlady addressed us: "How is it that so many different women, speaking different languages, go on an excursion together? You make such a harmonious picture." As we explained Heartwings and Employment for Freedom to her, her eyes filled with tears.

"Keep up the good work," she encouraged us, "get every single woman out of this dilemma. You are always welcome here."

A WARM INVITATION TO DOROTHÉE WIDMER ANNUAL VERNISSAGE ON SATURDAY 1.10.2022, 14:00-20:00 & SUNDAY 02.10.2022, 14:00-19:00 AT LANGSTRASSE 62 IN ZÜRICH. MORE INFO IN THE FLYER OR ON OUR WEBSITE WWW.HEARTWINGS.CH.



I am thrilled by the work that the Heartwings team is doing on the Langstrasse in Zurich and far beyond, throughout Switzerland and even in other countries. The steadily growing work among the prostitutes has been massively rewarding, especially in this last year. Many women want a way out. As a board member, this makes me very happy. Yet at the same time, I experience tension. Because every woman who finds her way out of the red light district and into freedom costs money. A lot of money! Money for housing, jobs, and especially for care on their new path to freedom. For me, the whole Heartwings team consists of angels. Angels who make destroyed lives worth living again. But I am also very thankful for all the angels, like you, who contribute with their financial means, so that also tomorrow another woman will find her way to freedom. *Markus, member of the board*

My name is Grazia and today I am writing my very first blog post.

I am 20 years young. Who would have thought that I, a woman previously caught in forced prostitution, would find work at Heartwings and be allowed to write my thoughts here.

First of all, with this post, I personally thank all of you who always take your precious time to listen to us women and read our posts. Now sit back and enjoy a few lines from the start of my story with Heartwings and how we first met and how it all began:

I can still remember so clearly the first day I entered the magical doors of Heartwings.

I arrived, Jael took me in her arms and sat down with me, in the most peaceful office I had ever seen in my life. This was the first time since my career at the bottom of the ladder, that someone sat down with me and listened to the words I spoke. Her words touched my soul, which was so black from all the pain, ups and downs, drugs, violence and ugliness of cruel people who made profit with my body and that every day. And most importantly after all this poverty and hunger, finally one person listened to me. I had hoped for this for so long. Heartwings responded to me, to what I really wanted:

[...]

Since being with Heartwings, I've grown so much. Back then they saved my life, and now I'm helping them and I'm so proud of my story that I'm no longer ashamed...Love yourself!!!!



Scan the QR code & read the full blog post by Grazia

As a member of the board of the Heartwings Association I observe, when given the chance to leave the degrading and humiliating sex industry and to take steps towards a self-determined life, women's lives change for the good.

It is the intense and close accompaniment and support from the Heartwings team that makes this possible. Motivated by hearts filled with love, the team strive to let the women leaving the red light district experience dignity, respect and appreciation - for many of them often for the first time in their lives.

Thank you for your valuable support. It helps this charity continue to exist and expand even further, so that many more women, who make their living from prostitution but who would like to leave, can have the opportunity to move on to a self-determined life. *Kurt, member of the board.*



"WATER LILY POND"

I (Dorothee) painted this picture last year without any preconceptions. At that time, I had no particular connection to it. However, in mid-January of this year, we personally suddenly experienced a drastic situation. Without warning, our rental contract was canceled, because the owner was returning from abroad. Within a very short time we were practically on the street. Everything changed in one fell swoop. The last few months have been a huge challenge for our family. We lost all sense of control and all security - but God was with us. All of a sudden unexpectedly, thanks to a very large gift, a dream that we had been secretly cherishing for a long time came into reality: a house of our own. And there, near to our new home, water lilies bloom in a huge pond. The whole pond is covered with them - breathtaking and beautiful. The picture "Water Lily pond" was instantly filled with a deeper meaning for me. Meaning which touches my heart and teaches me to trust completely in God. The plant does not care about anything. It simply lies on the water, just stretching towards the light, blooming every day. It does not worry about the future, but floats gently in the water. Its purity stands poetically for love and devotion, its beauty and fragrance attract others. The sky is her objective and the spring water her nourishment, there her roots are grounded in the vast depths. Growing fast, she occupies new lands. Nothing can stop her and nothing can upset her. Her resilience makes her strong. Because we have been privately cared for, I have courage to believe that that care will also be possible for Heartwings.

Hello, how are you doing? I miss you a lot. You are one of the most wonderful people I have ever met in my entire life. I thank you for ever opportunity and for everything that you have done for me, thank you again and again. I am fine and I am very happy at home with my family. I will send some photos and videos and will always stay in contact with you. I love you lots and miss you 😊

13:07

A FORMER PROSTITUTE WHO STEPPED INTO INDEPENDENCE AND AUTONOMY OVER THE LAST MONTHS, SENT US THIS WHATS-APP TO EXPRESS HER GRATITUDE. THE THANKS ALSO GO TO YOU AS WELL! YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT MAKES MIRACLES POSSIBLE - FROM MINUS TO PLUS.

Account details for donations

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Online donations: www.heartwings.ch

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