

# Cyprus Red Cross Society



# 2007 Annual Report

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## **Introduction by the President**

### **What we have achieved in 2007**

*In accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the legislation of the Republic of Cyprus and its own Statutes, the Cyprus Red Cross Society (CRCS) carried out, in 2007, its humanitarian work through the commendable efforts of its members, several thousand volunteers and of its staff.*

*What characterized the activities of CRCS in 2007 was a renewed and intense effort. The appointment of Mr. Takis Neophytou as the permanent General Director gave a new lease of life to our organisation. He has helped us to move away from our old staid ways. Based on a sound past, an innovative and active presence, he has the making for a very promising future.*

*An indication of this breath of fresh air is this year's report and account. It endeavors to present this year's activities in a concise, elegant and modern way and certainly differently from prior years.*

*CRCS is the largest humanitarian organisation in Cyprus, which while working with the public authorities on humanitarian matters has again, delivered its services to the community as a whole.*

*Mobilizing the strength of its members and volunteers CRCS made its presence felt both in Cy-*

*prus and overseas. It promoted the health and well being of the children with disabilities attending the CRCS Children's Home. With renewed and vigorous activities CRCS shielded the youth from the many dangerous temptations which they confront. CRCS promoted international co-operation and its leading contribution was the construction of a hospital in Sri Lanka. It organized several educational programmes for its members and it became sensitive to and contributed to solving several social problems such like those of Migrants and Road Safety. We improved communication with our members and friends with the issuing of a quarterly newsletter and the creation of a web site. CRCS also organized numerous events and activities.*

*Overseas we strengthened our presence both in Europe and worldwide. The main theme was to bring to the fore the discussion regarding the recognition of CRCS by the International Committee of the Red Cross Movement and take those steps that are necessary to ensure that Cyprus Red Cross remains the National Society of Cyprus in accordance with International Humanitarian Law, the Fundamental Principles and the legislation of the Republic of Cyprus.*

*As a result of all the above, we believe that the*

*CRCS through its successes during the year, it has also created the pre-conditions to allow it to implement its short-term objectives. We are instituting a complete reorganization based on a long-term strategic plan, a change of our Statutes and an intense and meaningful presence in as many overseas activities in order that CRCS is recognized and takes its rightful place in the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.*

*It is self evident that nothing the CRCS has done would have been possible without the many who selflessly offer their services on a daily basis. This includes Mr. Tore Svenning, the representative of the Federation on Cyprus and all our other friends from the Federation, the Officers of the Central Office, the Presidents and Members of the various Branch Committees, the Youth Section, the General Director and his staff as well as the thousands of volunteers and members who with conscientiousness and devotion, help CRCS to achieve its humanitarian objectives.*

*To all these people I express my respect and gratefulness and my heartfelt thanks and wish them health, strength and courage so that together we may continue our humanitarian mission.*

*Fotini Papadopoulou*

## CYPRUS RED CROSS SOCIETY: FROM 1950 TO 2007

Cyprus Red Cross Society (CRCS) was founded in 1950 as a branch of the British Red Cross. Following the declaration of independence of the Republic of Cyprus in 1960 and the adherence to the Geneva International Conventions it was officially recognized by the Government of the Republic of Cyprus through adoption of law 39 of 1967. Through this legislation, Cyprus Red Cross Society became an auxiliary to the public authorities on humanitarian matters, using the Red Cross Emblem in accordance with the Geneva Conventions.



CRCS is an independent body operating in accordance with the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, the Red Cross Law and its own Statutes. The main governance bodies are the Annual General Meeting, the Council, the Executive Committee and the Executive Team which have the responsibility to chart policy, to be responsible for the General Management and functioning of the organisation. Branches operate in all towns and are managed by their Committees. Since 1973 the Junior Section, in addition to its Committee, operates District Committees in each town. All officers and members of the CRCS are volunteers.

Within the framework of its mission to help improve health, prevention of illnesses, alleviate pain throughout the world, in times of peace or war and without any prejudice or discrimination, CRCS undertakes extensive activities which among others, include the offer of humanitarian help, moral support to vulnerable persons, fund raising campaigns, offer of First Aid lessons, blood donation and activities to inform and to create awareness of the Red Cross mission and its principles, the protection of the Red Cross emblem in co-operation with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (the International Federation), and Sister National Societies of other countries.

Of particular importance was the help provided by CRCS during the Turkish invasion of 1974 in relation to the evacuation of the population from areas under Turkish control, the taking care of the wounded, providing housing and covering the needs of the refugees, the reunification of families, the transmission of messages, the return of prisoners, the finding of missing persons and fulfilling the needs of the enclaved persons (individuals belonging to the Greek Cypriot community but living in the areas under occupation). To this date CRCS continues to send first aid provisions and other aid to the enclaved persons and seeks to cover their needs when visiting the free areas; it continues to issue certificates of captivity and of having been an enclaved person.

CRCS carries out a wide variety of other important activities such as fund raising campaigns, tree planting, road safety, crisis management, participating in European programmes, organizing camping expeditions, humanitarian and community events, help to immigrants and seminars. Especially noteworthy are the activities of the Children's Home, which since 1957 helps severely disabled children with multiple needs. The services offered have been increased since 2007 with the establishment of a Day Centre for Adults with Disabilities providing care, therapies and free time

*... based on the law  
under which  
the Society was founded,  
CRCS is an auxiliary body  
to the public authorities  
on humanitarian matters ...*

activities. These extensive activities of CRCS are not limited to Cyprus but are also extended overseas. CRCS responds to various requests of the International Red Cross and in many cases CRCS has sent humanitarian support to Sister Societies whose countries have been affected by floods, earthquakes and other emergencies. During 2007 large quantities of humanitarian in kind aid were sent to the victims of fires in Greece and to Palestinians who live in refugee camps in the Lebanon. The construction of the hospital in Sri Lanka, which

is built with the funds raised following the 2004 tsunami, continues and is expected to be completed in November 2008.

CRCS co-operates extensively with the ICRC and the International Federation as well as with other national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. CRCS attendance at International and European Seminars and meetings is broad and it is hoped that these activities will contribute additionally towards the resolution to the two serious problems, namely the recognition by the International Movement which is pending since 1974 and working towards that Cyprus Red Cross Society being able to operate as a National Society on the whole territory of the Republic of Cyprus.

## 2007 DIARY OF ACTIVITIES

<p style="text-align: center;"><b>January</b></p> <p>8 New Year cake of Kyrenia Branch</p> <p>10 New Year cake of Nicosia Branch</p> <p>16 General Assembly of Nicosia Branch</p> <p>19 General Assembly of Famagusta Branch</p> <p>26 Executive Committee of CRCS</p> <p>27 Tree planting campaign at Engomi Park</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>February</b></p> <p>2 Meeting of CRCS with UNDP</p> <p>6 Meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the Lebanese crisis</p> <p>14 European Seminar at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs regarding the Lebanese crisis</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>March</b></p> <p>1 CRCS Council meeting</p> <p>18 Youth section meeting</p> <p>20 CRCS meeting with the Archbishop</p> <p>27-31 10<sup>th</sup> RC/RC Mediterranean Conference, Athens</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>April</b></p> <p>23 Events for the European Day for Road Safety</p> <p>26-27 Participation at the PERCO meeting in Oslo</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>May</b></p> <p>8 World Red Cross Day</p> <p>5-20 Annual "Door to Door" fund raising campaign</p> <p>11 Participation in the meeting of the European Road Safety Coordinators</p> <p>15 Appointment of Mr. T. Svenning as the representative in Cyprus of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>June</b></p> <p>20 Executive Committee Meeting</p> <p>29 Help to victims of the Saitas fires</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>July</b></p> <p>3-10 Youth Section camping expedition</p> <p>31 Circulation of the first issue of the CRCS Newsletter Our World (O Kosmos mas)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>August</b></p> <p>29-31 Participation in the Commonwealth Conference on Humanitarian Law in New Zealand</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>September</b></p> <p>2-4 Visit of the General Director to Israel</p> <p>11 Meeting of the Executive Committee</p> <p>14 Collection for the victims of the fires in Greece</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>October</b></p> <p>4 Press Conference to announce the campaign for the collection of old cyprus coins</p> <p>8 Concert of M. Hadjiyiannis at the Presidential Palace</p> <p>25-26 Participation in the PERCO meeting in Paris</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>November</b></p> <p>1 Operation of the Day Centre for Adults with Disabilities</p> <p>2 Ratification of Protocol III, add. to the Geneva Conventions by the Government</p> <p>10-11 CRCS Conference, on "Immigrants, Refugees and Asylum seekers"</p> <p>10-20 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference of RC/RC, Geneva</p> <p>15 Meeting of the Ex. Com. on the distribution of the Xmas cards</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>December</b></p> <p>2 HIV/AIDS Campaign</p> <p>15 Annual Christmas Bazaars of the Youth Section and the Kyrenia Branch</p> <p>Attendance at a Crisis Management Training Workshop in Finland</p> <p>Issue of the 2008 Calendar</p>

## **CRCS MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND ITS OPERATIONS IN 2007**

According to CRCS Statutes the Governing bodies of the Society are the following:

- 1 The General Assembly
- 2 The Council
- 3 The Executive Committee
4. The Executive Team

In addition to the above CRCS has established a number of permanent ad hoc Committees which deal with specialized subjects such as the Committees for Finance, Crisis Management, First Aid and Blood donations, Newsletter, Road Safety, Fund Raising, Christmas cards, Restructure and Training.

### **Members of the Council in the year 2007**

#### **Appointed under Rule 41(1)(a) and (b)**

Mrs. Stella Soulioti, Honorary President, Nicosia,  
Mr. Jules P. Josephides, Honorary Vice President,  
Nicosia (d. 20.6.2007)

#### **Elected under Rule 1(1)(a)\***

Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou, President,  
Mrs. Leda Koursoumba, Deputy President,  
Mr. Stelios G. Sycallides, Director,  
Mr. Dinos Christofides, Treasurer,  
Mr. Kleanthis Philaniotis, Nicosia,  
Mr. Andreas Karageorghis, Nicosia,  
Mr. Dinos Kittis, Nicosia,  
Mr. Georghios A. Triantafyllides, Nicosia,  
Mr. Bedros Shammashian, Nicosia  
Mr. Nicos Lakoufis, Nicosia,  
Mr. Nicos Severis, Nicosia,  
Mr. Andreas Artemis, Nicosia,  
Mrs. Ino Zachariades, Limassol,  
Mr. Nicos Gregoriou, Limassol,  
Mr. Andreas Poetis, Famagusta,  
Mr. Andreas Mouskos, Larnaca,  
Mr. Alecos Papageorghiou, Paphos,  
Mr. Yiannis Strongylos, Kyrenia

#### **Under Rule 11 (1) (b)**

Presidents of the Branches:-

Mrs. Joanna Loizidou, President Nicosia Branch,

Mrs. Stathoula Sycopetritis, President Limassol Branch,  
Mrs. Sylvia Poetis, President Famagusta Branch,  
Mrs. Chrystalla Pantelides, President Larnaca Branch,  
Mrs. Dina Cacoyianni, President Paphos Branch,  
Mrs. Maroulla Angelidou, President Kyrenia Branch

#### **Ex-Officio under Rule (11) (1)(c)**

Director of Social Welfare Services,  
Director of the Department of Medical Services,  
Senior Nursing Officers,  
Mrs. Despo Frederikou, Chairman Youth Section  
Central Committee,  
Mrs. Alike Mazi Papayianni, Publicity Officer

#### **Honoris Causa under Rule 11 (2)**

Mrs. Ellie Steliou Ioannou, Nicosia,  
Mr. Christos Mavroudis, Nicosia,  
Mr. Artemakis Zachariou, Limassol,  
Mrs. Elengo Rangou, Nicosia  
Mrs. Emma Simonian, Nicosia (d.)  
Mrs. Evangelia Gavrielidou, Famagusta (d.)  
Mr. Christis Phylactou, Nicosia,  
Mrs. Katy Garani, Nicosia  
Dr. Minas Hadjiminias, Nicosia  
Mrs. Marvel Christophides, Nicosia

\* 2 seats held by Turkish Cypriot elected members who are now deceased are kept vacant

## Members of the Executive Committee in the year 2007

President of the Society, Chairman, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou,  
Deputy President of the Society, Vice Chairman, Mrs. Leda Koursoumba,  
General Director, Mr. Takis Neophytou,  
Treasurer, Mr. Dinos Christofides,  
President of Nicosia Branch Mrs. Ioanna Loizidou,  
President of Limassol Branch, Mrs. Stathoulla Sykopetríti,  
President of Famagusta Branch, Mrs. Sylvia Poetis,  
President of Larnaca Branch, Mrs. Chrystalla Pantelidou,  
President of Paphos Branch, Mrs. Dina Kakoyianni,  
President of Kyrenia Branch, Mrs. Maroulla Aggelidou,  
President Central Committee Youth Section, Mrs. Despo Frederickou

*The  
Executive Committee  
met four times  
in the course of 2007*

## Members of the Executive Team in the year 2007

President of the Society, Chairman, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou,  
Deputy President of the Society, Vice Chairman, Mrs. Leda Koursoumba,  
General Director, Mr. Takis Neophytou,  
Treasurer, Mr. Dinos Christofides,

*The  
Executive Team  
met ten times  
during 2007*

## Meetings of the administrative bodies

During the course of 2007 the Council met once, on March 1.

The Executive Committee met four times in the course of 2007; on January 26, June 20, September 11 and November 15.

The Executive Team met ten times during 2007; January 9, January 26, February 23, April 16, May 17, June 19, July 11, August 21, October 18 and November 6.

The various Committees had numerous pre planned meetings as well as several extraordinary meetings according to the needs that emerged.

## HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES IN CYPRUS

As a purely humanitarian organisation, CRCS during 2007 continued to focus its activities to address the needs of vulnerable people and people requiring assistance.

Even though thirty-three years have elapsed since the 1974 invasion, and the standard of living in Cyprus has risen to rival that of developed countries, the core humanitarian help which CRCS offered in Cyprus during the year, in addition to help for the poor and sick, was to refugees and the enclaved as well as to other vulnerable people.

Faithful to its principles to offer help without discrimination, CRCS included amongst its beneficiaries Turkish Cypriots as well as a number of immigrants and asylum seekers who asked for help, irrespective of nationality or religion.

With the exception of the Saitas fires, it was fortunate that during 2007 there were no natural disasters or other significant emergencies which could have affected the life and health of people and which would have required the intervention of CRCS.

Despite this, during 2007, CRCS was in a full state of readiness throughout, always ready to intervene or give help when and if required, without any discrimination.



CRCS Central Offices, from where most of the help originates

### Addressing social needs, health and other forms of vulnerability

Hidden behind the visible prosperity of Cyprus, many people continue to need support to live in dignity or even to survive. Regrettably there are still amongst us many poor, sick, disabled and other groups of vulnerable fellow people who require help.

CRCS true to its principles responds willingly to any request for humanitarian help and moral support.

The provision of food, clothing, footwear, cleaning materials, article of hygiene and medicines, financial support, the sup-

ply of rehabilitation equipment to cover special needs, providing companionship to the lonely, visits to hospitals, old peoples homes and prisons constituted, in 2007, being the bulk of the humanitarian work done silently, on a daily basis.

### Help and services required as a result of the invasion

Despite the fact that a large number of people have overcome the consequences of the invasion and no longer require material aid, some refugee families and some lonely and old persons continue to need the support of CRCS.

The support of these persons and families is done through the community

work developed by the Branches by providing food parcels and other necessities, and when needed, providing financial



assistance, psychosocial support and other actions.

Further reference of these

activities is made in the chapter dealing with the work of the Branches. Other services offered by CRCS, which are a consequence of the invasion, are the provision of certifications to those who had been enclaved. Based on the archives of the CRCS, it also issues certificates to captives of the Turkish invasion.



## Support to the enclaved

According to the records maintained by CRCS, as of 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007



Aid despatch

there were still living in Karpaz and Kyrenia, 514 persons of whom 378 Greek Cypriots and 136 Maronites.

These enclaved persons receive CRCS support in

various forms both in the occupied territories but also in the free areas.

In the occupied territories CRCS, through the United Nations, provides with weekly dispatches, for nearly all of the needs of the enclaved such as food, medicines, footwear etc. In addition and in some circumstances CRCS covers special needs such as wheelchairs, oxygen bottles, spectacles etc. In 2007, 681 parcels were dispatched.

During the visits of the enclaved to the free areas CRCS covers all their

needs such as meals, transportation, hospital care, financial help etc.



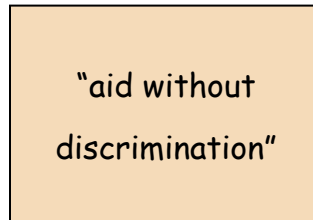
Transportation with the CRCS bus

In 2007, 107 such visits took place and with a CRCS bus people were transported from the Ledra Palace check point to their destination, all over Cyprus.

## Support to Turkish Cypriots

Even though there are only few Turkish Cypriots living in the free areas, because the Turkish Authorities will not allow the CRCS to operate in the occupied areas and Turkish Cypriots are discouraged to have contact with and ask for help from CRCS, in 2007 there were several cases of help having been given. Most of the Turkish Cypri-

ots living in the free areas are based in Limassol. On a number of occasions the



Limassol Branch has provided in-kind assistance in

the form of food and clothing.

Also, in some isolated cases, Turkish Cypriots residing in the occupied areas have asked for help from the CRCS Head Office as well as the Nicosia Branch. Abiding to its principles CRCS with impartiality and without discriminations responded to these calls.

## Assistance to victims of disasters

On June 29, 2007 a big fire burst out in Saitas area in Troodos and spread widely. Other than the



Volunteers in action

huge damage to nature, in some cases the inhabitants of some villages had

to abandon their homes temporarily. Together with the other Services, CRCS rushed on the spot and helped to accommodate these persons in rooms at the Hotel Rodon in Argos. CRCS offered first aid material, wheelchairs as well as psychological support

In total, 320 persons received assistance during this catastrophe.

To face the immediate needs of this crisis, CRCS members were mobilized from the Nicosia, Kyrenia

and Limassol Branches as well as from the Youth Section. The full CRCS senior management team was also on the spot.

The overall co-ordination for the rescue operation as well as for the temporary shelter of the victims was organized by the Civil Defense with which CRCS was co-coordinated. This demonstrated once again the auxiliary role the CRCS has with civil authorities.

## INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

CRCS offered aid to the victims of the fire in Greece, post war aid to the Lebanon, the earthquake in Peru as well as aid to various programmes in Africa. The total amount of International Assistance amounted to **CYP173.328 (€296.148)**.

The donations to Peru and Africa were distributed through the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies while the amount destined for the Lebanon was handed over by CRCS Officers to the Ambassador of the Lebanon, Mr. Michel el Khoury. The amounts destined to alleviate the suffering from the fires in Greece will be used for building a Medical Centre in the municipality of Oleni in the Peloponnesus, the hardest hit area by the fires.

International assistance is, for a national Society, an activity which is in line with the principle of universality which inspires the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Despite the small size of CRCS and of the total population of Cyprus, but maybe because of the experience of the invasion occupation and displacement, CRCS always responds generously to appeals from the International Federation.



Humanitarian aid despatch

### Fires in Greece

Feeling very affected by the reports of fires that hit Greece in the summer of 2007, CRCS reacted promptly. Apart from the extraordinary donation of CYP 10.000 which CRCS announced immediately, it also gave humanitarian assistance and sent three nurses which offered psychological support to the victims. Additionally, CRCS decided to organize a fund raising campaign in co-operation with the Pancyprian Coordination Council of Volunteers. The

collection took place on September 17 and it covered the whole of Cyprus.

... the medical centre that will cost CYP200.000 and will cover the needs of 2,500 inhabitants ...

It was decided to donate the proceeds of the collection for the reconstruction of the destroyed Municipal

Medical Centre in Oleni, Peloponnesus, it is believed that the total cost will amount to CYP200.000. According to the municipality of Oleni, the Medical Centre covers nine communities, offering its services to 2500 persons.

The project was selected following the study of various studies submitted to CRCS by the local authorities. Construction is expected to start within 2008 under the supervision of the Municipality of Oleni.

### Construction of a hospital in Sri Lanka

It is the biggest project ever undertaken by CRCS. Construction started in



2005 and it is expected to be completed in various stages within 2008. The Regional Hospital in

Balapitiya is in the southern province of Galle and will serve 550000 inhabitants.

It is expected that the cost will amount to CYP 1.000,000 (€1.700.000), which was raised by the fund raising campaign in 2005, which was organized in cooperation with the Pancyprian Coordination Council for Volunteers immediately after the Tsunami. CRCS receives regular reports on the pro-

gress of the works and naturally is getting ready to attend the opening ceremony when construction is completed.

The supervision of the project locally is undertaken by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in conjunction with the Sri Lanka Red Cross and by the appropriate national and local authorities.

## INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

International co-operation may take three main forms:

**Bi-lateral co-operation** which refers to the one between two national Societies, in areas of common interest or of a common project. In 2007 we developed bi-lateral agreements with Magen David Adom (literally, the Red Shield of David, the equivalent of the Red Cross or Red Crescent) of Israel and with the Hellenic Red Cross.

**Regional co-operation** refers to specific geographic areas in which CRCS belongs such as the Mediterranean and Europe. In 2007, CRCS developed collaboration with both areas.

**Global collaboration** through multilateral channels, consists mostly of the participation of CRCS in international bodies.

While CRCS is not officially recognized by the International Committee of the Red Cross, significant areas of co-operation have been developed at the International level, the most important of which was the appointment of **Mr. Tore Svenning**, as the representative of the International Federation in Cyprus.

Further International co-operation will give CRCS new strength through new experiences and exchange of views and a new push on the matter of the official recognition by the ICRC.



### 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent

The International Conference which takes place every four years, was held in Geneva November 10-20 2007. There were participants from 197 Governments and 186 National Societies. Amongst them was Mrs. Leda Koursoumba, representing the Government and Mr. Takis Neophytou, participating in the delegation of the Republic of Cyprus on behalf of CRCS.

The theme of this year's conference was **"Together for Humanity"**, putting the emphasis on

collaboration for the approach and confrontation of humanitarian crisis. The

It is the highest  
decision making  
body of the  
International  
R C/ RC Movement

subjects of greatest interest to CRCS that were discussed during the conference included the humanitarian consequences

of climate change, international migration, violence in urban settings and threats to public health.

As far as the functioning of the Movement is concerned, the particular theme of the discussions was the implementation of Humanitarian Law and the role of National Societies as auxiliaries to the public authorities. The next International Conference will take place in 2011 by which time the decisions taken in 2007 need to be implemented.

### 30<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Conference

A five person team from CRCS, headed by the Vice President, Mrs. Leda Koursoumba, participated in the deliberations of the 30<sup>th</sup> Mediterranean Conference which was hosted by the Hellenic Red Cross in Athens between March 27<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

The Conference was attended by 21 Mediterranean National Societies as well as by high ranking representatives of the Movement's International

Bodies. It should be noted that among those present were four persons purporting to represent the so-called "Northern Cyprus Turkish Red Crescent". Following much deliberation and the intervention of the International Federation it was agreed that the Turkish Cypriots could attend as part of the CRCS delegation.

In an agenda which included five issues affecting modern national socie-

ties in the Mediterranean the most prominent was that of immigration because of its growing importance in the region and the need for national societies to adapt to this new humanitarian social requirement. The conference completed its deliberations with the adoption of the text of the final declaration and it was decided that the next Mediterranean Conference be held in Croatia in 2010.

## Appointment in Cyprus of a representative of the International Federation

Following a period of unofficial co-operation between CRCS and the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the Secretary General of the International Federation Mr. Markku Niskala, agreed to the appointment of Mr. Tore Svenning as the Representative of the Federation in Cyprus as of May 15<sup>th</sup> 2007.

The role of the Representative is to support CRCS in its institutional and organizational development. Also included among his responsibilities is to support CRCS in the development of its contacts and co-operation with other national Societies and the

Secretariat of the International Federation.

In the restructure and de-



centralization of the Secretariat of the Federation which took place in 2007, the Representative of the Federation in Cyprus reports to the Head of the European Zone, headquartered in Budapest, from where technical and other support will be given to CRCS. The Head of the European zone is Mrs.

Anitta Underlin.

Mr. Tore Svenning, is Norwegian and with his twenty-five year experience within the Movement and successful missions in various parts of the world, including Geneva, will become a very important person for CRCS in all matters regarding the modernization and the development of its activities as well as help CRCS in its international contacts and in particular on the subject of CRCS recognition.

This appointment constitutes the closest form of co-operation of CRCS with the International Federation.

## CRCS Participation in PERCO

The participation of CRCS in the European Red Cross Platform for Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO) is a result of the decision to participate in

as many European Programmes, conferences, seminars, campaigns and other such activities. The first contact with PERCO took place beginning of December 2006 in Vienna,

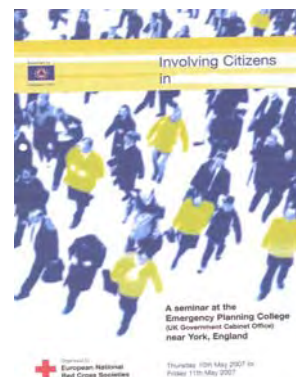
when the General Manager, Mr. Takis Neophytou had a meeting and discussed the matter with the co-Chairman of PERCO Mr. Bernard Schneider.

## Seminar “Citizen’s Involvement in Social Protection”

This Seminar which took place in York U.K. on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May was funded and organized by the European Union and the European Office of the Red Cross. The objective of the Seminar was through the exchange of views and best practices experiences to find ways to involve more persons in

social protection as well as to develop proposals for Governments so as to support volunteers and make them more useful.

CRCS was represented at the seminar by Mr. Christis Christodolou, a member of the Crisis Management Committee of the CRCS.



## Visit of CRCS General Director to Israel

Following an official invitation from the Red Shield of David, Magen David Adom, CRCS General Director, Mr. Takis Neophytou, visited Israel, between the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of September 2007.

During the visit various modes of co-operation were discussed between the two National Societies, an exchange of views on how to confront crisis was discussed as well as First



Aid. It was agreed that representatives of MDA would visit Cyprus soon. Mr. Neophytou also had meetings with the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as well

as with the Red Cross Presidents of Georgia and Botswana who were visiting Israel at the same time.

Mr. Neophytou extended an official invitation to MDA President Dr. Noam Yilfrach, to participate in the CRCS November Seminar. Also invited to participate was the Representative of the Palestinian Red Crescent Mr. Younis al Khatib.

## Participation in Disaster Management training in Israel

In the context of the effort to strengthen the state of readiness of CRCS to confront emergency situations, Mr. Achilleas Kontos, a member of the Crisis Management Committee of the CRCS, followed a six day Training Pro-

gramme in Israel during December 2007. The training was organized by the Israeli Red Shield of David, Magen David Adom, in co-operation with the Crisis Management Committee of the International Red Cross.



## European Road Safety Coordinators meeting in London

In the context of CRCS social contribution and the serious problem Cyprus



faces in terms of road safety, CRCS participates, since December 2006, in the European Campaign for Road Safety. CRCS General Director,

Mr. Takis Neophytou, participated in the European Road Safety Co-ordinators meeting, which took place in London on 11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

Mr. Neophytou presented to the delegates the extensive material which CRCS has put together, which includes posters, books, CD and other material for pupils and students, such as the 65,000 leaflets distributed in the streets, offices, National Guard, University and colleges. CRCS Programme

also included a press conference, adverts on TV and the print media.

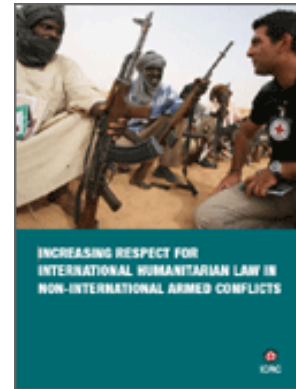
Among other subjects that preoccupied the meeting was the preparation of a Road Safety Resource Pack for all schools in Europe, the celebration of Global Road Safety Week as well as of European Road Safety day. The meeting also looked into how to make the public more sensitive and how to change driving behavior of drivers.

## INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW

From a national society perspective the most important elements of International Humanitarian Law are derived from the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and its additional protocols of 1977 and 2005.

The Republic of Cyprus has acceded to the Geneva Conventions and CRCS, whose existence is based on this, is mindful to follow all developments and to help in their dissemination.

It remains a priority to promote the respect for International Humanitarian Law.



### Participation of Cyprus at the Commonwealth Conference on Humanitarian Law

Attributing the importance and gravity that befits the subject, CRCS, represented by its Vice President Mrs. Leda Kouroumba took part in the Commonwealth Conference on Humanitarian law which took place in New Zealand between August 29 and 31, 2007. The Conference, amongst other things, decided the

following:

- The promotion of effective measures to implement the International Law regarding the confrontation of Crisis
- To point out the importance and to develop the role of the Red Cross as an auxiliary body to a country's public authorities in the humanitarian sector
- The formation of National Committees regarding International Humanitarian Law.

The conclusions of this Commonwealth Conference to be brought to the attention of the 30<sup>th</sup> International Conference held in 2007 in Geneva.

### Educational programmes

Following the participation of CRCS in the informative and coordinative seminars on the subject of and «Exploring Humanitarian Law», CRCS entered into preliminary discussions with the Ministry of Education, and Culture of the Republic of Cyprus with a view of having the subject taught at secondary education schools. The subject is a substan-

tive lesson in human be-



havior which beyond the basic knowledge of humanitarian law, strengthens through innovative experiences, human val-

ues, respect for multiplicity, active participation in the formulation of ideas and the need for justice of each community in society.

Contact with the appropriate Cyprus Authorities will continue next year regarding this subject.

## RED CROSS AND MIGRANTS

The growth in international migration has caused increasing concern over the humanitarian consequences of this phenomenon. This concern, which both Cyprus and most of Europe face, has for the past few years preoccupied all National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and is one of the basic subjects addressed at regional and international conferences in the course of 2007.

The General Assembly of the International Federation, which took place in November 2007, took certain decisions on the matter. The official policy of the International Federation will be announced in 2008 and, probably be adopted at the General Assembly scheduled for 2009. This policy will also



constitute that of National societies in their countries.

Within this framework and taking into consideration the fact that Cyprus is the European Union country situated the closest to the Asian and African countries, which are the source of immigrants, as well as the problems created by the policy of the occupying areas resulting in the inefficient policing of the dividing line, CRCS has devoted its annual Seminar to this subject.

### Seminar entitled “Refugees, Immigrants and Asylum Seekers”

Under the auspices of the Minister of the Interior, the seminar was held in Limassol on November 10 and 11.

Participating in the Seminar were Representatives of Government Departments dealing with the subject of immigration as well as delegates from the International Red Cross and Red Crescent all of whom made suggestions. The basic conclusions

reached at the Seminar, which will determine the policy of the CRCS are summarized below:

- Recording the needs of refugees
- Provision of help
- Protection and legal support
- Integration in Society
- Sensitization of the public

It was also pointed out of the need for the executives and volunteers to be

correctly trained and that immigrants should also participate as CRCS volunteers.

The Seminar approved a declaration which was sent to the International Committee of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, to all National Societies in Europe, as well as to the National Societies of countries of origin of immigrants. The declaration was much praised.

### Participation of the Branches in the application of CRCS policies towards immigrants

It is expected that the role of the Branches will become very significant in the implementation of the policy regarding immigrants.

As a result, following the Seminar a questionnaire was dispatched to all the Branches in order to ascertain what the situation was and what their needs might be.

The information gathered will help CRCS to develop



a uniform policy regarding the role and responsibili-

ties of CRCS in respect of Immigrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

It is pointed out that such a policy can only be implemented with the cooperation and support of the relevant public authorities. For this reason it is imperative that uniform practices are adopted by all the Branches.

## HEALTH AND WELFARE

In 2007, CRCS offered, as a humanitarian organisation, through its Branches and Youth Section a variety of social programmes the aims of which are to safeguard health and offer protection and care to the frail people in our midst.

Of fundamental importance is the provision of expert therapeutic education and support to children with serious disabilities at the CRCS Children's Home, which since it first opened in 1957 remains an unique institution in our country. It is also noteworthy that in 2007 the Home started a Day Care Centre for Adults with serious disabilities and multiple dependency needs.

The social work of CRCS, for the year under review, completed many other related activities such as the close co-operation with the Ministry of Health and established its role within the various Government programmes (flu epidemic), First Aid Lessons, the supply of medication and medical assistance to the enclaved, the supply of wheelchairs and the publications on Road Safety and Bird Flu.



### The CRCS Home for Sick Children

The Children's Home constitutes CRCS most important activity.

During 2007 it continued to provide care, protection, therapeutic education (physiotherapy, speech therapy, hydrotherapy, medications, social and entertainment activities in an attempt to improve the quality of life of 75 children with serious disabilities and multiple dependency needs, under the age of 21 years old.

The staff of the Home remained the same (twenty-one persons) who have multidiscipline expertise. There are 14 persons in the Management and Therapists team and the rest in the Technical sup-

port and Nursery staff.

In 2007 the co-operation continued with the Special School of the Ministry of Education and Culture which is housed in the same premises and which covers the educational needs of the children.

With the same degree of success, the co-operation continued with the St Jame's University Hospital in the UK and the visits of Dr. Bhakta who offers the Botulinum Toxin injections therapy.

The responsibility for the functioning of the Home has been undertaken by a new Committee which consists of Messrs. Takis Neophytou, CRCS General Director, Costakis

Christodoulakis, Minas Hadjiminas, Michalis Psiloinis and Caterina Christodoulou, the Head of the Home.

The single largest problem is the cost of running the Home which amounted to CYP 300.000 and which left a CYP 70.000 deficit. Another serious problem is the continuous maintenance required of the building and of other installations.

In general, the Home offers a big social service for the town and the surrounding area and a great deal of easing of the suffering of the parents whose children are being looked after at the Home.

### Day Care Centre for Adults with Disabilities

In addition to the services offered by the Children's



Home and following consultations with all inter-

ested parties, CRCS decided to create the Day Care Centre for Adults with severe disabilities and multiple dependency needs.

A study was prepared and a Committee was appointed consisting of Messrs. Takis Neophytou, Minas Hadjimina, Costakis Christodoulakis, Michalis

Psiloinis and Caterina Christodoulou.

The Centre started operations on November 1, 2007 offering services to five persons using part of the premises of the Children's Home. To cover the operating expenses an application was made to the Social Services Department of the Government.



## ACTIVITIES

CRCS is a voluntary organisation which depends on the financial support from those who appreciate its work. It is for this reason that one of its main activities is the search for funds.

These activities are continuous and are undertaken by all levels of the CRCS organisation. An activity might be of a Pancyprrian nature and be repeated every year, such as the “Door to Door” collection and the sale of Christmas cards. It might be an extraordinary campaign with a specific purpose in mind, such as requests to raise funds to fund activities in response to natural disasters and other emergencies, or the campaign to collect old coins known as “Change in our Hearts”. Smaller fund raising endeavors are organized at the local Branch level such as tea parties, contributions, lotteries, in memoriam donations as well as stall sales.

In today’s highly competitive fund raising environment, CRCS needs the continuous and intensive effort from all its members and volunteers. Through innovative ways, the use of technology but above all, the love and interest of what CRCS members and volunteers do, to find new ways to cover the increasing humanitarian needs of today’s somewhat less humanitarian society.

### Pancyprrian “Door to Door” Campaign

The annual “Door to Door” campaign took place between May 5<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>. The launch of the campaign was made in the presence of CRCS President, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou and the President of the Republic, Mr. Tassos Papadopoulos on May 8<sup>th</sup>, the Worldwide Red Cross Day.

The success of the campaign, the CRCS President emphasized, is dependant on the contribution of the Government machine, municipal, and

communal authorities, church committees, schools and donors, as well as CRCS volunteers. The slogan for this year’s campaign is “All together for our fellow people”. The total amount raised this year was **£156.110 (€266.730)**.

The proceeds of the campaign go towards the running costs of the Children’s Home as well to the numerous other CRGS programmes.

The conduct of the campaign, once again was an

opportunity for CRCS to project its work and to make known its objectives and that is to promote humanitarian values and to allow all Cypriots the opportunity to be part of a humanitarian society.

On June 25<sup>th</sup> CRCS President gave a reception at her home to honor, with commemorative gifts and shields as well as certificates the people, authorities and organizations which contributed to the success of the campaign.



*ανοίξτε την πόρτα σας,  
ανοίξτε την καρδιά σας, και  
στείλτε ένα μήνυμα γεμάτο αγάπη!*

Δείτε τη συλλογή σας στους ανθρώπους του Καρδιακού Εργασιού Σπασμού που θα σας επισκεφθούν, ή κατεβάστε ηλεκτρονικά την εισφορά σας:

- Μέσω κινητού τηλεφώνου, στέλνοντας SMS στην Υπηρεσία Συγες της ΑΤΗΚ με κείμενο Redcross 1 ή Redcross 3 ή Redcross 5 για εισφορά €1, €3 ή €5 αντίστοιχα, στον αριθμό 7600.
- Μέσω σταθερού τηλεφώνου, καλώντας την Υπηρεσία Charity Direct της ΑΤΗΚ στα τηλέφωνα 909 36 011 ή 909 27 013 ή 909 36 015, καταβάλλοντας €1, €3 ή €5 αντίστοιχα στο λογαριασμό του Γενικού.

## “Change in our Hearts” Campaign

Ahead of the conversion of the Cyprus Pound into EURO as of January 2008, CRCS designed the campaign “Change in our Hearts” whose objectives was to gather as many possible of the coins to be withdrawn from circulation and to use the proceeds to strengthen its humanitarian work.

The preparations were made by CRCS Finance Committee which started work on the campaign in August through to December 2007.

The campaign was designed with the help of Storm marketing and the

support of the Central Bank of Cyprus. In 2007, five hundred large collection boxes and more than 450 piglets in the form piggy-banks were manufactured with a view of



placing them in high pedestrian frequency locations.

Many TV programmes and promotions were under-

taken and a number of children’s competitions and several other large and small activities took place.

The official launch was made at a Press Conference at the Journalists Centre on October 4. The Press conference was very well attended by both the public and journalists. Similar campaigns had taken place in other European countries. The CRCS campaign will last through to the end of 2009.

The mascot of the campaign is the piglet which appears on all the promotional material which was prepared.

## Christmas Cards

Continuing a tradition that started several years ago, CRCS printed and distributed two cards each with a different theme. The card depicting a religious theme is inspired from an 16<sup>th</sup> century icon of the Virgin Hodegetria which is in the church of Panayia in Palechori. The card with a theme from nature is a water color painting by

Mrs. Marvel Christofides entitled “Floral Cockscomb”.

In total 45000 cards were printed, which were sold for twenty cents each, which raised CYP5056.80. Even though the printed Christmas card tradition is considered as surpassed and is being replaced by electronic greetings CRCS believes there is a continu-

ing market for them, and that their use helps maintain the public reputation of the organisation.

The Christmas card Committee was made up of Takis Neophytou, Marvel Christofides, Loukas Telemachou, Despo Frederickou, Glyn Hughes, Patricia Nicolaou and Christiana Eliades.



## Road Safety Campaign

The decision for CRCS to participate in the European Road Safety Campaign was of paramount importance since Cyprus ranks fifth among European countries in fatal traffic accidents.

The European campaign started some five years ago in twenty-six European countries. The slogan of the campaign, which has been adopted by the Red Cross/ EU Office is "YOU'VE ONLY HAVE ONE LIFE! TAKE CARE".

Cyprus was represented at the European Committee of Road Safety Coordinators, by CRCS General Director, Mr. Takis Neophytou. The whole programmed is coordinated

by the Red Cross/ EU Of-



fice in Brussels.

The sponsors were the European Union and TOYOTA Europe while in Cyprus the sponsors were the insurance company COMMERCIAL and

TOYOTA Cyprus.

The campaign included a number of activities which were concentrated around the International Week and the European Day for Road Safety, on April 23. A large number of pamphlets, posters, coloring books, games on CD were distributed as well as a five fold pamphlet which was in Greek, English and Turkish. For grown ups, an advertising spot for TV was prepared, while announcements and advertisements were published in newspapers, magazines as well as the CRCS web site.

All the Branches and Youth Section were involved in the distribution effort.

## First Aid lessons

The reactivation of CRCS to offering First Aid lessons was one of the main priorities for the year under



review. For the first time after many years, two full-day First Aid training ses-

sions took place that were attended by twenty-nine persons. The teaching took place in English so that foreigners as well as Turkish Cypriots could participate.

First Aid is a traditional Red Cross activity because of its contribution to the prevention of accidents and of other emergency situations, while in many other situations the immediate provision of First Aid may contribute not only to

the prevention of danger but also to saving a life. The goal of CRCS is to make the public more aware and have people participate more in the lessons being offered.

In the context of these efforts and on the occasion of the Worldwide Day for First Aid, CRCS published a poster which was printed in newspapers and magazines.

### Nicosia Branch

Nicosia Branch is housed in the Headquarters building. It has **1150 members and volunteers**.

The Branch undertook very extensive activities also in 2007, supporting the frail and vulnerable as well as residents of various institutions such as prisons, welfare homes, the Paraplegic Centre, participated in the Road Safety campaign etc.

During the latter part of 2007, with the increase in refugees and asylum seekers in Cyprus, the Branch was active in pro-

viding them with food and clothing. Another significant activity of the Branch was the organisation, in conjunction with the Head Office, of a concert of the famous Cypriot singer, Michalis Hadjiyiannis, at the Presidential Palace in October. The objective of the concert was to raise funds for the CRCS Children's Home.

The Branch contributed significantly in providing assistance to the victims of the catastrophic fires in Saitas, as well as supplying first aid material to the victims of the fires in

Greece.

The total income of the Branch in 2007 amounted to **£70.832 (€121.023)**. The funds were utilized as



follows: 46% towards helping vulnerable groups, a 28% contribution to the Children's Home, 6% towards International Aid and 20% to help cover the Head Office overheads.

### Limassol Branch

Limassol Branch with **650 members and volunteers**



produced extensive humanitarian work in the course of 2007. The

Branch participated in many humanitarian activities, it organized blood donations and help to vulnerable groups such as poor school children, refugees and the disabled. The Branch participated in numerous Pancyprian campaigns such as Road Safety, confronted some extraordinary special needs and helped organize the CRCS International Seminar on refugees.

The various fund raising activities yielded **£28.204 (€48.189)**. 70% of the revenue was allocated to the Children's Home, 12% in International Aid and the balance of 28% in helping various vulnerable groups of people. In total the branch gave help to 2870 persons during 2007. It is significant to note that during the year blood donors increased by 10%.

### Famagusta Branch

Based in Larnaca, the Branch has **471 members and volunteers**. Its main activities were the in-kind and financial support of vulnerable people such as internally displaced persons (refugees), destitute families, school children and the aged. The Branch participated in the CRCS Road Safety campaign, the "Door to Door" collec-

tion, other fund raising activities as well as giving aid overseas.



From the various fund raising activities the Branch

raised **£14.010 (€23.936)** which was allocated as follows: 45% for the Children's Home, 22% towards parcels and financial aid to vulnerable people and 8% was given towards International Aid and the balance of 25% went towards other activities. In total the Branch offered help and assistance to 273 people.

## BRANCHES ACTIVITIES

### Larnaca Branch

Larnaca Branch has **400 members and volunteers** and it participated in all the CRCS activities. Specifically it contributed to strengthening the Children's Home, offered help to destitute families and school children as well offered help to children with special needs. The Branch participated in the Road Safety cam-

paign, in a special exercise regarding Emergencies, in the Seminar for



Refugees, Immigrants and Asylum Seekers as well as in the "Change in our

Hearts" campaign.

Fund raising activities raised **£20.418 (€34.886)**. This amount was utilized as follows: 36% to destitute families, 35% to the Children's Home, 7% in International Aid for the earthquake victims of Peru and the fire victims of Greece and the balance of 22% towards meeting the overheads of Head Office.

### Paphos Branch

The branch has **180 members and volunteers**. During 2007 it helped destitute school children and families, the lonely as well as the disabled and refugees. It participated in a number of fund raising activities such as the Stall Sale and the CRCS annual "Door to Door" collection.

The Branch cooperated with a number of local organizations and homes. It also awarded prizes to supporters and donors to the branch. The fund raising activities brought in **£11.140 (€19.034)** which were utilized as follows: 26% in aid to vulnerable groups, 18% to the Children's Home, 3% to Inter-

national Aid and the bal-



ance was allocated to various other activities.

### Kyrenia Branch

Despite the fact that the Branch is displaced from



its base, its **309 members and volunteers** continued

with success in 2007 its humanitarian work.

The Branch's main activities were the support of the Children's Home, financial help to families in need and the lonely, as well participating in giving International Aid, in the Road Safety and "Change in our Hearts" campaign.

The Branch's fund raising activities raised **£23.832**

**(€40.720)**. These funds were distributed as follows: 55% was given in financial and other aid to poor families and lonely persons, 33% went to the Children's Home, 6% was given to International Aid and the balance of 6% to help fund head Office expenses.

In total the Branch helped 970 people.

## YOUTH SECTION ACTIVITIES

The Youth Section with its **1600 members and volunteers** is an energetic participant in all CRCS activities, while in parallel it organizes activities directed exclusively to the young.

The main activities during 2007 were the following:

- Xmas Stall fare
- Blood Donations
- Visiting in institutions
- Financial support to the young, for health purposes

- Help to the destitute
- Distribution of food parcels at Xmas and Easter time.
- “Door to Door” collection
- Annual Pancyprian Youth Conference
- Organising the summer camp at Lemithou
- Tree planting
- Annual Tea party

The Youth Section raised **£64.000, (€109.350)** which

were allocated as follow: Help for destitute families 39%, 11% towards Youth



Section events and the balance of 50% to various other activities such as International Aid.

### 23<sup>rd</sup> Pancyprian Conference of the CRCS Youth Section

The 23<sup>rd</sup> Youth Section Conference took place on March 18 at the Laiki Sporting Club. It was attended by 300 young people, mostly of secondary education level.

The theme of the Conference was “Red Cross-Human Rights; everybody has the right to live in dignity.”

In the conclusion reached by the Conference it is noted that ...“we the new Red Cross members will

become models of behavior to our fellow students. Not only will we respect the rights of others but we will fight for those who cannot claim their own rights. We must not be indifferent to our fellow persons’ pain, to respect our fellow students and teachers and to recognize that everybody has a right to a different opinion or preference and to be able to freely express his views”...

After being welcomed by Mrs. Frederickou, President of the Central Youth Committee, the Minister of Education and Culture, Mr. Kleanthous, and Mrs. Chritodoulou on behalf of the sponsors of the conference, Laiki Group, gave brief addresses to the conference. CRCS President, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou declared the proceedings open.

### Annual Summer Camp

The Summer Camp, which has now become a tradition, took place in Lemithou at the Mitsi School between July 3<sup>rd</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

In the cool atmosphere of the mountains, sixty-five young people from all the towns in Cyprus, spend a week of rest, play and education.

Since one of the objectives of the camp is to prepare future CRCS recruits, the spirit of togetherness and reference to the principles

of the Red Cross were a basic part of the proceed-



ings.

This came across through the cries and slogans of the teams, the decoration of the dormitories and exterior of the building, the big poster which depicted

all the Red Cross principles as well as from the educational programme of the camp which was delivered by many guest speakers and through workshops and discussions.

The closing ceremony, with a rich artistic programme, which was prepared by the youth, was attended by the CRCS President, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou, parents and many other guests.

## INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

In 2007, CRCS acquired two very useful communication tools. The quarterly newsletter entitled “Our World”, (O Kosmos mas), which is circulated to members, volunteers, the general public as



well as being distributed overseas. The other is the official CRCS web site [www.redcross.org.cy](http://www.redcross.org.cy) CRCS also made two information campaigns regarding Road Safety and Bird Flu. Other subjects such as the protection of the environment and the HIV/AIDS virus were also subject to individual actions.

In 2007, CRCS also published its first desk-top calendar in color for 2008. The calendar was printed in both Greek and English with many photographs. It was circulated free of charge and it was dedicated to the “Change in our Hearts” campaign.

### Quarterly Newsletter “Our World”, (O Kosmos mas)

The issuing of the CRCS Newsletter “Our World”, (O Kosmos mas), constitutes a milestone in our communications policy. It opens up a window of communication with CRCS executives, members, volunteers and with friends and CRCS collaborators. At the same time it is another step and link in the chain which binds together all those espousing the Red Cross principles and values.

“Our World” is published every three months in Greek (five thousand copies) and in English (three



thousand copies). The Newsletter which is both in print and electronic form, in spite of its limited number of pages, contains a lot of interesting material,

with a large number of photographs and articles, all of which are informative on the work and activities of CRCS.

It is mailed free of charge to CRCS executives, members, volunteers, friends and CRCS collaborators. It is sent by mail and in electronic form and is also posted on the CRCS web site, which makes it accessible overseas.

The exclusive sponsor of the publication is the supermarket Alfa Mega.

### New CRCS Website

Recognizing the importance of having a web site, CRCS had attempted in the past to create one. These efforts were repeated and in 2007 were successful.

The CRCS web site, whose address is [www.redcross.org.cy](http://www.redcross.org.cy), is a gateway through which a visitor can obtain information and facts, become aware of CRCS activities and see announcements and have access to a lot of

photographic material. A visitor can obtain a clear image of what CRCS is and does.

The website which exists in English, Greek and Turkish language versions, makes information available to a worldwide audience and as it can be reached from any part of the world, it consists a powerful communications tool for the CRCS.

The website is updated regularly and through the links to related sites, the

visitor has easy access to



among other sites those of the ICRC ([www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)) and of the International Federation ([www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)).

## FINANCIAL INFORMATION

According to CRCS official figures revenues for the year under review amounted to **£505.505** (~~€363.707~~). This amount includes the revenues of Branches, of the Youth Section, of the Children's Home and of the Head Office.

The main source of revenues are the annual "Door to Door" collection (28.5%), members contributions (1.65%), the Government's contribution towards the Children's Home (17.8%), various fund raising activities (stall sales and meals) 11.8%, while the balance of 40% comes from donations sponsorships of both corporate entities and individuals.

The largest expense is accounted for by the Children's Home (64.15%) and whilst the balance of 35.85% by other expenses generated from the activities described in this report as well as the head Office overheads, inclusive of expenses incurred for the full recognition of the CRCS.

The largest problem CRCS faces, is the fact that its accounts are not audited in a timely fashion which explains why accounts are not appended to this report. The audited accounts would have given a far more accurate picture of the financial situation of the CRCS.



### Personnel

Even though CRCS is based on volunteerism, because of its many activities and particularly the operation of the Children's Home, necessitates the employment of salaried staff. In total CRCS employs 36 people, of which the largest number, twenty-one persons, are employed by the Children's Home, nine are employed at the Head office and six by the Branches and the Youth

Section.

Following the decision to strengthen the staffing of the Head Office with the appointment of Mr. Takis Neophytou in the position of General Director in November 2006, Mr. Ioannis Karayiannis was hired effective May 1<sup>st</sup> to fill the position of Secretary. Mr. Karayiannis served the CRCS until the end of September. Since then the position of Secretary has remained vacant.

In September, based on a one year contract Ms Thalia Vourkidou joined to help in the "Change in our Hearts" campaign. Since the position of Secretary remained vacant, Ms Vourkidou assumed additional responsibilities. In October, Mrs. Patricia Nicolaou, Field Officer, who was on a six month contract had her contract renewed for a further year. There were no changes in the staff of the Branches.

### The Premises

As is well known the building of the Head office is sensitive to earthquakes and it often presents cracks and other problems.

The Civil Defense pointed out repair works that had to be undertaken. The work which was carried out during 2007, consisted of repairing of the roof at a cost of £11.143,50. At the same time CRCS installed

a new alarm and telephone system.

Through the efforts of the Vice President, Mrs. Kouroumba, CRCS, two years ago, secured from the Public Works Department and the utilisation of surplus Government funds, the building of common stores and garage for the Larnaca and Famagusta Branches. Construction

started during the year under review.

In promoting the development of a building for the Paphos Branch it became necessary to replace the architect Mr. Kokoyiannis with Mr. Mouyiannos. The lack of progress in this project is due to the inability of the Branch to raise the additional funding required.



# THANKS

## To Members and Volunteers

The work we present and review in this publication is very considerable. It has been achieved due to the interest, efforts, time, devotion, enthusiasm and selflessness of the thousands of members and volunteers.

Expressing their feelings of humanitarianism and solidarity, with faith to the principles and ideals of the Red Cross they joined

their forces and volunteerism with that of millions of other Red Cross members and volunteers around the



world, to alleviate pain, help and comfort their suf

fering fellow persons and to tangibly convert into reality and practice the slogan "from one human being to another".

We communicate our respect and love to all members and volunteers as well as to all our friends, colleagues and the people who appreciate our work, our thanks for the generous and tangible expression of their charitable and humanitarian feelings.

## To Donors and Sponsors

Equally warm and grateful thanks are due to all those individuals, public and private companies which generously expressed their charitable and humanitarian feelings and showed their humane face and contributed with monetary donations, the provision of goods and services and of other forms of aid which contributed to the implementation of the humanitarian work of the CRCS.

We mention indicatively

the names of the major sponsors and donors with equal warmth however we express our thanks to all those who could not help us as much as they would have liked.

Supermarkets Alpha Mega A. Panayides Contracting Ltd, Latomia Pharmakas, Appios and Metaxas, TOYOTA Cyprus, Russian Commercial Bank (Cyprus) Ltd, FOUR SEASONS Hotel, REMEDICA, Mundifarma Pharmaceuticals Ltd,

Medochemie, CYTA the Bishop of Tiliria, MTN, Marfin Popular Bank, COMMERCIAL General Insurance, Eurolife, the Phileleftheros Group, Lumière, CBC, MEGA, ANT1, SIGMA.

Our warm thanks to all other donors, big and small who gave either in name or anonymously a contribution, at times at great cost to themselves. You all helped us give aid to our fellowman.

## To Government

As an auxiliary body to the public authorities on humanitarian matters, it is natural that CRCS has a special relationship with Government. This relationship is translated in a close cooperation on certain matters as well as in some financial support of the CRCS by the Government.

Examples of some of the areas of cooperation are with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Labor and Social Insurance, Civil Defense, assisting in confronting emergencies, cooperation in covering the

needs of the enclaved, the giving of help to refugees and ex prisoners of war, services given to children and as of November 1 2007, to young adults with



serious disabilities and multiple dependency needs and the broader multifaceted humanitarian area where the CRCS offers help to vulnerable groups and people who suffer.

It is natural that in this an-

nual report, CRCS expresses its warm thanks to Government and for its help and cooperation during 2007 and hopes that the cooperation will be strengthened, particularly the area of financial support which is currently limited to a symbolic donation to the "Door to Door" collection and an annual contribution to the Children's Home.

Finally, thanks are also due to the employees of Cyprus Red Cross Society for their dedication to their tasks and support to the volunteers and members of the organization.

## Vision

To establish the Cyprus Red Cross Society as the leading humanitarian organization in Cyprus to which people will want to contribute and which will attract persons of all ages and backgrounds for volunteer service

## Mission

The Cyprus Red Cross Society, a humanitarian organization led by volunteers and guided by the Fundamental Principles of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and its own Statutes, prevents and alleviates human suffering and supports individuals and communities prepare for and respond to emergencies, in times of peace and war without any discrimination as to race, gender, age, social position, religion or politics

## The Fundamental Principles of the RC/RC Movement

Humanity

Impartiality

Neutrality

Independence

Universality

Unity

Voluntary Service

# TOGETHER FOR HUMANITY !

**Cyprus Red Cross Society**  
Headquarters  
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