



Cyprus Red Cross Society



2008 Annual Report

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Introduction by the President

What we have achieved in 2008

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 2008, its humanitarian work through the commendable efforts of its members, several thousand volunteers and of its staff.

The renewed intense efforts we initiated in 2007 aiming towards the reorganization of our Society have been successful results show that we have already moved away from our staid old ways and are heading towards a very promising future.

An indication of this breath of fresh air is this report which endeavors to present this year's activities in a concise, elegant and colorful way which we initiated with the 2007 report.

During 2008 CRCS completed to a greater degree its role as an auxiliary body to the public authorities by mobilizing the strength and enthusiasm of its volunteers and accomplishing its humanitarian mission. In so doing it made its presence felt even more powerfully in Cyprus and overseas.

In Cyprus the poor, the sick, the disabled, the old, the enclaved, the migrants and other vulnerable people received our love, care, affection and support which was given continuously throughout the year and made its humanitarian contribution with solidarity and without any prejudice.

Without neglecting the traditional activities, during the course of the year, CRCS focused its attention on an internal reorganization which started in 2007. CRCS responded to opportunities presented and undertook some big campaigns and activities which brought CRCS to the forefront and gave occasion to satisfy various needs and to strengthen its financial position. On a daily basis CRCS tried to satisfy

the needs of migrants and pursued its campaign for Road Safety and the Collection of the retired coins which were substituted by EURO coins. CRCS continued to perform its activities in the field of blood donations, first aid training, disaster relief and tree planting.

Beyond the usual dispatching of humanitarian aid to victims of catastrophes in various parts of the world, the overseas efforts of CRCS were focused in 2008 in the following areas. The continuation of its co-operation with the Movement and with the most European Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies. CRCS officially launched its bid for full recognition and also sent a delegation to Sri Lanka to hand over the hospital in aid of the tsunami victims. The hospital was financed by Cyprus.

To achieve all of the above and much more which I cannot mention because of space constraints, I must mention that all support units contributed, which includes the bodies provided by our Constitution, various permanent and ad hoc committees. We continued the training of staff, members and volunteers, developed further the CRCS website www.redcross.org.cy, went on with the publishing of our newsletter and promoted our close co-operation with the Movement and its representative in Cyprus, Mr. Tore Svenning.

To all those praise worthy people who helped CRCS to undertake its humanitarian activities, I would like to express my appreciation, gratitude and warm thanks. To the members of the Council, the Executive Committee, the Branches, the Youth Section, as well as to our many volunteers, the General Director and to all the staff. May God give them strength, health and courage to carry on doing their duties so that together we can all continue our humanitarian mission with even more success.

Fotini Papadopoulou

CYPRUS RED CROSS SOCIETY: FROM 1950 TO 2008



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 CRCS 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 Assembly, the Council, the Executive Committee and the Executive Team. Branches operate in all towns and are managed by their Committees. Since 1973 the Youth Section, in addition to its Central Committee, operates District Committees in each town. Most officers and members of the CRCS are volunteers.

Within the framework of its mission to help improve health, prevent 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 and the protection of the Red Cross Emblem.

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. To this date CRCS continues to send all necessary basic 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 organization of 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, support and independent living activities.

These extensive activities of CRCS are not limited to Cyprus but are also extended overseas. CRCS responds to various appeals 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 2008 large quantities of in kind humanitarian aid as well financial assistance was sent to Lebanon, Georgia, China and Myanmar to alleviate the suffering victims of natural and manmade disasters. In November 2008, a large delegation of the CRCS headed by the President and Director General, traveled to Sri Lanka to hand over the hospital which was built for the victims of the tsunami. The hospital which is the largest CRCS project undertaken abroad includes surgical wards for men and women, a fully equipped operating theatre, an intensive care unit, a physiotherapy unit as well as an out-patient unit and other facilities; it serves an area with 500.000 people of the Galle Region.

CRCS co-operates extensively with the ICRC and the IFRC as well as with other national RC/RC National 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 problem of the recognition by the International Movement which is pending since 1974.

2008 DIARY OF ACTIVITIES

| January | February | March | April |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 15 Executive Committee Meeting 22 Humanitarian Assistance (HA) to Palestinians in the Lebanon 26 Tree Planting campaign at 2004 Olympic Games Park | 8 Medical supplies to Palestine 14-17 Gender and Migration in the Mediterranean Conference Palermo, Italy 21-23 Meeting of the European Road Safety Coordinators in Cyprus | 4 Annual General Assembly Larnaca Branch 6 Media Conference of the Pancyprian Official 2008 Painting Competition "Painted Piggy" 7 Annual General Assembly Famagusta Branch 8 Carnival Party "Change in Our Hearts" Nicosia | 3 Media Conference for Road Safety Campaign 6 24 th Pancyprian Conference Youth Section 14-18 PERCO meeting Belgrade, Serbia 19 Easter Party "Change in Our Hearts" |
| May | June | July | August |
| 4 Blood donation of Nepal NRN in Cyprus 5-18 Annual "Door to Door" fundraising campaign 8 World Red Cross Day 9 HA to Myanmar 10-15 "Assessment Mission Course" European Civil Protection in Nicosia 27 European RC/RC Migration Support Unit meeting Vienna Austria CRCS website in Turkish language | 1-7 Emergency Standard Logistics Workshop, Finland 2-3 Intersectorial Exercise "Argonaut" 5-6 Meeting of the European Road Safety Coordinators in Portugal 26 "Painted Piggy" award ceremony 27 Meeting of the Xmas Cards preparation Committee 30 Executive Committee Meeting | 2 "Door to Door" collection award ceremony 8-15 Youth Section Summer camp 22 HA to China for the victims of the earthquakes | 6-15 Youth Section participation in a Summer Camp in Turkey |
| September | October | November | December |
| 2-5 7 th International Fundraising Skillshare 2008 Conference UK 12-14 ENPS Psychosocial Support Meeting Sweden 12 World First Aid Day Media Conference 13 First Aid Kits distribution to drivers 14 Educational Seminar of CRCS's Volunteers & Staff by the Hellenic Red Cross 16-17 European Program on Immigrants "Positive Image" Hungary | 2 Annual General Assembly Larnaca Branch 7 HA to Georgia 8-12 5 th Pan-Hellenic HRC Conference Thessaloniki 13 European Road Safety Day 17 Annual Meeting of the First Aid Education European Network Athens 18-25 PanCretan Conference Hellenic Red Cross 22 Executive Committee Meeting 25 Gala Dinner Lanitis | 6 CRCS Council Meeting 16 Handover Ceremony of the Sri Lanka Hospital from CRCS 26 Annual General Assembly Kyrenia Branch 28 Nov – 1 Dec First Aid Training the Trainers Course Nicosia | 1 HIV/AIDS Campaign 2 Annual General Assembly Nicosia Branch 21 Annual Christmas Bazaars of the Youth Section and the Kyrenia Branch CRCS Xmas Cards Issue of the 2009 Calendar |

CRCS MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE AND ITS OPERATIONS IN 2008

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

Members of the Council in the year 2008

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

Mrs. Stella Soulioti, Honorary President, Nicosia

Elected under Rule 1(1)(a)*

Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou, President
Mrs. Leda Koursoumba, Deputy President
Mr. Takis Neophytou, General Director
Mr. Dinos Christofides, Treasurer
Mr. Stelios G. Sycallides, Nicosia
Mr. Kleanthis Philaniotis, Nicosia
Mr. Andreas Karageorghis, Nicosia
Mr. Dinos Kittis, Nicosia
Mr. Georgios 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 Kerynia 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 Frederickou, President Youth Section Central Committee
Mrs. Aliko 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 2008

President of the Society, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou,
Deputy President of the Society, 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 Sykopetriti,
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.

Members of the Executive Team in the year 2008

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.

Meetings of the administrative bodies

During the course of 2008 the Council met once, on November 6.

The Executive Committee met 3 times in the course of 2008; on January 15, June 30 and October 22.

The Executive Team met 11 times during 2008; on January 8, January 22, February 11, February 29, March 21, April 23, May 16, June 20, July 16, September 18 and October 15.

Committees

Door to Door Collection, Reorganisation, Change in our Hearts and Home for Sick Children. 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, Disaster Management, First Aid and Blood Donation, Newsletter, Road Safety, Christmas Cards and Training.

HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES IN CYPRUS

As a purely humanitarian organization, CRCS during 2008 continued to focus its activities to address the needs of vulnerable people and people requiring assistance.



Even though thirty-four 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, sick and other vulnerable people, was to refugees and the enclaved.

Faithful to its principles to offer help without discrimination and irrespective of nationality or religion CRCS included amongst its beneficiaries

Turkish Cypriots as well as a large number of migrants and asylum seekers, who asked for help.

It was fortunate that during 2008 there were no natural disasters in Cyprus 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 2008, CRCS was in a full state of readiness always ready to intervene or give help when and if required.

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. Regretfully 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, articles of hygiene, medicines, financial support, the supply of rehabilitation equipment to cover special needs, providing companionship to the lonely, visits to hospitals, old peoples homes and prisons, constituted the bulk of the humanitarian work done silently, on a daily basis in 2008.

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 1974 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 31st December 2008, **504 persons** of whom 370 Greek Cypriots and 134 Maronites, were still living in



Karpaz and Kyrenia. 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 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 2008, **1391 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.

In 2008, **390** such **visits** took place and hundreds of people were transported from the Ledra Palace check point to their destination, all over Cyprus, with CRCS vehicles.

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 2008 there were several cases of help having been given.

Most of the Turkish Cypriots 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.

"aid without
discrimination"

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 discrimination responded to these calls for assistance and help.

Assistance to Asylum Seekers

It is well known that thousands of migrants, regular and irregular, live in Cyprus, some times under appalling conditions, constituting one of the vulnerable groups of the population.

In January, a large number of asylum seekers, mainly women and children, camped for several days outside the building of the Ministry of Interior, demonstrating against the detention of their husbands, the delays in examining their applications for asylum and the numerous problems they were facing with their everyday life.

The Red Cross, without discrimination and irrespective of the legality of their demands, actions and their clashes with the police, was present from the first moment providing food, clothes, blankets and everything else they needed. Furthermore, when some of the children became sick, Red Cross high rank officials, used their influence in order to overcome formalities and facilitate their immediate admission to the Hospital, where they were visited and looked after, until they were again well, and reunited with their families.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

In response to the appeals the CRCS receives from the IFRC to assist vulnerable groups of people and victims of human made and natural disasters all over the world, it has sent financial and in-kind humanitarian assistance to several countries, including Lebanon, Palestine, Myanmar, China, Georgia, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, Africa and Peru. The total amount of international financial assistance which was sent during 2008 was **€671.700,00** of which €633.983 was for the completion of the project in



Sri Lanka, the largest ever undertaken by our Society. Taking into consideration the small size of CRCS and the total population of Cyprus, the above amount is proportionally very large. This reveals the sensitivity of Cypriots, which can be perhaps attributed to their tragic experience from the invasion and displacement, 34 years ago.

Humanitarian and Financial Assistance:

Palestinians living in Lebanon

In February, following a request by the Palestinian Diplomatic Mission in Cyprus, the CRCS sent a container to Lebanon, with humanitarian assistance for Palestinians living in Refugee Settlements in Lebanon. The assistance consisted of winter clothes, shoes, food,

powder milk and school items for children. The container was sent with the assistance of the IFRC Office in Beirut. The cargo was transported, free of charge, curtesy of the national carrier, Cyprus Airways.

Medical supplies for the people of Palestine

Medical supplies worth €300.000, which were donated by the pharmaceutical companies: Remedica, Mundipharma Pharmaceuticals Ltd and Medochemie

Ltd were sent to the Red Crescent of Palestine to satisfy the needs of the people of Palestine, living in the West Bank and Gaza.

Blankets for Iraqi families living in the occupied part of Cyprus

Following an urgent request by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), CRCS sent blankets for Iraqi families who lived in the occupied part of

Cyprus under unfavourable conditions. The blankets were sent through UNHCR because CRCS is not allowed to operate in the occupied area.

The victims of the Earthquake in Sichuan - China

On July 22, a CRCS delegation consisting of the President Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou, the Vice President Mrs. Leda Koursoumba and the General Director Mr. Takis Neophytou met with the Ambassador of China in Cyprus Mr. Zhao

Yali. During the meeting the CRCS delegation handed over a cheque for the amount of 17.000 Euro, being a donation of the CRCS for the victims of the earthquake in the province of Sichuan, in China.

The victims of Hurricane Nargis in Myanmar

In response to an appeal by the IFRC, CRCS sent a contribution of €10.000 to Myanmar to alleviate the suffering of the victims of cyclone Nargis.

As in all other cases the donation was a collective contribution by all the Branches and the Youth Section.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE

Medical supplies to Georgia

Following a request by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, CRCS undertook the responsibility of despatching a large

quantity of medical supplies, a donation of the Government of Cyprus, to Georgia, for the victims of the conflicts in the country.

Project to assist the people affected by the fires in Greece

CRCS in co-operation with the Pancyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council (PVCC) is undertaking the construction of a Community Medical Centre at the town of Oleni, in Peloponissos, which was affected by the 2007 fires in the area. The Centre will serve the needs of the people of Oleni and nine other Municipalities. It will be a two storey building with the clinic on the

ground floor and an apartment on the first floor where visiting doctors will reside. This project was selected from a list submitted by several applicants from the region. The construction will cost up to €200.000, an amount, which is derived as a result of a collection organized together with PVCC and an additional CRCS contribution.

Donations

The CRCS always tries to respond to most of the appeals of the Federation for financial assistance to the victims of disasters in several parts of the world.

During 2008, CRCS sent the following donations: To Ethiopia - €376 (£220), to Africa - €342 (£200), and to Perou - €10,000 (£5.848)

Handing over of the Hospital in Sri Lanka

A CRCS delegation headed by the President Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou visited Sri Lanka between the 12th and the 18th of November 2008 in order to take part in the opening ceremony and the official handing over of the units of

three floor building was erected which includes a fully equipped operating theatre, an intensive care unit, surgical wards for men and women, a physiotherapy unit as well as an out-patient unit and other facilities which will serve more than 500,000 people of the Galle Region which was hit by the Tsunami. According to the Minister of Health of Sri Lanka this is the most modern surgical unit in the country.

The Minister of Health and other speakers expressed the warm thanks and gratitude of the Government and of the people of Sri Lanka to the CRCS and the people of Cyprus for their donation.

The Cyprus delegation consisted, in addition to Mrs. Papadopoulou, of Mr. Takis Neophytou Director General, the PVCC representative Mrs. Klelia Scotinou and of a further fifteen CRCS members who traveled to Sri Lanka at their own expense.

During the visit the Cyprus delegation met with the Honorary Consul of Cyprus in Sri Lanka, Lady Kotelewala, the Minister of Health, and the Honorary President of the Sri Lanka RC as well as with the Representatives of IFRC, the ICRC and the Sri Lanka RC.



the Balapitiya Base Hospital, which were built from contributions made by Cypriots during a collection made for the victims of the Tsunami. This was the largest project ever undertaken by CRCS abroad.

The collection was organized by the CRCS and the Pancyprian Volunteerism Coordinative Council (PVCC) immediately after the Tsunami of December 2004. The collection gathered \$2,000,000, an exceedingly large amount for Cyprus given the size of its population. In co-operation with the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) and the Sri Lanka RC, a



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

In our globalised world of interdependency, it is evident that the CRCS, being a member of the largest humanitarian organization of the world, could not work in isolation. Following and strengthening the policy which was adopted by the CRCS in 2007, to put contacts and cooperation with the International and European RC/RC bodies, as well as with other sister National Societies, high up in its priorities, 2008, can be considered as a very successful year, as far as international cooperation is concerned. Officials, members and volunteers of the Society participated in more the **13 International and European events** on several subjects, such as migrants, road safety, first aid, psychosocial support, fundraising etc. This number is double compared to that of 2007, revealing the importance which is attributed to this kind of exchanges, which additionally serve the promotion of the issue of recognition of the CRCS by the International Movement.



Promotion the CRCS Demand for full Recognition by the International Movement

It is known that CRCS is not yet officially recognized by the International Movement of the Red Cross and Red Crescent. The procedure for recognition was at an advanced stage when it was interrupted by the 1974 Turkish invasion.

In the ensuing years the matter remained in suspense because one of the ten conditions for recognition, that of servicing the whole island, was not possible because of the occupation of part of the territory by Turkey.

In 2008 the Executive Committee of CRCS decided to resurrect officially the demand for recognition, as the matter was unjustifiably neglected for many years. In the meantime the Turkish Cypriots, encouraged and supported by Turkey, started to move towards the creation and recognition of a separate Red Crescent in the occupied territories.

The procedure for recognition of a new member starts with the approval of the International Committee of the ICRC. The integration of the new applicant requires the approval of the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC). Because of the excellent relations cre-

ated by senior officials of CRCS with officers of the Movement and taking advantage of the presence in Cyprus of an IFRC representative, Mr. Tore Svenning, on October 16th 2008, CRCS submitted officially a demand for the resumption of the discussion of the issue of recognition. The demand was made simultaneously to Mr. Jacob Kellenberger of the ICRC and to Mr. Juan Manuel Suárez Del Toro Rivero of the IFRC.

The only development on the subject in 2008 was simply that the demand was communicated to the two International bodies. CRCS received a letter stating that in due course

the first contacts will be made to study the demand. Prior to doing so, the way CRCS operates and is administered will be studied.

Bearing in mind that because of the anticipated opposition of Turkey, the process of the demand will not be easy and will take a number of years before a decision is made; CRCS continues its contacts with senior officers of the Movement and with other National Societies asking for their support.



INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

CRCS participation in the PERCO

In 2008 CRCS started to participate in the **Platform for European Red Cross Cooperation on Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Migrants (PERCO)**, which was founded in 1997, promotes the interests of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants and tries to improve their living conditions and their integration in society.

The participation in PERCO, even as an observer, is a great success for CRCS because it gives CRCS the opportunity to be informed on a subject which is a significant problem and which preoccupies the world community, the International Federation and in particular Cyprus. In the near future CRCS intends to become more involved with issues concerning refugees, migrants and asylum seekers.

The participation in PERCO also upgrades the status of CRCS and enables it to network more actively.

PERCO meeting in Serbia

CRCS participated in the 2008 meeting of **PERCO** which took place on the 17th and 18th April in Belgrade, Serbia, Mrs.

Gender and Migration in the Mediterranean Conference in Italy

Following an invitation by the Italian Red Cross, CRCS was represented at the above meeting by its Director General, Mr. Takis Neophytou.

The objective of the meeting **Gender and Migration in the Mediterranean** was the exchange of ideas and experiences in order to develop a common approach when providing assistance to migrants with humanitarian needs, and the mobilization of the National Societies for a coordinated advocacy to their respective Governments for a humanitarian response to the challenges created by migration.

Furthermore it allows it to promote more closely and effectively CRCS interests including that of full recognition amongst European National Societies.



Today the members of PERCO are the following countries:

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Malta, Holland, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Montenegro, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

Armenia and Cyprus have observer status.

Andrie Agrotis, Secretary of the Nicosia Branch, represented CRCS.

The program included a wide range of subjects relevant to migration with special emphasis on women migrants. During the meeting Mr. Neophytou, had the opportunity to participate in many discussions and to present relevant CRCS activities such as, the Seminar on "Immigrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers" and CRCS's contribution during the Lebanon crisis (summer 2006). He also had meetings and discussions with ICRC, IFRC, IOM (International Organization for Migrants), Italian and other RC/RC National Organization representatives.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

European RC/RC Migration Support Unit Meeting in Austria

CRCS also participated in this European meeting that took place in Vienna on the 27th of May. The aim of the meeting was the exchange of ideas and the creation,

structure, role and financing of a **European Immigration Support Team**. CRCS was represented by its Director General Mr. Takis Neophytou.

Emergency Standard Logistics Workshop in Finland

Mr. Christos Yiannaras represented CRCS at the “**Emergency Standard Logistics Workshop**” that took place at Heinola, Finland, on 1-7 June, and

which was attended by 23 representatives from various RC/RC National Societies.

European Road Safety Coordinators Meeting in Cyprus

Between the 21-23 of February, the CRCS hosted the **European Road**



Safety Coordinators meeting. The meeting took place at the Sun Hall Hotel in Larnaca and was attended by the Road Safety coordinators of 26 European Red Cross National Societies. The CRCS was represented by the General Director Mr. Takis Neophytou and Ms. Thalia Vourkidou, Officer. The local Red Cross Branch of Larnaca helped in the organisation of the event and offered a dinner to all the participants. The meeting, which was very successful, was followed by a half day’s excursion to several places of interest of the area.

European Road Safety Coordinators Meeting in Lisbon

The **European Road Safety Coordinators Meeting** took place in Lisbon, Portugal, on the 5th and 6th of June 2008. CRCS was represented by Mr. Takis

and European Red Cross officials, representatives of the Portuguese Govern-



Neophytou and Thalia Vourkidou, Director General and Officer of the Society, respectively.

As this was the last meeting of the campaign, it was combined with a special ceremony in a central square of Lisbon, which was attended by European Union



ment, Portuguese Red Cross officials, Lisbon local authorities, the meeting’s participants and scores of people.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

International Youth Camp “Alliance of Nations” in Ankara, Turkey

In 2008 CRCS accepted an invitation, the first ever extended by Turkey to Cyprus, to participate in the International Youth Camp “Alliance of Nations”, which was organised by the Turkish Red Crescent in Ankara, from 6-15 of August.

... *“I am Turk, but I love you very much”...*

Regardless some original reservations and fears for any unfortunate incidents, the Society saw this as an opportunity to improve the relations between the two organisations and decided to participate.

The two Cypriot participants, Georgia Demetriou and Petros Stylianou, members of the Youth Section, were properly briefed and prepared and all necessary measures were taken to avoid any unforeseen situations.

They participated together with other youths from nine different countries, in

all the activities of the programme, represented their country in a very successful way and they were thrilled with the warm reception and hospitality they were received. It is worth noting that a Turkish volunteer said to them *“I am Turk, but I love you very much”* and embraced them, indicating with his gesture the success of the camp, whose main objective was to bring together repre-



sentations of different countries and help create friendships among the participants.

7th International Fundraising Skillshare 2008 Conference in London, UK

The 7th International Conference on Fundraising “Skillshare 2008” was organised by the British Red Cross (BRC) in collaboration with IFRC, in London, UK, from 2nd to 5th September 2008. It was attended by 85 representatives from 55 RC/RC National Societies from all over the world as well as 160 volunteers / members of the BRC. CRCS was represented by Mr Takis Neophytou, Director General and Ms Thalia Vourkidou, Officer. In addition to several Seminars



and lectures, the conference participants had the opportunity to meet and converse with each other in Face to Face Sessions. CRCS met with RC people from Sweden, Zambia, Ghana and New Zealand and exchanged ideas, shared concerns and examined the possibility of future collaborations.

Following a provisional agreement, the CRCS will undertake a project in Zambia and help 2000 child-headed families of the country. The Conference, in general, was both successful and constructive.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

ENPS Psychosocial Support Meeting in Sweden

The annual meeting of the **European RC/RC Network on Psychosocial Support** was held in Gripsholmsriken, Sweden, from 12 to 14 September. It was attended by 38 representatives from 23 RC/RC National Societies. CRCS was represented by Mrs Evanthia Pa-

pasavva, Treasurer of the Kyrenia Branch.

The objective of the meeting was to offer the opportunity to the National Societies representatives, who are primarily involved with psychosocial support to exchange ideas and practices on this sub-



ject. The meeting also gave the participants the opportunity to explore strategies and to make proposals for the future development of programs of psychosocial support.

European Program on Immigrants “Positive Image” Meeting in Hungary

CRCS participated in the meeting of the European Program on Immigrants “**Positive Image**” that took place in Budapest, Hungary on the 16th to 17th

September, with Mrs. Kaety Michaelides, of the Nicosia Branch representing CRCS.

5th Pan-Hellenic HRC Conference of Social Welfare in Greece

The 5th Pan-Hellenic Conference of Social Welfare Volunteers of the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC), on “**Crisis Situations: Psychosocial Repercussions and Intervention Models**” took place at Thessaloniki, on the 8th to 12th October 2008. CRCS was represented by Mr. Takis Neophytou, its Director General and Mrs. Andrie Agrotis, Secretary of the Nicosia Branch.

The main subject “**Crisis Situations**” included a list of crises that had befallen the world recently. Foreign speakers referred to the tsunami and on the psychosocial repercussions on the victims’ relatives residing in European countries, the terrorist

bomb attack in Madrid, the armed attack of a school in the city of Beslan in Northern Ossetia and the terrorist blow to the underground and bus stations in London. There was extensive reporting on calamities (fires in Peloponissos), accidents (air accident in Grammaticos) and of serious crimes recently committed in Greece and the ways with which the various experts handled the psychosocial problems of victims or their relatives. Additionally the theory on handling crisis situations and the various intervention models were covered scientifically, which completed successfully the subject presentation.

INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Annual Meeting of the First Aid Education European Network, Greece

CRCS participated in the annual conference of the **European Network of First Aid Training** that was held in Athens on the 16th to 18th October, which was attended by



Mrs. Olga Eliades, President of the CRCS First Aid Committee. The objective of the conference was to inform the participants on the latest developments in First Aid in various countries as well as the exchange of ideas on the most effective promotion of this sector.

PanCretan Conference of the Hellenic Red Cross “New Volunteerism- A step of knowledge and participation”, Greece

The 5th PanCretan Conference “**New Volunteerism – A step of knowledge and participation**” was organized by the Ierapetra Regional Sector of the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC), on behalf of all the sectors of RC in Crete. CRCS was



represented by its Director General Mr. Takis Neophytou, who was asked to talk on “**The role of Cyprus and CRCS at the crossroad of three Continents**”.

Mr. Neophytou had the opportunity to meet and discuss ways of future co-operation, with the President of IRS and Chairman of the Organizing Committee Dr Andreas Mamantopoulos, and the HRC Vice President Mrs. Zacharopoulou.

Re-organization

In September 2008, the Executive Committee of the CRCS took the decision to proceed with a comprehensive re-organization study for the CRCS. The Terms of Reference given to Messrs Nicos Severis and Nicos Lakoufis included the following fields: A new Mission and Vision Statement, Activities, New Organizational Structure, Human Resource Requirements, Financial Requirements, Financial and Operational Management and a Strategic Plan. During their work, Messrs Severis and Lakoufis made several visits to the IFRC’s web site, referred to a number of IFRC publications and have had the help

and guidance of Mr. Tomas Kinning and Mr. Tore Svenning from the IFRC, during personal meetings. Towards the end of 2008, as part of the financial re-organization, Messrs Severis and Lakoufis prepared detailed individual financial budgets for each Branch, the Home and Headquarters, which were submitted to the Finance Committee for consideration. It is evident that a re-organization study of an Organization like the Red Cross could not be completed during the three months period available during 2008. Therefore the effort will continue and hopefully be completed in 2009.

RED CROSS AND MIGRANTS

CRCS in collaboration with the International Red Cross and all Government services and adhering to the conclusions reached at the seminar "Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers", has formed its policy and is developing an intense effort for the acceptance and integration of the many migrants who live in Cyprus.



During 2008, CRCS continued to participate in meetings of the European platform for migrants PERCO (see details under International Cooperation). CRCS is trying to convince the Government to follow up its recommendations of 2007 to the CRCS to assume the responsibility for illegal immigrants and to create a new Reception Centre for asylum seekers.

CRCS continues to offer humanitarian assistance to migrants

All the Branches continued and increased the daily provision of in-kind humanitarian aid consisting of food and clothing to migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. The high cost of supplies is

causing financial problems for CRCS and we are exploring the possibility of asking the Government for financial support.

Medical Services

The Nicosia Branch, after assessing the needs of migrants, has made arrangements for their medical examinations

and treatment, with volunteer doctors of the Evangelistria Clinic and with other private doctors.

Help for migrants who are in Police custody

Following a request by the Chief of police, CRCS pays regular visits to migrants in police custody in Limassol,

Nicosia and Larnaca and help them with food and clothing.

Blood Donation

Thirty seven people, members of Nepal NRN (Non-Resident Nepali Association) donated blood on Sunday, 4 May 2008 at CRCS's central offices, showing in this way their appreciation to the people of Cyprus and expressing their gratitude

for the hospitality and work that is offered to them. In addition to the donation of blood the CRCS organized this activity as a gesture of acceptance and integration of the foreigners who live and work in Cyprus.

First Aid lessons

On Sunday May 11th 2008, CRCS held at its head offices a similar activity. It has organized a First Aid training which

was attended by 39 migrants who live in Cyprus.

Other Services

Additional specialized services were offered to many migrants on personal basis, such as connection with or locating relatives, securing certain documents

from their country's National Society, examining complaints and promoting demands made to Government authorities.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

The mandate of the CRCS, as described in the law of its establishment, is “the improvement of health, the prevention of disease and the mitigation of suffering”. Therefore, in



2008, a variety of its HQs, Branches and Youth Section activities, were aiming towards safeguarding the health and promoting the welfare of the frail people in our midst.

Of fundamental importance was again 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 a 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, included many other related activities such as the close co-

operation with the Ministry of Health, First Aid Lessons, Blood Donation, the supply of medication and medical assistance to the enclaved, the supply of wheelchairs and the publications on several health related subjects.

The CRCS Home for Sick Children

The Children’s Home constitutes CRCS most important activity. During 2008 it continued to provide care, protection, therapeutic treatment (physiotherapy, speech therapy, occupational therapy, and hydrotherapy), medical treatment, social, entertainment and other 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.

A truly dedicated personnel of 21 experts treats and looks after the children. In 2008 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 is under a Committee consisting of Messrs. Takis Neophytou, CRCS General Director, Dr Costakis Christodoulakis, Dr Minas Hadjiminias, Dr Michalis Psiloinis and Caterina Christodoulou, the Matron of the Home.



The largest problem is the cost of running the Home which amounted to € 600.000. Despite a contribution of €160.000 from the Government, the running of the Home has left a large deficit to the point to even

examine the possibility of terminating its operation. The trouble gets even worse because of the problem of the continuous maintenance requirements 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 interested parties, in November 2007, CRCS created the Day Care Centre for Adults with severe disabilities and multiple dependency needs.

The Centre offers services to a small number of adults and uses part of the premises of the Children’s Home. The Social Services Department of the Government covers with a grant, a small part of its operating expenses.

ACTIVITIES, CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

The rich and multifaceted work of CRCS is the result of the active involvement and enthusiasm of its members and volunteers, which in 2008 was expressed through a large variety of activities, campaigns and events, which gave substance and recognition to CRCS.

Depending on the scope and the goals they serve, the duration and geographic coverage, the many activities of the Society can be characterized as campaigns of usually long duration, as big activities and as self-standing smaller events of usually short duration.

Amongst other things, these activities aimed at the collection of funds, the giving of humanitarian and other help to vulnerable groups and to make the public sensitive on issues of social and humanitarian interest. These issues include Road Safety, Blood Donation, First Aid, the environment, Disaster Management, Fundraising etc. In addition, other goals were the training of volunteers, promoting of international relationships, administrative and organizational issues and much more which reveal the multifaceted contribution of CRCS.

Pancyprian “Door to Door” Collection

The annual “Door to Door” Collection took place on May 5th to 18th. The launch of the collection was made in the presence of CRCS President, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou and the Minister of Health Mr. Christos Patsalides on May 8th, the World 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 was “All together for our fellow people”. The total amount raised this year was **€256.445**

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

The conduct of the campaign, once again was an opportunity for CRCS to project its work and to make known its objective to promote humanitarian values and to allow all Cypriots the opportunity to be part of a humanitarian society.

On July 2nd CRCS President gave a reception at her home to thank and honor, with commemorative gifts, shields and certificates, the people, public authorities and organizations which contributed to the success of the campaign.



ACTIVITIES, CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

“Change in our Hearts” Campaign

From February 1, the CRCS campaign “Change in our Hearts” which was officially opened in October 2007, entered its most important stage. Because of the termination of the circulation of the Cyprus pound coins, the objective was to collect as many as possible of the old coins, as those still in the hands of the public were of very little value.



Collection boxes and cute piggy-banks for the coins to be withdrawn, were placed all over Cyprus, at banks, universities and colleges, supermarkets, bakeries, petrol stations, airports and harbours, governmental and private offices, factories, hospitals, schools etc. From March to June the Pancyprrian “Painted Piggy” Competition was

organised in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Culture among primary school children in Cyprus. The award ceremony for the ten winners of the competition was held on 26 June. The sponsors of the event were EuroLife



and the Phileleftheros Group.

A carnival party on the 8th of March and an Easter party on the 19th of April for children and adults were

organized at the Mall of Cyprus and the Alphamega Supermarket in Engomi. The events were attended by lots of children who had fun with clowns, jugglers, and also with drawing, face painting, and other activities. The proceeds from the campaign until 31.12.2008 were €93.136, 57. The “Change in our Hearts” campaign will continue until the end of 2009.

Christmas Cards

Continuing a tradition that started many years ago, CRCS prints and distributes two Christmas cards each one with a different theme. The card depicting a religious theme was a copy of an 18th century icon of the Mother of God Paramythia which is in the Monastery of Kykkos. The card with a theme from nature was another water colour painting by Mrs. Marvel J. Christofides entitled “PEACE, LOVE AND JOY”.



In total 30000 cards were printed, which were sold for forty cents each, and the proceeds from the sales reached the

amount of **EURO 8.222**. Even though the printed Christmas card tradition is



considered as surpassed and is being replaced by electronic and other greetings, CRCS believes there are people who still like them and that their circulation helps maintain and promote the public image

of the CRCS.

The Christmas Card Committee was composed of Takis Neophytou, Marvel Christofides, Loukas Telemachou, Despo Frederickou, Glyn Hughes, Aliko Papayianni, Christiana Eliades, Patricia Nicolaou and Thalia Vourkidou.

First Aid and Blood Donation

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. For the above reasons

and also in order to promote First Aid activities further and also to coordinate and attribute the necessary importance to blood donation, which is another traditional Red Cross social contribution and activity of all the Branches, as well as the Youth Section. In early 2008, the CRCS appointed a permanent First Aid and Blood Donation Committee. Mrs. Olga Eliades was appointed as the President of this Committee.

ACTIVITIES, CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

Representation of CRCS on the Blood Donation Council

Some time ago, in recognition of the long term contribution of CRCS to blood donations, the Government accepted a representative of the CRCS to sit on the

Blood Donation Council. The CRCS representative in 2008 was Dr Minas Hadjiminias.

First Aid Training

CRCS embracing the slogan "First Aid save lives" organized 8 FA courses in Greek and in English for Cypriots and foreigners including migrants. The total number of people trained was 166.

Poster on World First Aid Day

In the context of these efforts and on the occasion of the World First Aid Day, September 13, CRCS published a poster which was printed in newspapers and magazines and distributed throughout Cyprus.

Distribution of First Aid kits to drivers

Additionally, on the occasion of the World First Aid Day, CRCS distributed symbolically 3,000 First Aid Kits to drivers in Cyprus. This event was organised in collaboration with the Police Traffic Department, which CRCS thanks once again. From September



13th until 13th October, which was the European Road Safety Day, CRCS members, accompanied by officers of the Police Traffic Department distributed the kits on highways and other road arteries. In total there were seven expeditions in the whole of Cyprus.

Cooperation with the British Red Cross

In an effort to upgrade and improve its program, the Director General Mr. Takis Neophytou, during his recent visit to London, met with Mr. Ken Sharpe, Director of the Educators Team of the British Red Cross. CRCS amongst other

things, secured from the BRC free access to training programs, provision of equipment, sharing of know-how, the recognition of certificates, and the education of personnel.

Train the Trainer Course

The First Aid Train the Trainer Course, held from 28th November to 1st December, was part of the above agreement. This training will help

achieve the CRCS objective to organise First Aid courses in large rural communities and to create First Aid and other CRCS nuclear teams.

Proposal to the Government for First Aid training to future drivers

The National Societies of the Red Cross of all the European countries submitted a document to the European Committee and the Governments of their respective countries, asking that in all the European countries endorse the following:

1. To set up First Aid classes for all drivers
2. That a minimum programme of First Aid classes is adopted and
3. All vehicles should carry a First Aid kit and other protective material

The proposal was prepared and submitted in order to highlight the importance of First Aid, because amongst others:

- o **57%** of the deaths due to road accidents happen in the first five minutes of the accident. An immediate offer of First Aid can prove life saving.
- o Additionally, **85%** of the deaths from road accidents that could have been avoided are due to obstruction of the respiratory passage and before the ambulance arrives. Placement of the injured in a rest recovery position, by a person who knows First Aid, will surely save his life.

The response of the Police Authorities to the above proposals was positive.

ACTIVITIES, CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

Road Safety Campaign

Although the European Road Safety (RS) campaign started some six years ago, involving most European countries, CRCS only joined the campaign in December 2006.

... "YOU'VE ONLY GOT ONE LIFE!
TAKE CARE"...

The main reason for this and for the great importance our Society attributes to this activity is that Cyprus ranks fifth among European countries in number of deaths from traffic accidents.

Because of this, RS was placed high up among the CRCS priorities and developed a year round program of activities adopting the slogan of the European Campaign "YOU'VE ONLY GOT ONE LIFE! TAKE CARE".

The main 2008 RS activities were the following:

- January – February, Distribution of 6000 RS reflectors to children of Primary Schools in Nicosia,
- February 21-23, European Red Cross RS meeting in Cyprus (see details under International Cooperation),
- March, painting competition on RS for Primary Schools children,
- May, distribution of coasters with the slogan "Mom, Dad drive safely, I want you to come home tonight", to Primary School children in order to give them to their parents on Mother's and Father's Day,
- June 5-6, Participation in the Lisbon European Red Cross RS meeting (see details under International Cooperation),
- Banner with the Campaign's logo during all football cup matches,

One Day Conference on "The psychology of young drivers"

Ms. Thalia Vourkidou, represented the CRCS at the one day conference which was organized by the Ministry of Communications and Works on 16 October. The subject of the Conference was "The psychology of young drivers". Experts from Holland, Germany and Cyprus gave presentations while short welcoming addresses were made by the Minister of Communications and Works Mr. Nicos Nicolaides and the Minister of Justice

- Projection of a short video film with the campaign's logo in cinemas in Cyprus for a period of 4 months.
- September, starting of distribution of 30.000 computers mouse pads for Secondary Schools pupils, students and soldiers with the campaign's logo,
- September, Distribution to all Primary schools of Europe of the Road Safety Resource Pack for 7-11 years old children translated in 16 European languages,
- September 11 Poster and announcements on World First Aid Day,
- October 13 Celebration with



activities of the 2nd European Road Safety Day,

- November 16 Poster and announcements on World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims,
- Throughout 2008 distribution of RS posters and flyers translated into Greek, English and Turkish language.

The sponsors of the CRCS for the above activities were: European Union, Toyota Europe, Toyota Cyprus and Lanitis Bros Ltd.

and Public Order Mr. Kypros Chrysostomides. The positive outcome of this conference was the decision for co-ordination and collaboration of the representatives of so many public services and private organizations, which are involved in Road Safety, trying to find solutions aiming towards the alleviation from the consequences of one of the most serious social problems of Cyprus.

ACTIVITIES, CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

Disaster Management Committee - Creation and Activities

Fortunately, during 2008, there were no significant calamities either in Cyprus or in neighbouring countries, which could be described as a crisis and which required CRCS intervention.



For this reason CRCS was able to concentrate and devote its efforts in the creation and organization of a Disaster Management Committee. The Committee is becoming one of the most active CRCS Committees.

During 2008 the Disaster Management Committee formalized its co-operation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

(external crises), the Civil Defense (internal crises), as well as establishing co-operation with the European Disaster Management Committee. It participated in the meetings and activities of the ESTIA and ARGONAFITIS disaster relief plans. The Committee secured the required equipment, organized the CRCS stores, created teams for emergency intervention, throughout Cyprus and also started the creation of a Psychosocial Support unit. Some of its members were sent abroad for training and other took part in the European Civil Protection Assessment Mission Course.

- Mrs Maroula Angelides and Messrs Costakis Constantinides and Achilleas Kontos represented CRCS at this year's Educational Program of the European Civil Protection "Assessment Mission Course", that took place from the 10th to 15th May, 2008.
- Mr Petros Petrou and Mrs Maroula Angelides of the Disaster Management Committee and Mrs Chrystalla Pantelidou, Mrs Maria Nikolaidou and Mrs Dina Christoforou of the Larnaca Branch, represented CRCS at the **Intersectorial Exercise "Argonafitis"**, 2nd to 6th June, in which forces from Cyprus, Greece and France participated.

Score for the Red Cross

Cyprus Red Cross Society participated to the European activity "Score for the Red Cross" campaign by selling footballs of the UEFA EURO 2008 Championship, organised by Austria and Switzerland.



Meetings of the Director General with representatives of the Branches

In order to improve the coordination and better management of the promotion and implementation of the CRCS's objectives and mission, the Director General Mr. Takis Neophytou initiated a circle of meetings with all the Branches.

The meetings began by attending the Nicosia Branch meeting on Thursday, 3 April, that of the Limassol Branch, on May 7th, the Kyrenia Branch meeting on May 19th and that of the Famagusta Branch on May 23rd.

ACTIVITIES, CAMPAIGNS AND EVENTS

Climate Change



Since the 2007 World Conference the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent pointed out the dangers which are emerging because of climate changes, it approved its policy on the matter and asked national Societies to place the matter on their high priority list.

In compliance with this directive and also because climate changes in Cyprus are already having adverse effects, CRCS started in 2008 to be more sensitive to this issue and focused its programming on the following activities.

- Tree planting campaigns
- Participation in Government's public awareness efforts
- Activities promoting a better appreciation of water saving behavior
- Activities promoting energy saving
- Organization and participation in relevant events in Cyprus
- Participation in events abroad
- Relevant announcements, articles, leaflets, posters etc.

Visit of the Hellenic Red Cross

CRCS was very happy to welcome in Cyprus and host at its Central Offices a delegation from the Social Providence Sector of the Hellenic Red Cross (HRC) on 20 June. The reception organised in their honour, was attended by the Ambassador of Greece on Cyprus, Mr. Demetrios Rallis, the Civil Defense Governor, Mr. Christos Kyriakides, Mrs. Antoniadou representing the Head of the National Guard, dignitaries of the Hellenic and



Cyprus Red Cross and many members, volunteers and supporters of the CRCS's work.

Educational Seminar of CRCS Executives and Volunteers

The Educational Seminar for CRCS Executives and Volunteers took place on Sunday 14 September at the CRCS Central Offices, in Nicosia. The training was conducted by Mrs. Olga Antoniou and Mrs. Areti Kentistou, trainers of the Social Providence Sector of the Hellenic RC. The aim of the course was to enable CRCS members and volunteers to become more functional and effective in their efforts to support their fellow human beings, and in particular those sections of the population which are more vulnerable. Among other subjects the Seminar's programme included the

role of the voluntary organisations, attracting, educating and managing of volunteers, defining the framework of their engagement, the ethics and the rules of voluntary work, etc. The Seminar was declared open by Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulou, President of the CRCS, who in her opening speech, said among other that: *"Volunteerism, my good friends, is an important element of the culture of every people and every country. I am proud that in Cyprus the importance of volunteerism is so widely spread"*.

BRANCHES ACTIVITIES

Ceremonies honoring people by the Branches

The various Branches, responding to a Head Office suggestion, during 2008 organized various ceremonies to honor departing members.

- **Nicosia Branch:** On October 9th during the traditional BBQ party at Lapatsa Mrs. **Lydia Evangelidou**, departing Vice president of the Branch was honoured
- **Larnaca Branch:** At a special ceremony which took place in Larnaca in January, the Branch honored the following ladies for their long service to the Branch: **Maroula Sentona, Paraskevoula Kasapi, Loula Vasiliadou, Nouvart Tsipourian and Chachouki Samasian**
- **Famagusta Branch:** At a festive event hosted by the President at her home held on June 26th, the Branch honoured its retiring Secretary **Mrs. Anthoula Charalambous**.
- **Paphos Branch:** In the course of 2008 the Branch honored the following schools for their contribution: **Kato Paphos Junior School, Saint Andreas Junior School, Iordanion Junior School, Koupatio Junior School, Dasoudi Neopoleos Junior School, Meteora Junior School, Pefkios Georgiades Junior School.**

Nicosia Branch

The Branch, which is located in the Head Office building, continued in 2008 its commendable support help for several groups of vulnerable fellow people.

In 2008 the Branch had **1200 members**



who with devotion to volunteerism contributed to helping people particularly over Christmas and Easter periods. They helped by providing food, clothing and footwear as well handing out coupons which could be exchanged in shops selling toiletry and other health items. The Branch covered the cost of air tickets for people requiring medical treatment abroad and wheelchairs to those needing them. The Branch continued to provide social and financial support through home visits to the lonely, poor and disabled as well as with visits to prisons, old age people's homes,

hospitals and to the Reception Center for Asylum Seekers in Kofinou.

As compared to last year and of particular importance was the help provided to refugees, migrants and asylum seekers, who in large numbers visited the Branch daily.

In order to cope with this influx of people requiring help, the Branch established a program which twice a week dispensed food clothing and footwear. The Branch also established a data base of those people asking for help. Furthermore the Branch made an agreement with several doctors who provide medical care and consultations free of charge, to those people sent to them by the Branch. The major fund raising activities of the Branch were the annual BBQ at Lapatsa, the Bazaar which was held in the Head Office premises and participating in the Pancyprian "door-to-door" collection. The Branch continued to collect membership fees from its members, as well as donations given in memory of deceased persons. The Branch continued to give financial support to the Children's Home, covering part of the Head Office overheads, as well as making donations internationally to alleviate the suffering of victims of various disasters. The Branch participates in several Head Office Committees and activities.

BRANCHES ACTIVITIES

Limassol Branch

In 2008 the Branch had **700 members and volunteers**, who together with other volunteers, under the direction of the Branch Committee, continued its multi-faceted contribution to alleviate the suffering of vulnerable people in Limassol and the Limassol district. Of particular importance was the blood donation program which uninterruptedly has taken place since 1969. In addition to the provision of blood the Branch also issued certificates and awards to blood donors

Other noteworthy activities were the supply of wheelchairs and other medical equipment to disabled people as well as to the Oncology unit of the Limassol Hospital. The Branch offered breakfast to poor children in Limassol schools and participated in the campaign to collect old coins which have been replaced by the EURO and it contributed financially towards covering Central Offices expenses and the operation of the Children's Home, to which it also donated air conditioning units.

The Branch participated in the CRCS "door-to-door" collection, organized a fund raising tea party, represented CRCS in various activities, donated internationally as requested.



On a daily basis the Branch continued to give in-kind help to the poor, the sick, to migrants as well as to Turkish Cypriots living in the Limassol area. It also helped prisoners, mostly foreigners and in general continued its humanitarian activities.

Famagusta Branch

This "refugee" Branch continuous to be housed in the premises of the Larnaca Branch and in 2008 had **454 members and volunteers**, who under unfavorable



conditions continued to give humanitarian help and assistance to people from Famagusta who are dispersed all over the island. This includes help and support to individuals, families and organi-

sations in Larnaca and in the area of "free" Famagusta. The Branch has a home visiting program which also includes kindergartens, special schools, old people's homes, shelters and other institutions. The visits are intensified during the Christmas and Easter periods when baskets of food, clothing, toys and in some cases financial assistance to students. The Branch organized a ceremony to thank its sponsors who help the Branch to accomplish its humanitarian work. It also organized a fund raising tea party, participated in the "door-to-door" collection, and took part in several campaigns. The Branch made a contribution to cover the overheads of the Children's Home and of the Head Office, paid for travel abroad of some sick people who required treatment and made overseas donation.

BRANCHES ACTIVITIES

Larnaca Branch

The Branch had **450 members and volunteers**. Besides the established humanitarian activities, which include help to underprivileged families, children with special needs, meals for poor children, the Branch was also active in the following areas:

Participated in the Pancyprian “door-to-door” collection, distributed Road Safety material, hosted in Larnaca a European Meeting regarding Road Safety and contributed to covering the overheads of the Children’s Home as well making donation overseas. Because of the proximity of the Branch to the port and airport of

Larnaca, the Branch participated in several exercises, in collaboration with the CRCS Disaster Management Committee and Civil Defense. These exercises were aimed at coping with emergency situations, the one called “Engelados” was an exercise on a map and the other “Argonafitis” was a military exercise. The third called “Sudden Storm” took place at Larnaca Airport. Representatives of the Branch took part at an all day seminar for executives and volunteers and participated in several CRCS Committees.

Paphos Branch

In 2008 the Branch had **430 members and volunteers**. Despite its relatively small size the Branch continued to dispense humanitarian aid in Paphos and its district. This was done through the following activities.

Visits were made and help given to poor families, special schools, detention centers and old peoples homes. In coopera-

tion with other organizations the Branch organized several philanthropic events, participated in blood donation, took part in the Pancyprian “door-to-door” fund raising and contributed funds to the Children’s Home, to Head Office and was a donor for overseas aid. The Branch also took part in an exercise aimed at confronting emergency situations at Paphos airport.

Kyrenia Branch

Even though this is another “refugee” Branch, it is very active indeed. In 2008 it had increased its **membership to 325** who with enthusiasm and initiative responded successfully to the humanitarian needs of the displaced people of Kyrenia who live in several parts of the island. The Branch participated in all other CRCS activities. During the course of the year at a cost of EURO 20610, 700 people received aid from the Branch. It contributed funds to the Children’s Home, to the Head Office and to overseas donations. In an active way it participated in numerous CRCS Committees, the coin collection and road safety campaigns, as well as in the “door-to-door” collection. With a big

delegation the Branch was part of the CRCS trip to Sri Lanka. In addition the Branch organized an excursion for some elderly people of Kyrenia, its own



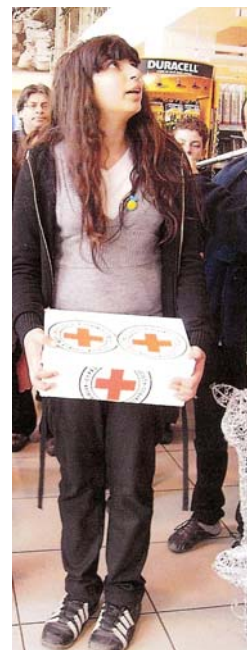
Christmas Bazaar, its traditional fund raising tea party as well as other fund raising efforts.

YOUTH SECTION ACTIVITIES

The Youth Section, which has branches throughout Cyprus, had **1600 volunteers and members**, who continued to disburse significant humanitarian aid as well as training other young people.

Amongst other things, the Youth section organized blood donations, it visited specialized schools, organized tree planting as well as speeches and conferences at schools and also organized entertainment for special schools, old people's homes and for other organizations. The Youth Section made in kind donations to young people and their families as well as some financial help to people who needed to go abroad for treatment. The Youth Section participated with great success in the Pancyprian door-to-door collection as well as in other activities and campaigns. It participated in various committees of the CRCS and contributed in this way to the fulfillment of our objectives.

To strengthen its financial resources it organized the traditional Christmas Bazaar, distributed lottery tickets, organized charity tea parties and other events. In so doing the Youth Section was able to contribute with other CRCS branches to the financial needs of the Children's Home which enabled it to meet its obligations.



24th Pancyprian Conference "Red Cross - Man and Environment"



The Youth Section of the Cyprus Red Cross Society (CRCS) organised on 6 April, in Nicosia, the 24th Pancyprian Conference, the theme of which was "Red Cross - Man and Environment".

The conference included welcoming addresses from the Minister of Education and Culture Mr Andreas Demetriou, the President of CRCS Mrs Fotini Papadopoulou, the President of the Youth Section Central Committee Mrs Despo Friderikou and representatives of

Marfin Laiki Bank. In his key note speech, Mr Charalambos Theopemptou (in the photograph), Commissioner on the Environment, spoke extensively on 'Environment, Waste and Recycling in Cyprus'.

Afterwards the conference participants were separated in nine teams and discussed the following topics: energy saving, water, renewable energy sources, recycling, and tree planting and environmental consciousness. The general conclusion of the conference was that, *our objective should be the protection of the environment so that the people of tomorrow can enjoy its beauties.*

Annual Summer Camp

The Summer Camp, which has now become a tradition, took place in Lemithou at the Mitsi School between July 8th and



15th. In the cool atmosphere of the mountains, **65** young people from all the towns in Cyprus, spend a week of rest,

play and education. Since one of the objectives of the camp was to prepare future CRCS recruits, the spirit of togetherness and reference to the principles of the Red Cross were a basic part of the proceedings. 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 recreational 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 2008, the website and the quarterly newsletter "Our World" (O Kosmos mas), remained the two basic communication tools, through which the Society could communicate and contact thousands of members, volunteers and friends, in Cyprus and abroad. In addition to the improvements to both, as far as quality and content are concerned, the most important development was the translation of the website in Turkish. In addition several campaigns were organized by the CRCS, the 2009 desktop calendar, radio and TV interviews, announcements to the press public speeches, posters and other printed material, a PowerPoint presentation in Greek and English on the work of CRCS, and a monthly calendar, were some of the other communication tools, which gave increased promotion and exposure to the Society's activities in 2008.



Quarterly Newsletter "Our World", (O Kosmos mas)

Thanks to our Major Sponsor, the Alfa Mega Supermarket, in 2008 we continued to issue the CRCS Newsletter "Our World" (O Kosmos mas), which 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.



Monthly Calendar

The monthly calendar is a powerful tool that gives information on the activities of each month. This new innovation was initiated in September and it is distributed to the members of the Executive Committee and all the Branches and Youth Section, informing them on the upcoming events of the month.



INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Website

A major accomplishment of the CRCS in the field of information and communications was the creation, in

Visit our website at:
www.redcross.org.cy

2007, of the Society's website, whose address is www.redcross.org.cy. The website, which was originally prepared in two languages, Greek and English is a gateway through which a visitor can obtain information and facts, become aware of CRCS activities and have access to a lot of photographic and

other material. It is well known that the most difficult thing, after setting up a website, is to keep it up to date. During 2008 the main achievement of the Society regarding the website was that it has managed to keep it alive by continuously adding material and information on every CRCS development. The second important achievement was that in May 2008, the website was also completely translated into Turkish, allowing our Turkish Cypriot compatriots to be able to access it and get information on the CRCS in their own language.

Desk Calendars

In December, 1,000 Desk Calendars were printed, promoting the CRCS campaign «**Road Safety**». The calendars were distributed free of charge to CRCS members and associates. A small quantity was produced in English and these were

sent also to the Red Cross Headquarters in Geneva, Brussels, Budapest and other RC/RC National Societies. The production of the calendars was sponsored by the Elysee Irrigation.Ltd.

2009
CYPRUSWIDE
CAMPAIGN
FOR ROAD
SAFETY

**YOU'VE ONLY GOT ONE LIFE
TAKE CARE**

ΚΥΠΡΙΑΚΟΣ ΕΡΥΘΡΟΣ ΣΤΑΥΡΟΣ
CYPRUS RED CROSS SOCIETY

The ultimate objective of the Cyprus Red Cross Society is to achieve the EU's target of reducing deaths from road accidents by 50% by the year 2010.

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www.redcross.org.cy

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

The financial position of the Cyprus Red Cross Society for 2008 can not be described as satisfactory. Its activities were funded almost exclusively from donations and fund raising events. Any resulting excess of expenditure over income had to be covered from the accumulated reserves. This however is far from satisfactory and best practice and can not continue for much longer. Measures have to be taken and ways to be found that will ensure the financial viability of the Society on a permanent basis. The HQs which used to be financed to a great extent from



the financial assistance of the UN agencies had to rely for the year on their own financial resources. The financial assistance received from the UN agencies was reduced drastically in recent years and for this year it was a nominal amount barely covering 7% of the HQs total expenditure. The year closed with about EUR 130.000 excess of expenditure over income. The Home for Sick Children was supported for this year by an annual subvention from the Cyprus Government which covered about 30% of its total expenditure. The rest of the expenditure was covered mostly from contributions from the Branches and the Youth Section and to a lesser extent from other donations. Even though the Branches and the Youth Section were obliged to increase their normal contributions to cover the deficit of the Home, finally the year closed with about EUR 13.000 excess of expenditure over income. The financial results of the Branches and the Youth Section varied from unit to unit. Some had surpluses and some deficits. In total however all the units together had a break even result for this year.

Co-operation with UNDP – ACTION FOR CO-OPERATION AND TRUST

Since many years CRCS coordinates the collaboration between the Government and UNDP (United Nations Development Programme). CRCS hosts the various meetings which it chairs with the Honorary CRCS President, Mrs. Stella Soulioti and helps in the implementation of several programmes. In exchange for this contribution CRCS received in the past significant financial aid from UNDP, which however has been reduced drastically.

Due to the financial pressures on the

CRCS, during 2008, CRCS intensified its efforts to have the amount of aid increased based on a change of the basis for calculating this aid, through the funding of specific projects and granted as an annual donation. Negotiations have not yielded the desired result and they will be continued by senior officers of CRCS in the hope that they can get UNDP to recognize the just request made, since CRCS requires this funding to help in financing the extensive work undertaken by it.

CRCS Personnel

While CRCS is a purely voluntary organisation and its extensive activities are carried out by several thousand volunteers and members, their task could not be accomplished without the significant contribution of CRCS Staff.

As in prior years CRCS employed a relatively small number of people who were the following during 2008.

Head Offices: Takis Neophytou, Thalia Voukidou, Christiana Eliades, Neophyta Christodolou, Androulla Angelidou, Patricia Nicolaou, Sofoklis Sofokleous and Vasiliki Michael

Nicosia Branch: Eleni Panayiotou and Andreas Paraskeva

Limassol Branch: Stella Philippou

Famagusta Branch: Cornilia Zografou

Larnaka Branch: Maria Lamprou

Paphos Branch: Elli Sokratous

Youth Section: Lenia Michaelidou

For a short period in 2008 from March to the end of July, CRCS was pleased to accept the services of Mrs. Olga Monachou, an ex Hellenic Red Cross employee, who happened to be in Cyprus and was kind enough to offer her valuable services to the Society. Because of her long international experience, Mrs. Olga Monachou joined the CRCS team in order to help CRCS in international issues and its efforts for recognition by the ICRC and the IFRC.

On July 30, the CRCS leadership hosted an official farewell dinner for Mrs. Monachou in order to thank her for her contribution and help in its efforts for recognition, the preparation of the new Statutes and generally in its collaboration with the Movement.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Repairs of the CRCS building

The CRCS building in Nicosia, which houses the Head Quarters, the Nicosia and Kyrenia Branches and the Youth Section, was built in 1990 with the financial assistance of the UNHCR on land which was provided by the Government. Because of unstable ground, through the years, the building was severely damaged. Regardless the several repairs, the problem continued and following several inspections by the

Civil Defence, it was found dangerous and in desperate need of repairs. Following several meetings with the Commissioner of Civil Defence Mr. Christos Kyriakides and his staff, on the 27th of November an agreement was reached to proceed with the necessary repairs the cost of which would be undertaken by the Damages Repairing Service of the Government.

Membership fee

The CRCS's membership fee was fixed to £3 for many years. After the 1st of January, when Cyprus changed its currency from pounds to euro, the Executive Committee examined the possibility of

5 Euro
5 Euro

increasing it. Finally, after a long discussion, it was decided to just change it to the equivalent amount of 5 Euro, in order to allow low income persons, to remain or become members.

Muskita hotels

A highly appreciated initiative was made by Muskita Hotels. The hotels invite the guests of their Four Seasons Hotel in Limassol to make a voluntary donation to the Red Cross, which results in a generous contribution to our Society two

or three times every year. Mr. Christos Mouskis, Chairman of Muskita Hotels, sent his last cheque with a contribution, from the clients of his Four Seasons Hotel in Limassol, and which in 2008 amounted to €6.900.

In memory of Tassos Papadopoulos

A sad event occurred in December 2008 which moved not only the CRCS, but all of Cyprus and the Greek nation. It was the unexpected passing away of the unforgettable Tassos Papadopoulos, ex President of the Republic and the husband of the CRCS President, Mrs. Fotini Papadopoulos.

The family of the deceased, despite their grief, found the courage and had the most kind and generous thought, to allocate part of the in-memory donations

to the CRCS. Therefore, in addition to the help and support received from the deceased during his life time, the CRCS also benefited in his passing away. The amount collected from these donations was 121.173 Euro.

Once again CRCS expresses its warmest condolences and grateful thanks to the family of the unforgettable President. May he rest in peace eternally.

THANKS

To Members, Volunteers and Staff

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 of the CRCS. 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 suffering fellow persons and to tan-

gibly 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, and express our thanks for the generous and tangible expression of their charitable and humanitarian feelings. Finally, thanks are also due to the employees of the CRCS for their dedication to their tasks and support of the volunteers and members of the organization.

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. They helped 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. Alphamega Supermarkets, A. Panayides Contracting Ltd, Latomia



Pharmakas, Appios & Metaxas, Toyota Cyprus, Lanitis Bros Ltd, Anastasios Leventis Foundation, Russian Commercial Bank (Cyprus) Ltd, Four Seasons Hotel, Remedica, Mundifarma Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Medochemie, CYTA, the Bishop of Tiliria, MTN, Marfin Popular Bank, Bank of Cyprus, Eurolife, the Phileleftheros Group, Lumière, CBC, MEGA, ANT1, SIGMA, CNC Plus, SPE Strovolou, Cyprus Airways Cargo and Civil Aviation Department.

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 Interior, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Ministry of Labor and Social Insurance. Also the Service for Humanitarian Affairs, Cyprus Police, Civil Defense for 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 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. We consider appropriate in this annual report to express our warm thanks to the Government for its help and cooperation during 2008 and hope that the cooperation will be strengthened, particularly in 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.

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

The Fundamental Principles of the RC/RC Movement

Humanity

Impartiality

Neutrality

Independence

Universality

Unity

Voluntary Service

TOGETHER FOR HUMANITY

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