



Integration by **EMPOWERMENT.**  
Made in Germany.

**Be an Angel e.V.**

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## Be an Angel – Athens Project Overview

Hi there,

In this document we hope to be able to give you a glimpse of the people who directly benefit from the work carried out by Be an Angel in Greece. Many of the families came to Greece to escape the Taliban or the otherwise unstable situation in Afghanistan, something particularly topical given events there in the past weeks. Others are victims of the Syrian civil war, but ultimately find themselves in the same situation – namely, stuck in Greece without support, without jobs and homeless were it not for Be an Angel. Together with your help we can continue supporting these people, giving them a solid foundation from which they can start to build themselves a proper life in Europe, wherever they end up.

We hoped some of you may consider committing to the monthly costs of one family, or the accommodation costs of one family, as a way for us to be able to continue the projects there which have until now been financed through generous donations, many of which came from yourself.

On a personal note, having spoken and been in constant contact with the persons in the pictures in the pages to come, it is hard to put into words how much of a difference this work has on these people's lives. A stable place to live is something so hard to find in Greece for many asylum seekers, especially those with young families. The positive changes in people that come from having a place to call home makes the work truly worthwhile, they begin to be more trusting and open, sometimes there is even a return of a slither of hope (for them and us!). We are now at a crossroads where we are asking for further support to be able to continue making the same impact that we have been since 2015. After the hard months of multiple lockdowns, your help is more important now than ever.

I have left a link below which takes you directly to the donation site for Be an Angel (PayPal/credit card), as well as our account details if you prefer to transfer directly. Thank you in advance for your continued generosity.

Konto 014 522 59 00

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Yours sincerely,

Luke

Intern, Be an Angel

### **Morteza & Son (30, 5)**

Bio: Morteza arrived in Greece with his wife and young child in March 2018, on the island of Lesbos, having fled the Syrian civil war. They still have not made it to the end of the asylum procedure more than three years later. Thankfully the mother was able to make it to Germany, however the plan for family reunification failed and Morteza has been stuck in a camp outside Athens with his young son growing up there, who suffers from autism and epilepsy. In his former life in Syria, Morteza was a relatively successful footballer. As they have now stopped receiving support from the Greek government, we need to step in to prevent them becoming homeless until they receive all documentation and are able to leave Greece and start their lives proper. They are soon to be kicked out of the camp and the costs will mainly help to cover accommodation for them, their basic living expenses (e.g. groceries) as well as medicine for the child's conditions.



#### Monthly costs:

- EUR 260 – Accommodation (1 room in an apartment)
- EUR 300 – Groceries, Medicine, Transport, Clothing



### **Fereshteh & Daughter (23, 5)**

Bio: Fereshteh and her young daughter arrived in Greece in 2018 from Afghanistan, where the current coverage of the Taliban and life there reminds us why many people choose to flee. From a bad situation to a slightly better one, this single parent family ended up facing the prospect of homelessness had Be an Angel not started renting an apartment to house them. It is hard to understand how a young mother and child can face such a scenario, nonetheless when the child has cancer as is the case here. Since we



have started supporting them, we have used our network in Greece to make sure the child was treated as a priority, having been denied proper medical treatment for months before we were involved. Her condition improves but the situation has not changed. Since they were recognised as refugees and subsequently cut off from social support, they are still without access to language classes, a work permit or some other step which might offer them a chance to properly integrate,



find a job or even start a life there. The father, who arrived with them in Greece, is elsewhere dealing with his own problems, of which there are many. The family are extremely vulnerable meaning there are fewer cases more in need of the stable accommodation Be an Angel provides to them. In addition to the accommodation costs, we support their basic living expenses, medication/medical treatment and

transport to and from the hospital for the chemotherapy.

Monthly costs:

- EUR 265 – Accommodation (1 room in an apartment)
- EUR 300 – Groceries, Transport, Clothing



**Atefa & 2 Daughters (27, 7, 5)**

**Bio:** Also from Afghanistan, this young family arrived in Greece in 2019. They have received their ID cards and are waiting only for passports for the children before they can finally draw the curtain closed on the asylum process in Greece. Nonetheless, the inefficiency and overburdened bureaucracy in Greece means this could still take several months. As this family are just about within reach of being able to properly begin a new chapter of their lives, it is crucial that we are able to continue supporting them until that point. Thereafter, they will slowly find their steps to independence, whether in Greece or elsewhere. As with all of the families we support, the goal is to empower them to be independent and give them the support to reach a point where they can say “I don’t need you any more”. The costs here allow us to house this family in an apartment with the other family mentioned above (see Fereshteh), to cover basic costs for two young children (mainly clothing and food as they are constantly growing, and hungry, which then makes them grow again!) as well as basic allergy medication and transport around the city to attend appointments. Atefa’s brother lives in Frankfurt which is where they are hoping to move to as soon as possible.



Monthly costs:

- EUR 265 – Accommodation (1 room in an apartment)
- EUR 300 – Groceries, Medicine, Transport

### Zarmina Family (24, 58, 6, 5, 3, 6 months)

Bio: Another young single-parent family, albeit this mother has her own mother there to help out. This large family are living in a small apartment in Athens. They were previously being supported by another organisation who three months ago stopped their support for financial reasons. The family are now three months in rental arrears, we are attempting to negotiate with the landlord or to move the family to another apartment. Thankfully, they already have received the majority of their documentation, only the grandmother and the youngest baby are waiting on passports. The family plans to move on to somewhere they can have a chance of starting a proper life, perhaps to Germany.

#### Monthly costs:

- EUR 500 – Accommodation
- EUR 300 – Groceries

#### One-off costs:

- EUR 350 – Passport fees



### Al Mahoud Family (30, 36, 62, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 12)



Bio: Here is another young family, almost on the verge of being able to leave Greece to join their wider family in Germany, whom we also supported in Greece until they were able to leave the

country. The parents of the six children were unfortunate victims of the Syrian civil war leaving the children under the care of their two uncles and grandmother. Tragically, the accommodation the family were staying in was burned down last month and we were able to provide a temporary place for them to stay, which is admittedly nowhere near big enough for the number of people. We have arranged accommodation starting from September, meaning we can continue supporting this family as they near the end of the asylum procedure. Similar to the families mentioned above, they are only waiting to receive their passports so that they can move on to join their family elsewhere in the EU.

Monthly costs:

- EUR 500 – General Support (Groceries, Medicine, Transport, Clothing)

One-off costs:

- EUR 500 – Documents

**'Men At Work' (28, 26, 29, 25)**



Bio: Finally, a smile! In addition to the flat in Athens which Be an Angel rents for Fereshteh and Atefa (see above), we also rent another apartment in which live 4 young men (one not pictured), in their twenties. The ability of these guys to make their way in a country where jobs are few and far between, even for those born there, is truly impressive. We support them only by offering



accommodation, otherwise they find a way on their own. From odd jobs on construction sites, car washes (even once in a different city) and carpentry, these men always find a way to make their way. Unfortunately, despite their dogged determination it would not be enough if it were not for our ability to provide them with basic, and stable, accommodation. Having rented an apartment since March of this year, we plan to be able to extend the contract for another six months. This will allow these guys the chance to continue finding what work they can while they make their way through the asylum process, and give a place for other young men, should any of the current tenants get the chance to move on elsewhere or be able to support themselves (former considerably more likely than the latter, for example one former tenant received his passports and managed to make it to France where he was able to be with his family again).

Monthly costs: EUR 550 – Accommodation (2 bedroom apartment)