



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

WAVE THESSALONIKI

INTRODUCTION

2025 began in a world marked by profound instability and injustice. The genocide against the Palestinian people continued into another year, while wars and protracted conflicts in Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Yemen, and elsewhere forced millions from their homes. Across the globe, climate disasters disproportionately impacting global majority countries further deepened displacement and precarity. At the same time, shifting political landscapes, such as the uncertain future of Syria following the fall of Assad's long-standing dictatorship, reminded us that displacement is rarely temporary and that safety remains out of reach for many.

These global realities were reflected locally in Greece. Throughout the year, returns from EU Member States in the north of the bloc increased, placing renewed pressure on already overstretched reception systems and leaving many people without access to even the most basic services. The closure of key programmes, including the Alkyone Day Centre and the UNHCR offices in Thessaloniki, created new gaps and pushed more people into homelessness, insecurity and isolation.





WAVE exists precisely in these gaps. Since our founding we have worked to meet the needs that were unmet: hot meals, drinking water, showers, clean clothing, hygiene items, laundry facilities, internet access, and a safe communal space. These are not luxuries; they are fundamental human rights. Yet for many people, accessing them remains impossible.

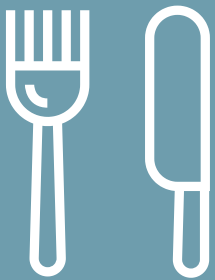
Our approach is simple. Everyone who walks through our doors is welcomed and we work in solidarity with communities to collectively meet their needs in a way that is grounded in dignity, equity, and care.

The past year also marked an important moment of transition for WAVE. We closed 2024 facing uncertainty, navigating organisational change and preparing for a newly formed Board. While transitions bring challenges, they also bring renewal. We moved into 2025 with strengthened governance, renewed energy, and a shared commitment to sustainability and collective leadership.

As this report shows, the year was shaped by both difficulty and joy. Despite shrinking space and growing political hostility, our community continued to grow – sustained by volunteers, donors, partners, and, above all, by the people who make WAVE what it is every day. None of this work happens for communities; it happens with them. The trust, resilience, and solidarity built within our community space remains our greatest source of strength.

A YEAR IN REVIEW

2025.



26,959
HOT MEALS

9,518 HYGIENE ITEMS

639 LAUNDRY LOADS

944 HOT SHOWERS

1,539 DEVICES CHARGED

354 PACKAGES SENT
TO PEOPLE IN IMMIGRATION
DETENTION



2025 HIGHLIGHTS

Quarter 1

In the first months of 2025 as we said goodbye to long term coordinator Annie, we welcomed her replacement: Tamer. He fit into the team seamlessly, and was our first coordinator to speak both Greek and Arabic - a very useful combination. Annie, for her part, has subsequently joined the Board of Directors.

As the year began we saw an increase in the number of Greek people and families with children using our centre and we adapted accordingly to ensure the space was safe for all. The centre itself saw a number of upgrades too: our long-time supporters Grenzenlose Waerme installed additional locks on our external containers after a series of break-ins, upgraded the lighting and tables inside the community centre, and deep cleaned our windows. All of these improvements saw our space becoming a nicer and safer environment for everybody using it.

In February and March we celebrated Ramadan and Eid! Our fundraiser was successful, and we raised €1,500 which allowed us to buy special ingredients like meat, yoghurt, and dates, and to cook desert and sweets throughout the month. As always, we offered extra meals for people to take away for suhoor, and had a big Eid celebration in our community centre at the end of the month.

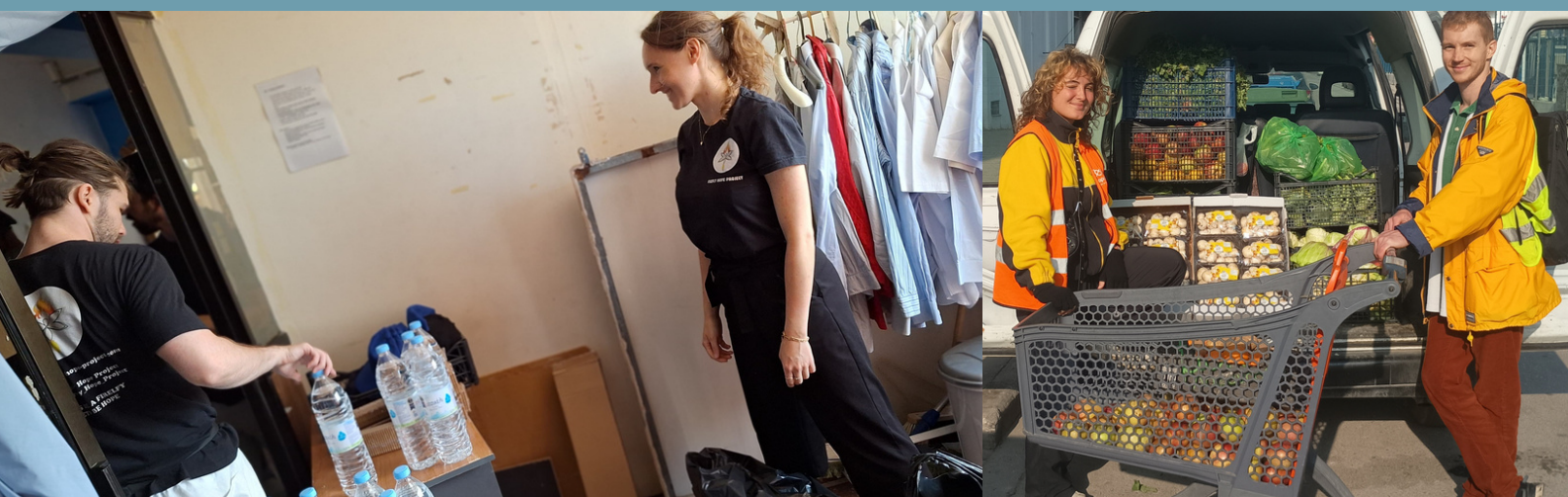


Quarter 2

April brought with it Wave's fifth birthday – five years of nutritious meals, a safe space, friendships, solidarity, and so much more. From take-away meals in a side street, we are now a fully operational community centre space with shower and laundry facilities, WiFi, computers and charging services, and clothing and hygiene items too. How far we have come in just five years!

Soon after Ramadan we celebrated Easter by painting eggs in the centre and serving a special meal complete with tsoureki – a Greek easter desert. Long-term coordinator Annie stepped into a new role in the board, meaning we could keep her expertise and institutional knowledge of the project engaged with a new team.

By May, we were seeing increasing numbers of people coming to our community centre from the camp in Diavata, at one point we distributed 220 meals in one day which was the highest number for quite some time. Speaking with other organisations, we realised that there is a new gap in services: there is no safe community space for men residing in Diavata camp and there were large numbers of new arrivals from Sudan and South Sudan who travelled by boat to the Greek island of Crete and were sent to different camps across the mainland. Not only do these people have nowhere to go outside of the camp where they feel safe, but they also don't have the basic things they need to meet their needs like hygiene items and new clothes. We tried our best to meet this need, but unfortunately we had to pause our distribution of hygiene packages due to a lack of capacity and supplies.



In order to meet this rising need, we teamed up with Firefly Hope Project to do a distribution of all basic necessities, and we also offered training for our team in both de-escalation and an introduction to the Greek asylum system by Mobile Info Team. This helped to make sure our team was well equipped for higher numbers and had a better understanding of the context they were operating in.

Quarter 3

In July, we welcomed Chris as our fourth part-time Volunteer Coordinator. Having previously volunteered with Wave and worked as a teacher, Chris brought valuable experience and fresh energy to the team.

As the numbers of people visiting Wave grew, so did demand for essential services. Phone charging – vital for staying connected with family, accessing information and navigating daily life – increased significantly, prompting Logistics Coordinator Francisco to introduce a more efficient system. Summer heat also drove a sharp rise in requests for showers, laundry, clothing and hygiene items, with non-food item distributions nearly doubling.

The centre became an increasingly vibrant community space, with people gathering to play chess, backgammon, cards, and ping pong, alongside creative activities such as drawing and painting. In times of uncertainty and difficulty, these shared moments can make all the difference



We also welcomed more women to the centre in these months. To better support them, we installed a menstrual pad dispenser, introduced weekly hygiene packages for women, and ensured private access to the shower container.

Outside of our centre, however, the situation in Greece deteriorated. The Greek government introduced some of its most punitive migration measures to date, passing laws that would expand detention, increase deportations and further restrict pathways to legal residency. Just the act of being present on Greek territory 'irregularly' can now land somebody with a criminal prison sentence of two to five years. It cannot be overstated how much these developments shape the lives of our community.

Quarter 4

Summer heat in Northern Greece quickly gave way to harsh winter conditions, bringing changing needs at the community centre. Requests for warm clothing, shoes and blankets rose sharply from October on. Despite limited stock, generous donations and the dedication of our team enabled large winter distributions in November and December, preparing community members to face the cold months ahead.

Winter, as always, highlighted the importance of a safe, warm space. For people experiencing homelessness, or living in camps, there are few places to rest, share a meal and escape the cold. Attendance steadily increased, making November our busiest month to date, with a record 241 meals served in a single day. By December, daily visits doubled to around 140-150 people, and more than 4,000 meals were served that month alone.

At the same time, the Greek government announced major cuts to food, housing and financial support for asylum seekers and refugees – reductions we immediately saw reflected in growing needs at the centre. Rising numbers created new challenges. At the end of December, we made the difficult decision to stop serving food in the centre and operate a take-away system instead. Decisions like this are not easy to make as we want everyone to be able to enjoy the warmth and comfort indoors, however to manage the space and maintain a safe environment for everyone, sometimes they are necessary.

Despite these challenges, community solidarity remained strong. Thanks to our supporters, we reached our €3,000 winter fundraiser goal, allowing us to continue essential winter distributions and sustain support during the coldest months of the year.



2025 CHALLENGES

2024 was a challenging year for us where the overall sustainability of the project was questioned in the face of declining resources and capacities, and increasing needs. As we moved into 2025, we reviewed all of our policies and also developed new strategies for sustainability, local outreach, and developed a full risk assessment collectively with our newly recruited board and coordination team.

In 2025 we faced renewed challenges, mostly related to a lack of space and stock to meet the changing needs of our communities. WAVE has normally served the urban population in and around Thessaloniki, from people on the move to locals facing a lack of housing to seasonal workers. Now that Diavata camp has been filling up, and people have been staying there for longer periods of time, a new group of people are coming to WAVE with a new set of needs. Men in Diavata camp have no “third space” in which they can comfortably relax and feel safe outside of the camp. They also are in desperate need of clothing and hygiene supplies so they can live with dignity. However, our space isn’t big enough to accommodate hundreds of people and our stock isn’t large enough to give them everything they need.

As we approach these challenges, we have been confronted with difficult questions: what does it mean to support camp populations that should be supported by state infrastructure? How do we balance equity and fairness, giving everybody what they need rather than giving everybody the same thing when we have such diverse populations? How can we provide services sustainably, what does it mean to give items when we have enough and suddenly stop when we don’t? These are not questions with easy answers, rather they are ethical dilemmas that we are trying to address with ongoing discussions, training, speaking to other groups and organisations, and consulting our communities. This isn’t always easy, but we remain committed to working collectively, in solidarity, and in the most sustainable and fair way that we can.



2025 TESTIMONIALS

"You doing an excellent job, thank you so much for everything"

"Great organisation, helps immigrants and supports them in social belonging and social responsibility"

"Wave does an incredible job in upholding solidarity practices amid an increasing hostile environment. Dedicated volunteers continue their efforts to welcoming a diverse population that too often remains unseen and heard." -

Carole, former volunteer

"WAVE is about going beyond your own comfort zone and reaching out to people in need, And doing so in a grassroots way, teaming up with like minded people, feels very powerful." - **Arnoud, volunteer**

"We at Grenzenlose Wärme e.V. are always very happy by our positive, trusting, and efficient collaboration with Wave Thessaloniki. It has been and continues to be a special experience for us to get to know the Community Center and become a part of it.

What we find particularly valuable is the empowerment and the approach that Wave shares with their community - always treating them as equals and with great respect.

This allowed us to provide exactly the support that is needed at the time. The open dialogue and shared commitment have made this collaboration very meaningful for us.

We are grateful for the time we spent together and the opportunity to support people side by side - especially to see firsthand where relief supplies and aid are making a difference" - **Kathi, Grenzenlose Wärme e.V.**



LOOKING AHEAD TO 2026

Towards the end of 2025, in November, we conducted a needs assessment with around 50 members of our community. We wanted to better understand who is coming to our centre, why they come, and what else we could be doing to better suit their needs. We learned that most people know about WAVE from their friends, and that most come to have a nutritious meal in a safe community space. Between 90-95% of the people said that they always feel comfortable and safe at WAVE. In terms of improvements, people expressed the need for more clothing and hygiene items, as well as English and Greek classes. They also said they would like to be more involved in food preparation, cooking, and running social games and activities in the centre.

We plan to conduct another needs assessment in early 2026, as we have a high turnover in our communities and so we want to see what remains the same and what changes as we welcome different people in the centre. This, alongside requests for more long-term strategic clarity from the WAVE team, will inform our in-person strategy days in early 2026. We would like to come together for the first time, both the board, coordination team, and volunteer representatives, to understand more about how we see WAVE, what direction we want to go in, and how we can best confront the new challenges that are arising. On top of this, we want to cultivate the opportunity for everyone to meet in person and connect with one another. This is key to working together collectively and sustainably in the years to come, making sure our door is always open to everyone!



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to our donors: For Refugees, Network Anthopia, Stichting Vluchteling, Firefly Hope Project, Project Elpida, Grenzenlose Waerme, Pinewood International School Thessaloniki, Three Peas Makes a Difference, Cuisine sans Frontieres, the Fund for Global Human Rights, Haella Stichting and Hofstee Stichting. A huge thank you to all of our private donors and those who supported our crowdfunding initiatives in 2025.

We also want to take the opportunity to thank our partners and collaborators: Boroume, InterEuropean Humanitarian Aid Association, Mobile Info Team, Equal Legal Aid, Med'Equali Team, Lifting Hands International, Northern Lights Aid, Naomi, ARSIS, Pervolarides and Steki Metanaston.

This year of operations would not have been possible without all the volunteers who came through and supported in all their many capacities. We also give a huge thanks to all the coordinators of 2025: Annie Molloy, Tamer Ibra, Francisco Lisboa, Chris Limat, Francesco Tessari, Ronja Schindel and Stella Petridou.

The Board of Directors of Wave in 2025 comprised 5 members: Hope Barker (Chair), Jelle Piper (Secretary), Dan Riley Eskitürk (Treasurer), Annie Molloy and Ruth Sutton (Board Members) all of whom are either former coordinators or former long-term volunteers. The Board serves voluntarily and receives no remuneration.



Finally, our greatest thanks go to the communities we work in solidarity with, for making the project what it is and bringing love, courage and strength to the space every day.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Balance sheet

in Euros (€)

	2025	2024
Assets		
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cash at bank and in hand	64,186	57,523
Prepayments	1,015	-
Total Assets	<u>65,201</u>	<u>57,523</u>
Liabilities		
<u>Current Liabilities</u>		
Creditors (Amounts falling due within one year)	3,567	61
Accruals	780	-
Total Liabilities	<u>4,347</u>	<u>61</u>
<i>Total Net Assets or (Liabilities)</i>	<u>60,853</u>	<u>57,462</u>

Statement of Income and Expenses

in Euros (€)

	2025	2024
Income		
Donations and legacies	6,664	6,586
Charitable Activities	96,322	107,629
Total Income	<u>102,986</u>	<u>114,215</u>
Expenditure		
Charitable Activities	99,595	56,753
Total Expenditure	<u>99,595</u>	<u>56,753</u>
<i>Net income/(expenditure)</i>	<u>3,391</u>	<u>57,462</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Notes concerning the financial statements:

For the year ended 31 December 2025

1. General Information

Stichting Wave Aid is a non-commercial foundation based in the Netherlands. The foundation is located at De Bereklaauw 11 in Dedemsvaart and is registered with the Chamber of Commerce under file number 91066174. The foundation was officially established on 17 October 2023. In accordance with Article 2:10, paragraph 2 of the Dutch Civil Code, this report includes a Balance Sheet and a Statement of Income and Expenses for the financial year 2025. Stichting Wave Aid has obtained ANBI status (under tax number: 865541644), meaning that donations made to the foundation are tax-deductible for Dutch taxpayers. The financial year of Stichting Wave Aid coincides with the calendar year.

The financial statements are presented in euros (€).

2. Basis of Preparation and Accounting Policies

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis.

Income is recognised when the charity becomes entitled to receive it. Expenditure is recognised in the period to which it relates, regardless of when payment is made.

Cash and cash equivalents comprise balances held in bank accounts and petty cash.

3. Income

Total income for the year amounted to **€102,986**, comprising:

Grant Funding	€96,322
Private Donations	€2,687
GoFundMe Campaigns	€3,977

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

4. Expenditure

Total expenditure for the year amounted to **€99,595**, comprising:

Food & Drink Costs	€16,851
Cleaning Supplies	€2,006
Takeaway Supplies	€3,735
Equipment Costs	€1,702
Gas for Cooking	€1,240
Community Centre Costs	€655
Support to Detainees	€2,504
Non-Food Items (Clothing, hygiene etc.)	€5,718
Premises Costs	€13,678
Vehicle Costs	€3,565
Staff Costs	€45,796
Administration Costs	€2,145

5. Restricted Funding

At 31 December 2025, the charity held cash and cash equivalents of €60,853.

Included within this balance is €31,833 of funding received from Stichting Vluchteling. These funds are restricted for use on activities funded under the relevant grant agreement and are therefore not available for the charity's general purposes.

The remaining balance represents unrestricted funds available to support the charity's ongoing charitable activities.

6. Reserves Policy

The trustees aim to maintain unrestricted reserves equivalent to approximately three months of normal operating expenditure in order to provide financial stability and ensure continuity of the charity's activities.

At 31 December 2025, the target level of unrestricted reserves was €24,620. The trustees review the reserves policy annually to ensure it remains appropriate to the scale and nature of the charity's operations.