

The TeeMobil
Sami Khokhar - facebook.com/groups/DasTeeMobil

Hamburg, 2. Dezember 2015

The TeeMobil

The TeeMobil project began in October 2015 at the central refugee reception camp in Harburg. Volunteers met up here every evening and handed out tea, biscuits and fruit to around 500 refugees. Refugees who want to stay in Hamburg have to register there and wait until they are brought to an emergency shelter. Some of the refugees had to wait outside in the cold as there often wasn't enough room for everyone inside the Harburger Post. We tried to make time pass more quickly for them by providing warm tea and biscuits.

Word got around and the project started to spread out and develop at other locations, for example in Eidelstedt. We started off here with a truck borrowed from the Ahmadiyya Muslim Jamaat and distributed warm tea at the gate to the camp to 700 refugees every day. We even had hot chocolate for the children! Since mid-November we have been handing out tea in the new hall of the clothing store in Eidelstedt.

After that we managed to persuade the shelter administration in Eimsbüttel, Hamm, Barmbek und Harburg Neuland II to let us do something nice for the refugees in the evenings after supper. Since the end of November we have also been offering this "service" in Niendorf an der Papenreye and at the Schnackenburgsallee with our TeeMobil.

The purpose of this initiative is on the one hand to offer the refugees something that they can look forward to in the evenings after supper. A cup of hot chocolate with biscuits is worth its weight in gold to most children! The adults are just as happy if they get a nice warm cup of tea in the evening, along with a banana or a hard-boiled egg. It is pretty inconceivable for most of us how easy it is to put a smile on peoples' faces just with the little things in life.

The other purpose of the initiative is to make sure that the refugees drink more every day. We have heard from doctors at the camps that many of the refugees don't drink enough and that they strongly approve of our initiative.

At other locations it is also amazing – it seems to be encouraging intercultural understanding and integration. Anyone and everyone can just turn up in Eidelstedt or Harburg (and will also get a cup of tea ;-)) and have a chat with the refugees or offer to teach them German etc. Friendships are being made, prejudices are being cleared up or even vanishing completely because we are all directly in contact with each other.

Please help us – whether as a volunteer – come and help and interact at whatever location, or if you don't have the time: food or drink donations are always welcome. What we need is:

paper cups for warm drinks, biscuits and chocolate for the children, fruit (bananas, apples, mandarins, grapes), UHT milk 3.5%, Cocoa powder for hot chocolate, paper bags for snacks, and plastic spoons.

Check out our Facebook group for further information

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/DasTeeMobil>

Das Teemobil in der Presse

<http://m.abendblatt.de/hamburg/hamburg/article206742509/Freiwilligeverteilen-Snacks-und-Getraenke-an-Fluechtlinge.html>

<http://www.elbe-wochenblatt.de/eimsbuettel/lokales/treffpunkt-teemobil-d38299.html>

<http://st.pauli-news.de/tageslicht/aktion-fuer-fluechtlinge-jeden-abend-kommt-heisser-tee/>