



ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Fundación Aldeas de Paz

WHO ARE WE?

We are a non-profit organization founded in Venezuela in 2001 and we are currently based in the Dominican Republic since 2015, specifically in the Samaná province. Mainly, our focus has been supporting the communities of Las Terrenas and Santa Barbara de Samaná. The organization runs different projects and programs in the subjects of education, human rights, public healthcare, gender equality, community development, marine conservation and animal rescue. We help to create equal environments of rights and opportunities for children and young adults from vulnerable communities and disadvantaged backgrounds.

MISSION AND VISION

Aldeas de Paz is a local and independent NGO based in Santa Barbara de Samaná and Las Terrenas, two towns on the Samaná peninsula in the Dominican Republic. It focuses on improving the lives of the local community and is funded by the monetary contributions from the volunteers. The foundation believes in a Culture of Peace, tolerance, justice, mutual respect and cultural exchange. Aldeas de Paz relies heavily on its volunteers, who come to the Dominican Republic from all over the world to try and make the Fundación's vision a reality. The volunteers work, among other things, with children in need of special attention, in hospitals and in the organization of the NGO. They do this while immersing themselves in a respectful manner in the Dominican culture.



OUR TEAM – MANUEL

As the Executive Director, I am proud to say that 2019 has been such an evolutionary year for the “Fundación Aldeas de Paz”. There were a lot of changes that transformed the way we think, how we work, our organizational culture and habits. The team is evolving day by day in an environment of growth, which has allowed us not only to become better professionals but also, for the nature of what we strive for as an organization, to become better human beings. The results that we have accomplished in this year, such as managing the correct execution of multiple projects, while achieving the organizational goals and still perceive an increment in the efficiency of the volunteer management capability, have inspired and motivated us to look forward into the future, and reevaluate our strategies and objectives because we have the capacity to dream bigger. Therefore, the “Fundación Aldeas de Paz” is committed to promote sustainable development, the augmentation local capacities and the improvement in the quality of life of the communities, through the execution of inclusive social and environmental programs in the province of Samaná.



Manuel Aurelio Hernandez, Executive Director

OUR TEAM – STEPHANY

The benefits I have had from working in the foundation are to be able to support and improve the quality of our society, the environment, and to change individual thoughts through our actions. It is like a grain of sand that accumulates. Also, as a single mother I have the opportunity of personal and economic independence and I am exposed to many new experiences like the cultural exchange with people from other countries such as the volunteers. On the other hand, learning is a daily task and topics like human rights, biodiversity and the environment form part of our improvement cycle.

I love working for the foundation, this experience is unique.



Stephany Figuerero, Assistant to the Director

OUR TEAM – SANTA

My name is Santa. I'm from the Dominican Republic. I was born in San Francisco de Macoris. I arrived in Samaná when I was 2 years old, in a few words I have my whole life in this beautiful province. Before I started working at Fundación Aldeas de Paz I worked as an English teacher for children and sometimes as a substitute teacher in a secondary school.

Feeling empathy and emotion of belonging to an organization determined to its mission definitely helped me to be happy and enjoy it.

I really like being able to coordinate a group of people with different cultures and different expectations. Many times they don't know what to expect, but that's when I like to make their ADP experience everything they wanted it to be. When you like what you do, you keep learning without even trying. Another thing I like about my work is the interaction with the whole team, the people from the community and all the project and program collaborators.



Santa Jimenez, Volunteer Coordinator Samaná

OUR TEAM – LAURA

My name is Laura Martins Fernández, I'm from a small town in northwest Spain called Zamora. This is my third time in the Dominican Republic, the reason that prompted my last trip was to finish my studies in International Cooperation and Humanitarian Aid in a project located in the border with Haiti. Within the Aldeas de Paz Foundation, I coordinate the Care Center for people with specific educational support and needs. This work gives me the opportunity to be part of the biopsychosocial development of the people we work with, contributing to build an inclusive and diverse society. To this end, from the Centro de Atención Aldeas de Paz (CAAP), we carry out different programs with the students, the family or coexistence nucleus and the community. I firmly believe in the importance of motivation to keep on going an effective and constructive intervention. Working with people and their characteristics drives me to continue growing in the foundation.



Laura Martins Fernández, Coordinator CAAP

OUR TEAM – MARIE

I arrived from France in Las Terrenas one year ago to come to work in a diving center as a Dive Master and I could see the changes of the seabed here on the coral reefs in a few months. The health of the oceans depends on that of the coral reefs, but we observe a loss of our ecosystem.

Living with respect for the environment is a foundation of my life, which is why I wanted to work on the Marine Conservation Program at the Aldeas de Paz Foundation.

Here we are convinced of the need to come together to promote sustainable development which preserves the environment and marine ecosystems. This foundation is a platform for meetings, sharing and our programs embody the concept of many small efforts to create a powerful network for a change.



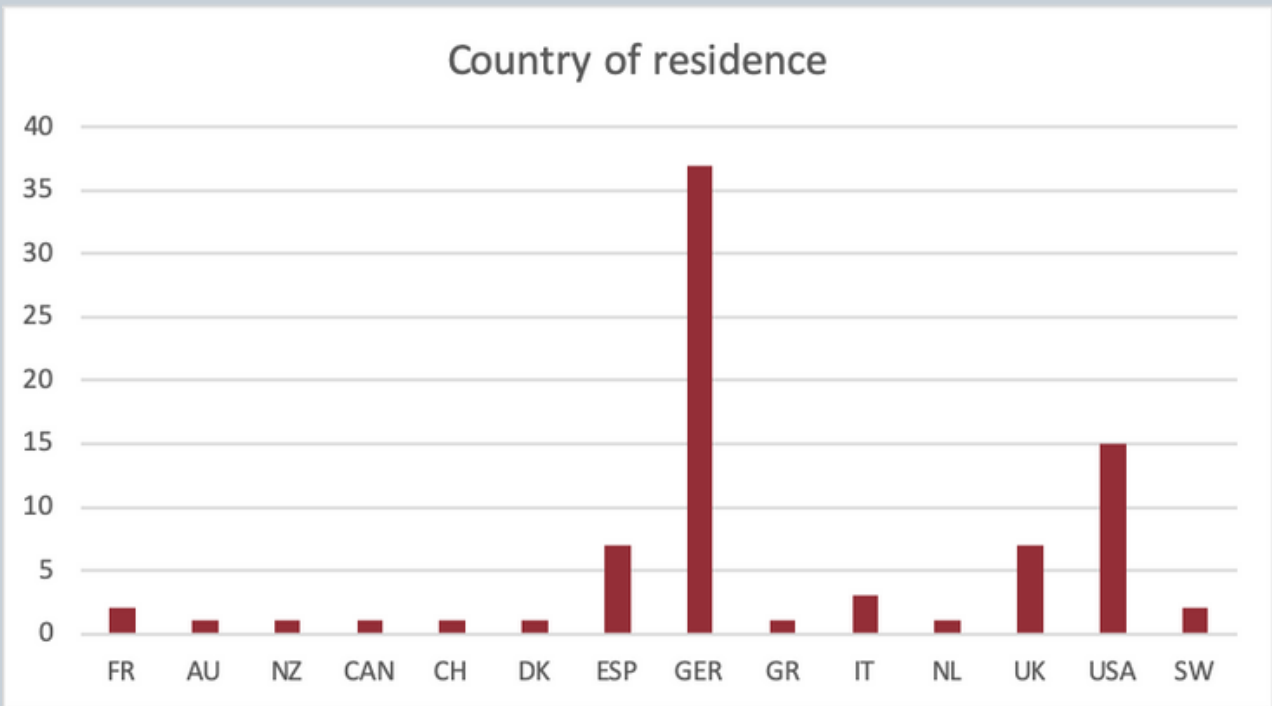
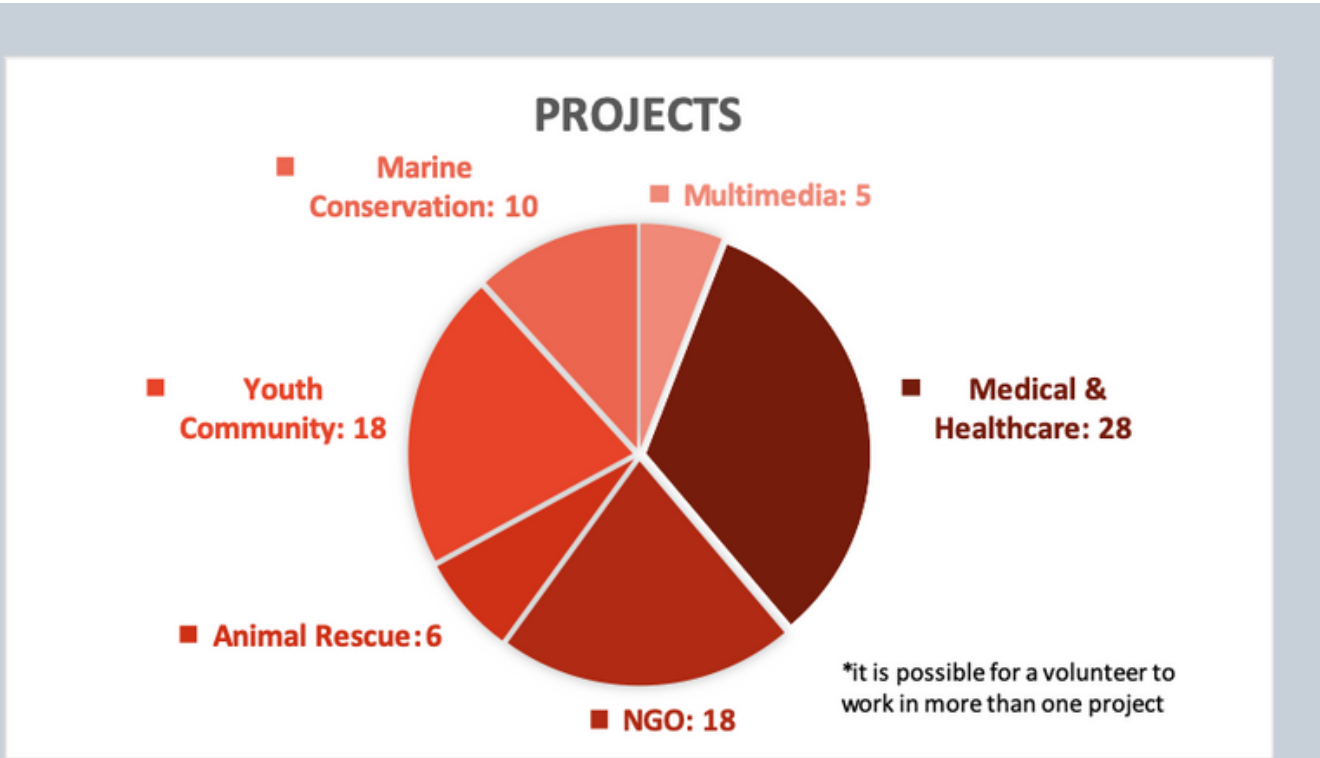
Marie Boj Flota, Volunteer Coordinator Las Terrenas

OUR VOLUNTEERS

We also serve those serving others: our volunteers. At the very heart of our charity's success are the amazing volunteers from around the world. While ADP has a small number of paid staff to oversee charity operations, the majority of our programs are volunteer run. Each year around 100 volunteers give their time and their hearts. In exchange, we give volunteers and interns the opportunity to make a difference in the local community while interacting with the Dominican communities, learning Spanish and enjoying the breathtaking landscapes of this beautiful country. Our volunteers hopefully become role models for change worldwide.



VOLUNTEERS STATISTICS



OUR PROJECTS



EDUCATION



Youthcare

One of our biggest contributions to the community is the impact created by the work of our volunteers in the projects “Centro de Atención Mamá Elba” (Samaná) and “Casa de los Niños” (Las Terrenas). Whereas el Centro de Atención Mamá Elba focuses on giving disabled children and adults the chance to participate in daily life actions, our volunteers in Casa de los Niños are assisting English classes with the aim to maximize ones future opportunities. Not only is this highly appreciated by all students, parents and the community as a whole but also truly fulfills our mission “gaining by giving” since it contributes to our volunteer’s growth and open-mindedness.

EDUCATION



Centro de Atencion Mamá Elba

The “Centro de Atencion Mamá Elba“, is a special institute focusing on children and adults with different disabilities. The content of tutoring includes mathematics, reading and writing, important skills for daily life such as how to tie shoes, control ones motor skills or watering the plants. The activities, aiming to teach about additional topics such as health, culture or geography, usually includes some handcraft work. Difficulties and problems come along every day because we work with so many youngsters with different needs and only have a limited supply in terms of material, space and staff. But there is nothing that can not be solved by such a great team of volunteers from all over the world as well as local Dominicans.

EDUCATION



Casa de los Niños

The Montessori school „Casa de los Niños“ in Las Terrenas has approximately 300 students. The classes are mixed in terms of ages and gender, so sometimes up to three different ages can be in one class. The students, that are 5 to 18 years old, get separated into two groups during lessons so that it is easier to teach the subjects which include sciences, languages and social education. What’s so special about the school is that all classrooms are open and by rotating the classes an extraordinary dynamic is created. The volunteers get to create their own English activities and get to help teachers and students with their day-to-day life in the school. By this the volunteers can get a lot of experience in the field of teaching and can learn a lot about other cultures while they strengthen the kids social, emotional, intercultural and linguistic skills.

EDUCATION



Language Courses

We are very proud to serve the community of Samaná with free language courses. We offer the following classes:

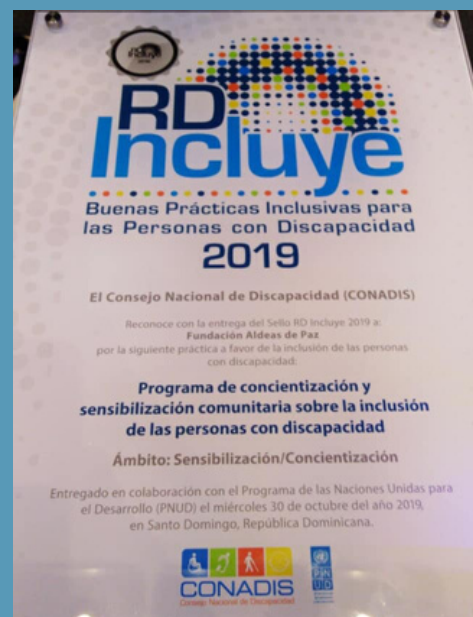
- English for adults: beginner and advanced
- English for children of the Colegio corralito de alegría
- German for adults: beginner

EDUCATION

What we are proud of

RD Incluye 2019

The National Council on Disability (CONADIS), in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), awarded for the third consecutive year the Seal of Good Inclusive Practices for People with Disabilities "DR Includes". ADP was one of 64 entities that, as part of their policies, exercise actions and practices in favor of the development and full inclusion of people with disabilities and their families in Dominican society was recognized.



HEALTH CARE



The health care system in the Dominican Republic is not as developed as in the western countries. Although, there are a lot of challenges that people are faced with, the health care system is in a process of modernization.

Our volunteers have the possibility to develop and aid the health care system depending on their education and their own motivation. They are able to help in different sectors such as e.g. Emergency, Pediatrics, Maternity (only female volunteers), Diabetes and Integral Attention & Prevention for HIV, Tuberculosis and Uterine Cancer.

In addition, the volunteers can support Nursing, hospital administration and management assisting with accountancy and helping with statistics.

HEALTH CARE



Hospital Lic. Pablo A. Paulino

The hospital Lic. Pablo A. Paulino in Las Terrenas is a public hospital that usually does not charge the patient for treatment or medicine. Our volunteers work consists of supporting the doctors and nurses in the emergency room by doing little tasks to speed up the process. From the first moment they are welcomed by the entire team of nurses, doctors and all the staff, which makes them feel in a comfortable and reliable environment.

HEALTH CARE



Centro Diagnóstico

The in **20XX** established Centro Diagnóstico y Atención Primaria located next to the hospital Dr. Leopoldo Pou in Samaná, was built to provide for the needs of the local population in a more sophisticated way. Our volunteers can quickly become an integral part of the busy but cheerful mornings and afternoons in the dental surgery and of the educational atmosphere in the Internal Medicine. Working with several teams and therefore various characters as well as a wide range of differing dialects, they can strengthen their observation skills to handle these shifting requirements.

HEALTH CARE



Centro Medico y especialidades "Los Cubanos"

The center was built with the purpose of providing health care to those who can count on a private social security service. It is the most modern center of attention of health in the area, with specialists prepared to give the biggest quality in attentions to their patients. Our volunteers are involved in the emergency work, assisting the doctors and nurses in each different case that presents itself each day.

They enjoy working in the changing environment of the emergency room, as well as in the areas of pediatrics, maternity, laboratory and surgery.

HEALTH CARE



Once a year our volunteers have the chance to participate in a Medical Mission, which is taking place in different hospitals in Samaná. The team of doctors, surgeons and nurses come to support the local doctors not only by providing the hospitals with donations of materials, drugs, etc. but also by carrying out free operations. Concerning the language barrier our volunteers are mainly involved in translating and exchanging information between local and foreign doctors. More than 100 patients a day will challenge their Spanish medical terms in another domain. Our former volunteers always had a great experience and everyone is looking forward to the next mission.

ANIMALS



Farm Work

There are plenty of animals in need of care and a home in the Dominican Republic. Many dogs are homeless and sick, and you often find neglected and malnourished horses and cats. It is rare that anyone cares about these animals or gives them the affection and nurturing that they need.

For many years, a farm close to the city of Samaná has been helping animals in need by providing a home, food and arranging medical treatments. Dogs, horses, mules, cows and many other animals live on the ranch in the middle of the beautiful nature that surrounds Samaná. Volunteers support is much needed to be able to continue providing care to the animals and finding new homes, especially for the almost 50 dogs living on the farm. Our volunteers' work consists of taking care of the animals, training them and maintaining the property.

ANIMALS



Vet Missions

A couple of times a year a team of veterinaries and volunteers and people of our animal rescue program meet to do the vet mission. On the 6th, 8th, and 9th of November four of our volunteers had the chance to participate at another Vetmission, this time in Samaná. They were able to help the doctors by assisting before and after the surgeries performed on dogs and cats. One volunteer was even able to join the doctors at the farm where horses were medically treated. It was a captivating week with many enhancing experiences. Thanks to Kim Beddal, who made this possible.

ANIMALS



New projects for 2020

Coco Dog

Coco Dog is a private pet services office that provides home and emergency veterinary services. From the year 2020 our volunteers have the chance to support this great project.

Horse Riding Therapy

Together with the Rancho Playa in El Limón we will offer a horse riding therapy for the children of our Centro de Atención Aldeas de Paz (CAAP). We are very happy that our children will soon be able to enjoy the benefits of riding therapy.

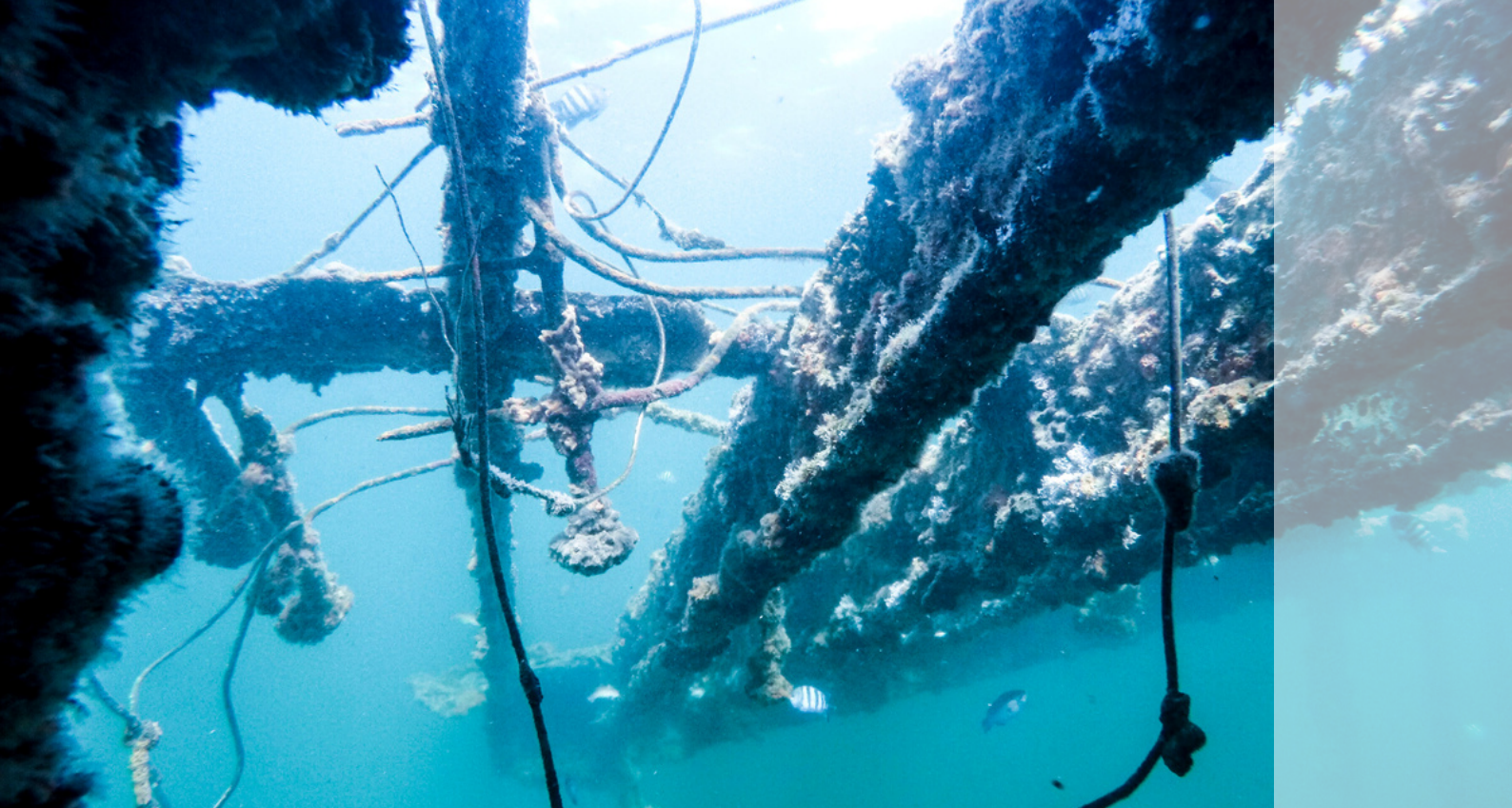
ENVIRONMENT



Our conservation efforts

In the Dominican Republic, conservation efforts promoted by different international, national and local actors have increased in recent decades. Despite of this, it is still necessary to develop local capacities that allow the inhabitants of the communities, especially those most vulnerable to the effects of climate change, to prevent and mitigate the risks from the increase in the seas and temperatures. This need is even more urgent in the coastal areas of the island, such as the Samaná peninsula, due to the social, economic and environmental implications that these risks entail, since tourism is the main source of income in the area.

ENVIRONMENT



Restauración de corales

With our coral restoration project, which we manage with international partners and support of interested locals, we want to strengthen the role of civil society in coral reef conservation, improve local capacity in reef restoration issues and educate the population about the importance of coral reefs to the economy of the municipality.

2019 results of the Marine Conservation Program:

- Certification of new divers
- Establishment of representative Coral Garden on the coast of Las Terrenas
 - A training in eco-divers monitoring
 - Environmental Education on coral reefs
 - Establishment of a strong network

ENVIRONMENT



Mejor sin calimete

The mission of this project is to protect the environment by promoting good consumer practices, mainly by eliminating the use of single-use plastics and any other material harmful to the environment. ADP informs local bar and restaurant owners about the bad impact plastic has and by signing the letter of commitment they agree to adopt the mission, reduce the use of plastic and promote the use of eco-friendly products, especially cleaning products.

SPORTS



Fútbol por la Paz

“Fútbol por la paz” – the name says it all: while bringing soccer, children and people that need a motivation together, this project is an enrichment for the local community in Samaná. Soccer helps people to stay fit and healthy, involves teamwork, boosts self-confidence and increases social interactions but most of all it’s fun.

We want to deliver material and guided education for an effective football culture for:

- Local football clubs & schools
- The recreation of children who lack motivation in their real life
- Exercise and mental rehabilitation for prisoners

A BIG THANK YOU...

...goes to all of our volunteers, donators and the associations we cooperated with. Without you, it would not have been such a successful year. We are looking forward to an exciting year 2020.



Manfred Mönninghoff, President

