



**Foundation Because We Carry**  
Durgerdammerdijk 99  
1026CD Amsterdam

Chamber of Commerce registration number: 64596559

**REPORT ON THE ANNUAL FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2018**

Foundation Because We Carry  
Amsterdam

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Amsterdam, 10 February 2020  
Regarding: Accountant's consolidated report

Dear Board,

We prepared the annual financial statement of Foundation Because We Carry in Amsterdam based on the information you have provided us. The annual financial statement consists of the balance sheet dated 31 December 2018 and the income statement report for 2018.

This consolidated report has been prepared as according to Dutch Law, taking into account the 440 Standard "consolidated reports" that applies to accountants. Under this standard, we are expected to support you in preparing and presenting the annual financial statement under the provisions of Title 9 Book 2 of the Dutch Civil Code. In doing so, we have applied our expertise in the field of accounting and financial reporting.

When preparing the consolidated report, we trust to have been provided with information that is both correct and relevant. We have executed the assignment according to the applicable regulations on the assumption that you have fulfilled this responsibility. As a final piece of work, by reading the annual financial statement, we have broadly verified that the description of the annual financial statement corresponds to our knowledge of Because We Carry Foundation. We have not performed any audit or review that enables us to express an opinion or draw a conclusion with regard to the veracity of the annual financial statement.

While executing this assignment we have complied with the applicable relevant ethical regulations that apply to us in Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (VGBA). You and every other person using this annual financial statement can rest assured that we have performed this assignment professionally, competently and carefully, with integrity and objectivity and that we treat the information you have provided confidentially.

For a further explanation on the nature and scope of the compilation assignment and the VGBA, please refer to [www.nba.nl/uitleg-samenstellingsverklaring](http://www.nba.nl/uitleg-samenstellingsverklaring).

Kind regards,

Peer Accountants Amsterdam B.V.

J.E.J.M. Mooren  
Accountant Administration Consultant



## ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Because We Carry is an Amsterdam based Foundation. We: Kaatje, Claudia, Lisette, Carlijn, Helmi, Hettie, Carolien, Eva F, Dagmare, Eva B, Thierry and Steffi and hundreds of volunteers from around the world form make up Because We Carry, hereafter BWC. Together we make small and big difference day in, day out on the Greek island of Lesbos.

In 2015, I, Steffi, decided to help refugee mothers and children and my heart's cry has grown into structural daily help. Our strong, soft and flexible team was created step by step. In the meantime, we have become a medium-sized foundation that makes a huge difference to all refugees who live in Kara Tepe and Camp Moria. Our programs bring hope, happiness and a little bit of trust.

Our motto is #NietLullenMaarPoetsen [less talk, more action]. No lengthy meetings, budget plans, protocols and long-term goals. Lesbos is in crisis and a crisis can't be planned, nor followed or shaped. Therefore, we always adjust. The balance between rhythm and space is very important to us. For us rhythm is offering a specific program once or twice a week, no matter what. Even if there is a fire, new arrivals or strikes. The programs will always go on (unless it is unsafe). The space to act is very important to us because a crisis is always moving. Every week we look at what is needed the most and we make the biggest difference possible. Thus, our weeks have rhythm and space.

We work with a very nice system. Approximately seven people from all over the world join us every week to help us. Together we run a relay, the baton is passed on to a new, strong and fresh team after a week. There are five permanent members of Because We Carry staff on the island. They constitute a safe base and they are aware of all movements and necessities.

## MISSION

You are really needed to make the world better. Know that you are big enough to make a difference. Stand up, speak up, show yourself. Make a difference, big and small, every day. And when you and you and you are doing just that, we can make the world a better place.

Give each other a hand, be your biggest you standing next to one another as equals, and let's make a better world.

## VISION

We believe in people's goodness and strength. We see a world where we are driven apart and even put up against each other. This division brings us nowhere, only to fear and we don't want to live in fear. We want to live from hope, fun and trust. We have experienced that when we dare to meet another and when we are willing to help another, we are also helping ourselves to be ourselves even more. Then there is no fear, because the other turns out to be just like us. With the same core values, the same needs and the same fear of being different than someone else. Helping each other from a sentiment of equality puts our heart at ease. Daring to be ourself with another softens our brain. Vulnerability and decisiveness to appreciate each other with all the differences and the knowledge that we are the same, puts us at ease. It gives us and the other hope, hope that is really needed. The world is on fire and when we come together as a team and we march to the frontlines, we feel strong and supported. We will fill the void between us with love. The invented limitations fade away and augment the feeling of solidarity. Together we are 1. That soothes, brings peace and gives confidence. Every step we take will be towards togetherness. Because our vision is togetherness. And with that, we will restore faith in humanity again.

## THIS IS HOW WE MADE A DIFFERENCE IN 2018

In 2018 we focused on the areas in Moria. In those A, B, C & D areas live women that are travelling alone, mothers and their children, and children that are alone. We have made areas B & C winterproof by creating shelter, we equalized the areas, laid gravel and made concrete paths. In C area we painted isolation boxes pink and aquamarine, we bought plants, built outside kitchens, and created sitting areas. In B area we built a Safe Space for the children who are travelling alone. It's a safe space of 40m<sup>2</sup> where all kinds of programs take place, among them our Barbershop. In Moria we built a big sheltered "soup kitchen", an extremely intensive project where a lot of things were involved. It is not the best project, since the "soup kitchen" looks more like a cage, but in terms of safety it was the best option. Thousands of people queue three times per day, every day to pick up their food here! In Kara Tepe we created a Beauty Parlor and a Barbershop, both with the help of really great people from the Netherlands. In Kara Tepe we expanded the Chai. The place that previously served just a cup of tea was transformed into beautiful Chill Out which even has a small library. We started a bicycle project: Because We Bike. Since mid-2018 all our resident volunteers ride around on our bikes. The yurt (built in 2017, to be written off in three years) has been expanded and furnished.

BWC is growing rapidly with more people coming to help every year. We have become a big movement and that includes responsibilities. We take on those responsibilities. Our programs and our support in what is needed are rather big. On average we spend 50,000 euros per month. Because of all our responsibilities, including the daily distribution of 1,300 breakfasts, we have built up a reserve. Ideally it would amount to approximately 250,000 euros. This is our new "zero". In the summer of 2018, we went under the 250,000 euros threshold because during the summer we had received fewer donations but many needs because of the extreme heat. At the end of that year, we received more donations once again. Many people want to support us at the end of the year, so we generally receive more donations on average. By now we know that our expenses are high in January and it is those differences that make us feel okay about keeping something in reserve.

## THE 2018 BALANCE SHEET IN A NUTSHELL

The top amounts in the balance sheet are the two reserves: the Allocation reserve (the yurt on Kara Tepe that will be written off in three years) and the Continuity reserve, that will end in 2018 with (more than) five months money set aside in order to be able to do what is necessary. Underneath those amounts there are some debts, invoices from 2017 that got paid in 2018 and unforeseen expenses regarding 2017 that were received in 2018. At the end of 2018 we had more than 300,000 euros in the bank. This is a normal line when looking at revenue, expenses and the reserve of the 2017 balance sheet.

On the second page is our Income. The majority of BWC's contributors are volunteers during a week-mission on Lesbos. We ask every volunteer that joins us on a week-mission to contribute to the breakfast expenses and the basic expenses of our activities in Kara Tepe and Moria. As it can be seen on our balance sheet, about half of the donations are derived from volunteers and the donations team. The other half comes from social media campaigns and other ways of support, such as True Art of Giving, a platform that organizes an auction for BWC a few times per year. We are receiving many donations for needs in the field, such as strollers, pitchers, baby milk, sleeping bags and food parcels.

Then comes a list of Spent on objectives. We strive to spend as many donations as possible on our objective. That goes reasonably well. In the future we want to spend 100% on our objective and support expenses such as personnel and office rent by larger parties and people who want to help us with that specifically. It makes perfect sense that there are people working for us, who get paid to support their children and put food on the table, however within a foundation we think that it feels strange. So, we want to grow into that! All help is welcome.

Right, back to the donations that are spent on the objective. It can be seen that about 500,000 [euros] was spent on programs in Kara Tepe, especially breakfast. This is more than 10,000 euros per week. More than 100,000 [euros] was spent on programs in Moria. It is followed by a series of expenses mentioned under Rest. We are a group of Dutch women that travel to and from the island, where we rent cars and houses. Some of them receive a salary, others a volunteer allowance. This is because there is an immediate connection with the realization of the objective – otherwise it wouldn't be possible to do what is needed. What we do is listed here under the expenses.

Following the aforementioned, there is a boring piece called Costs management and organization, meaning what is needed in the Netherlands to properly support BWC on Lesbos. Expenses such as salaries, social securities and the fees of the notary public can be found there. This is our office work. It's not doing something actively on Lesbos but supportive work as to keep the foundation going.

Acquisition costs are expenses with regard to receiving donations. What do we do day in and day out in order to have an income? We write stories, social media posts, we talk to everybody through SMS, WhatsApp, Instagram, e-mail and so forth. This is what some of the women do on a daily basis, including I, Steffi de Pous. Therefore, a large part of our salaries is placed under this item. I like to be transparent and for that reason I am sharing my salary with you. As a director 24/7, I am earning 4,386,17 euros gross per month. There are also a few women on the island that earn 1,695 euros gross and Kaatje Nolen started in 2018 on a salary of 1,695 euros gross for four days per week. She will get a raise in 2019. The volunteer allowance varied (with an average of 125 euros) and we aim to employ more people on a permanent contract in 2019. We are so lucky to have so

many people that want to work for us out of love and without financial compensation. I am so thankful to them during our starting years.

We are almost there, Triodos bank expenses aside. Actually, we are very happy with this bank. The bank's mission complements our own.

Compared to 2017 we have grown by almost 130,000 euros, which means that we are able to help more people on a more effective, sustainable and loving manner than in 2017. On that note I would like to close this management report on 2018, but certainly not before setting a goal for 2019. Our goal is to grow with our team and to help more people on Moria. We will organize large fundraising campaigns in the Netherlands and we promise to work very hard in any case to make Lesbos a better place and the rest of the world .... that will follow.

#### THANKING OUR GREEK PARTNERS

We thank all our cooperating Greek partners who were vital to fulfill our mission.:

In name amongst others:

Topalis Fruits who delivered more than fourhundred thousand bananas

Svoronos brothers who delivered a hundreds of jars of honey and bags of sugar

Kosmos rental cars who were indispensable for our transportation on the island, as well as persons as goods.

Stravoula breads who baked for us almost fourhundred thousand breads.

Leontis – mr. Dimitris who delivered tons of fresh onions and tomatoes.

Founder, Connector and Director of Because We Carry:

Steffi de Pous

[signature]

Supervisory Board:

Dagmare van Willigenburg

[signature]

Thierry Sampimon

[signature]

Eva Bartels

[signature]