

GiG Giving in 2021 - we've had big plans

Every year in Denmark, Malta and Spain, we ask our charity committees to vote for another charity to support. In 2021, they have decided to remain supporting the same charity organisations chosen back in 2019. This is because our ability to contribute to or support each charity was vastly reduced due to the pandemic. We did manage to raise funds, donate televisions, essential hygiene packs and a variety of pet supplies and much more last year, we'd like to achieve more this year. We do have some BIG plans for next year, but as they are still in their infancy – we will hold back from telling you what's happening until we've had more confirmation from those involved.

We've started a list of activities and things we can all do and get involved in to support our GiG Gives nominated charities, and other charities you'd like to support. However, until restrictions are lifted are limited on things to do.

We encouraged out people to incorporate GiG Gives into their team building events. By following all safety measures and regulations, there are many ways of how you can responsibly organise your team building event and support a charity. Knowing we are most powerful when we are together, you can meet in small groups either face to face or virtually, share your ideas on how to build an ideal website for your charity, and find a safe way to deliver it to them.

We want our people to use their GiG Gives day, whether that is with one of our nominated charities or with something more local to them – that's fine – we just want them to use your day and have that feeling of supporting others.

The true spirit of GiG Giving: Christmas 2021

Back in April 2021, GiG Gives announced the chosen charities for each location and we have been helping each organisation ever since. Even though this year we have been very restricted with what we can do to raise funds or give our physical support, we have always found a way, and at Christmas we wanted to do something special.

Knowing we are most powerful when *we are together*, we asked the GiG Gives ambassadors in each location to speak with the charities and find out what we can do which is most meaningful and impactful for today, tomorrow and for the year to come. Basically, how can we give a sustainable experience, which other people can build on, rather than a donation which is lost after a few days. We wanted to cultivate strong relationships internally and externally, and build these relationships founded on trust and transparency, so we involved the charities every step of the way instead of us deciding what they needed, we invited them to tell us.

We achieved this by saving our modest GiG Gives budget, which is usually used to fund our team of volunteers and the projects they chose to do on their GiG Gives day, to purchase items which they believed were most valuable.

Here's what we have donated in each location in 2021:

Denmark

In Copenhagen, they are supporting *Reden*, the same organisation we had in 2020. Reden is an organisation that runs a free and safe space known as 'The Nest' for women dealing with abuse, prostitution and homelessness to help them get back on their feet. After the huge response and great feedback they have received last year, our admin team in Copenhagen felt that they wanted to once again support this dedicated organisation, by collecting any item that women simply lack in everyday life (the little things which us women take for granted), including a toothbrush and toothpaste, hair brush, deodorant, tights, soap etc and donate them to the organisation. The volunteers will then give one pack to each woman on Christmas day (Friday 25 December), as a Christmas present from GiG.

These packages really helped build confidence and bring some home comforts to these well-deserving women. Catja has also made a donation box at the office, so whoever would like to leave a small donation, we will then make sure to buy something useful for these women and have them delivered safely to their shelter.

Catja said: *"The nest was very grateful that we thought of them again this year. Since the homeless women have no family, they celebrate their Christmas at the nest. They are still talking about last year's gift from us which they said it has been the best gift they have received so far. It means the world to them that there is someone who thinks of them and wants to give them something as they often feel forgotten."*

Malta:

We supported MSPCA, a national and international organisation who leads the way in animal protection and veterinary medicine, and provides direct hands-on care for thousands of animals each year in Malta. In early October 2020, we reached out to Mary, one of the volunteers at the MSPCA, and she sent us a list of things they are most in need of.

We approached a number suppliers in Malta and Borg Cardona Ltd saw what we were doing and donated items to the charity themselves. All in all we donated many things, including pharmacy vouchers, food vouchers, toys, treats, cushions, bedding, leashes etc. By donating these items to the dog shelter, we are not only supporting the charity, dogs

and volunteers, but also supporting a local business, the pet shop – which is more important than ever – supporting the whole community. All the items purchased were delivered by Borg Cardona on Thursday 17 December. Mary from MSPCA sends out this message:

“We would like to thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your kind help to our homeless animals. Thanks to Gig we now have so many things which were not easy for us to get. Thank you for supporting our animals and the organisation, we truly appreciate your act of kindness, it means a lot to us”

Spain

In Spain our people voted to support the same elderly home called *Residencia Personas Mayores Isdabe* for the second consecutive year. Last year, the home was most in need of new televisions for each room. To avoid any warranty or related issues and considerations, we had to buy vouchers rather than the televisions themselves. We estimate based on TV's of 32 inches, we have made it possible to purchase approximately seven to eight televisions.

Below are a few words from one of the volunteers who accepted the donation:

“We would like to thank your company and yourself, the cooperation and the kindness that you have shown towards us and all the elderly. Most of the elderly did not have a TV in their room, so they will certainly appreciate this great gesture and will definitely help their morale. We want to express our gratitude on behalf of all the team, and thank you for your kind donation.”

Recap of our donations in 2021:

- **In 2021 we donated** 70 meals in 3 months to a homeless shelter in Malta with hundreds more in Q1 2022. Donated a total of €4887 to grassroots charities in the local communities in which we live and work in Denmark, Latvia, Malta, Spain, UK and USA. Also donated office equipment inc. water dispensers, hot kitchen counters etc to a women's shelter in Malta. Our Corp IT team sold (to our GiGsters) 34 laptop stands, 4 TVs, 12 monitors, 3 keyboards and 1 tablet - with monies going to GiG Gives. Plus 5 PCs donated to a charity organisation in Spain.
- We extended the UN World Ocean Day to a week, and have added it to our global calendar annually. We believe by living a more environmentally mindful life, we can make a positive impact towards five of the UN's For People, For Planet goals together: Oceans, Life on Land, Clean Water and Sanitation, Life Below Water and Climate Action. Over the seven days 70 **GiGsters spent 295 hours cleaning up (on**

land and scuba diving using their GiG Gives paid volunteer day) over 1000lbs of rubbish from waterways, beaches and oceans, protecting habitats across the seven countries, and donated funds to support renowned conservationist and oceanographer Klaus Thymann, to replenish Danish coral reefs. For further information and reports on Sustainability at GiG, please refer to the dedicated Sustainability pages on <http://www.gig.com/sustainability>