

Q&A with Samantha Wells:

Q: Do Monthly donors have to renew their commitment annually? –

A: Nope, you don't have to do anything! It will continue until you stop it, unless there's an issue with the card. Only yearly donors have to manually go in and donate again.

Q: What is your prior work Experience/education –

A: Having grown up in and around missions ever since I was a kid, I do bring a lot of just on the ground experience to this roll. I also graduated from Youth With A Mission's Discipleship Training School, and Global Frontier Mission's Mission Training School, which were both blended programs of schoolwork and hands on experience. I also received an associate's degree in biblical and cultural studies from the second program. As for art therapy, I did a training program through First Aid Arts. I've been trained to use those methods, but not in how to train others how to use them, so I'd like to also go through that program at some point in the future! It's not a therapy license, but rather easy tools to use in every day interactions that actually protect you and the people you work with from getting into deeper trauma conversations that, not being therapists, we aren't trained to handle.

Q: Are you a Social worker? –

A: No, I am not a social worker

Q: How did you get into Art therapy? –

A: I got into art therapy through my coworker here in Greece! I didn't know anything about it before getting to know her. I actually never thought my artistic side would ever be of use in ministry, so it's been a big deal for me to see how God can use all my gifts, not just the so called "spiritual" ones!

Q: Why Greece? –

A: I first came to Greece with the first organization I mentioned above, YWAM. That was my first exposure to the refugee crisis, and we were here during the height of it, in 2015. Since I had a really good experience with the one program we worked with, I came back for a week in 2017 to work with that program again, and started asking people about their sending organizations, since I started to realize that God was really laying refugee ministry on my heart. That's how I heard about One Collective, and in talking to them and going through their training programs in the US, I really appreciated their holistic approach to ministry, and that they emphasize partnering with the community you're working in, rather than coming in and starting something YOU think would help. When I joined them, it was always with the intent of working with refugees, and Greece just happened to be the place they kept sending me back to! Greece is a really unique place to work because the refugees here never intend to, or really have a path to stay here. So it's always an ebb and flow. Goodbyes are hard, but it's so important to build community with them while they wait in limbo, sometimes for years, before they get their official placement. So for me it's worth it!

These were great questions! Thank you guys so much again for doing this!

Love,

Samantha Wells