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Theosophical Order of Service International Newsletter

### **TOS Slovenia – gives charitable assistance to all**

*All through the year TOS members in Slovenia provide caring service to people in distress at home and throughout the world in the form of financial assistance, clothing, footwear, household goods, food and non-material aid such as, meditation, compassion and home or hospital visits.*



*Blanka Blaj Borštnar has been the TOS Correspondent for many years doing a marvellous job. As she was recently elected Organizing Secretary for the TS Slovenia Regional Association – congratulations Blanka! – she will soon be transferring her TOS position to someone else. The TOS Slovenia works through what they call “circles”. There are four of them: the Adyar Circle, the Circle of Understanding, the Surya Koper Circle and the Surya-Svit Maribor Circle. They serve both individuals, who are sometimes members, and groups.*

Individual members provided nearly €3,000 in financial contributions for people in distress throughout the world and Slovenia. Some of those served include: earthquake victims in Nepal, the Ljubljana Moste-Polje Unit of the Slovenian Friends of Youth Association, various charitable events in Koper and people in need in Celje and the surrounding area. Members of the Surya-Svit Maribor Circle provided special support for the homeless in December.

TOS Slovenia has helped individuals by providing rent assistance, school supplies and food. They also work through larger associations who help greater numbers of people. In this way they:

- financed a 10-day holiday to Piran in July for three boys through the Regional Association of the Celje Friends of Youth.
- raised funds for a very poor woman who was assisted through the Žvižgač Humanitarian Institute for Maribor.
- distributed New Year's gifts for 105 children from socially disadvantaged families in Celje and purchased fairy-tales, board games, other toys and sweets. The list of

children for this event was drawn up by the Regional Association of the Celje Friends of Youth and supplemented with names obtained from TOS members.

- with contributions of €30 per month, sponsored a child via the Ljubljana-Moste-Polje Uit of the Slovenian Friends of Youth Association.

Many collections of clothes, bed linen, blankets and footwear were made by all of the circles. These were given out through various Slovenian associations that help youth. Two full (car) boots of clothing, three bags of toys and a bag of shoes were distributed at stalls in Laško and seven large bags of blankets, clothing and socks were given to the Red Cross in Celje for the needs of refugees. Our younger brothers were not forgotten as the animal shelter received bed linen and several bags of rags and towels for injured wild animals.

We all need sustenance, physical, emotional and spiritual. The TOS Slovenia supplied all three. Besides the assistance listed above they made multiple deliveries of food to both youth and intergenerational organisations, specific families and the homeless. Emotional needs were served by giving compassionate assistance and paying home or hospital visits to the ill and/or escorting them to their physicians. And a meditation for peace performed at the beginning of each lodge meeting took spiritual needs into account.