

## 10<sup>th</sup> Franco Bettoli camp 2015 Srebrenica Wave Festival

Franco Bettoli had the idea of creating a Youth Centre in Srebrenica where young people from throughout the Balkans and Europe could meet, get to know each other and build a new and fairer Europe, which would be more respectful of the weakest members of society.

Today, this has been accomplished to all intents and purposes, with the centre's car park and fence currently being completed, so this year we wanted this facility to really foster interaction between communities in order to prepare for a peaceful future.



Helping refugees to put down roots and providing them with support and reassurance is good and we have done it.

Helping young people to go to school is better and this is what we are doing at the youth centre at which some young people are day pupils and others are boarders.

However, laying the foundations for a sunny future for these young people, based on peaceful cohabitation evolving over the decades towards true reconciliation between communities, is even better. And this is where we focused our efforts in 2015.

This is why the camp was coupled with a festival which enabled us to work on this issue hand-in-hand with all the local Serbian, Bosnian and Croatian associations.



**Just like every year, the convoy organized by the leader of Emmaus Elbeuf, Jean-Jacques, provided goods to be donated to the neediest families.**

The goods are stored in one of the many warehouses that have been in disuse since the terrible day of 11 July 1995 before being distributed directly, often in mountain areas, to the refugees, who very frequently live or survive in utter destitution.

**One of the projects yet to be completed is the sheep farm. The aim of the farm is to provide employment for local people and make the centre more independent thanks to carefully selected agricultural production.**

The farm includes a massive warehouse,



greenhouses that are already operating and, opposite, the house for the farm workers.







A large number of workshops were run in conjunction with the local associations, with this being a priority for the 10<sup>th</sup> camp.

A drama production put on at our premises by a Serbian association from Bratunac (on the left) and a creative collage workshop at Srebrenica cultural centre (on the right).



Getting the school fence ready for repainting, decorating the football pitch wall, organizing a concert open to all the residents of Srebrenica, and discovering the works created at the music and writing workshops.



The peace tree planted by Franco's family and a group of young Europeans and Bosnians.

**This camp was all about meeting people and reconciliation and proved to be an emotional and hope-filled experience with the planting of a peace tree and above all the moving meeting between widows from Srebrenica and some of the Dutch soldiers who were present at the time of the Srebrenica massacre.**



This was unimaginable, impossible and highly unlikely, yet Emmaus did it! We brought together around the same table widows who had lost their husbands, children and brothers, and the young soldiers who were unable to prevent the massacre and were only 18 years old at the time. What a resounding success in the face of extremism and what a promising future it heralds! It was a truly emotional experience to see these mothers hug those who had been unable to protect their families and who they themselves are also traumatized victims years after the event.

Here are some facts and figures about the camp to round off this review.

- This year, 212 people attended the camp (from Switzerland, UK, Netherlands, Austria, Italy, Poland, Belgium, Serbia, Montenegro, Spain, Bosnia and France) including Emmaus companions, friends and leaders.
- The €60,000 budget target was met, although we do not yet have the final figures.

A big thank-you to all those who supported this great and wonderful adventure, we wish to thank them on behalf of the people of Bosnia and all those young people who are building a new Europe.

We hope that next year as many of you as possible will support our work to achieve reconciliation between all the communities in the Balkans.