

# Ways of supporting asylum seekers on the ground in this area of La Côte (4.2.16) compiled by Carolyn Cooke

**Mireille** Dolfus is a pastor who is employed by the Eglise Evangelique Reformée de Vaud to work with migrants in this region of La Côte. She has a key role in coordinating volunteer support and also seeking to enrich the understanding of volunteers as to the challenges of migration. She has recently taken on some administrative help in the form of Christiane Piazzini

[Christiane.Piazzini@nyon.ch](mailto:Christiane.Piazzini@nyon.ch) If you have queries about how you can be involved you could start with contacting Christiane, or Mireille Dolfus [miredo@bluewin.ch](mailto:miredo@bluewin.ch) Alternatively you can contact the individual coordinators of the different classes and offers of help that are running at the moment.

- A. COURS DE FRANÇAIS** – naturally asylum seekers are keen to learn and practice their French so that they can better integrate here in Vaud. If you have good French and would like to help in French conversation classes at the day centres – please contact Mireille or Christiane (see emails above) Infos : Mireille 021 331 58 58 ou 079 526 75 70
- B. LEGAL HELP** (écrivains publics, assistance juridique, transport) There is a team of lawyers who are assisting the main legal volunteer work of SAJE (Service d'Aide Juridique aux Exilés). If you have some experience in this field and would like to offer support please contact Joy Stephens [jpoppestephens@gmail.com](mailto:jpoppestephens@gmail.com) or Maurice Kirschbaum [mauricekirschbaum@gmail.com](mailto:mauricekirschbaum@gmail.com) .

## **C. HELP WITH MEALS FOR THE ASYLUM SEEKERS :**

- For the monthly Sunday evening meals in Begnins or Gland contact:  
Geo Dupont 022 366 22 80
- For meals in Nyon Info et contact : Cathy Overly 079 542 98 06 or [cathy.overly@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.overly@gmail.com)

## **D. CAFÉS CONTACT :**

- There are currently two English conversation sessions running out of The Hub – Westlake in Nyon.

Wednesday 10.30-12.00 coordinated by Joy Stephens [jpoppestephens@gmail.com](mailto:jpoppestephens@gmail.com)

Thursday 10.30-12.00 – coordinated by Cathy Overly : 079 542 98 06 or [cathy.overly@gmail.com](mailto:cathy.overly@gmail.com)

- Nous vous proposons d'organiser des cafés contact 1x par semaine en matinée dans les locaux de l'Esp'Asse. Si vous êtes intéressés : Christiane 079 211 02 74

**E. RÉSEAU DE TRADUCTEURS : TRANSLATORS – also those speaking Farsi or Dari, Tigrigna, Kurdish, Arabic – contact Christiane 079 211 02 74 [Christiane.Piazzini@nyon.ch](mailto:Christiane.Piazzini@nyon.ch)**

Nous souhaitons mettre en place un réseau de traducteurs et récolter des fonds afin de pouvoir payer leur prestation. Outre l'anglais, très utile nous cherchons des personnes parlant Farsi ou Dari, Tigrigna, Kurde, Arabe.

**F.** In addition there is **an ART THERAPY GROUP** meeting at the Day Centre in Gland – led by a local art therapist, Eileen Wiley [eileen.wiley@hotmail.com](mailto:eileen.wiley@hotmail.com) She welcomes volunteers to help lead these sessions so do contact her if you would like to know more.

**G.** Of course – we are also **COLLECTING CLOTHES AND LINEN** and other necessities through Anne Dyer [avdyer@bluewin.ch](mailto:avdyer@bluewin.ch) so please bring them on Sundays – or get in touch with Anne.

**H. BRINGING ASYLUM SEEKERS TO CHURCH IN GINGINS.** There are a number of asylum seekers who have expressed an interest in attending services – but they need lifts from Nyon train station up to Gingins. If you think you can help by fetching them at 3.30pm please contact Joy [jpoppestephens@gmail.com](mailto:jpoppestephens@gmail.com) or Anne [avdyer@bluewin.ch](mailto:avdyer@bluewin.ch)

**I. OFFERING EMPLOYMENT OR GARDENING WORK OR REMOVAL WORK or able to link asylum seekers up with work.** Please contact Laura Lafortune [lafortune.laura@gmail.com](mailto:lafortune.laura@gmail.com)

**A message from Mireille** Pour tous les bénévoles : Il est important de savoir que quoi que nous organisons, il est indispensable d'aller chercher les requérants dans leur lieu de vie, dans les abris le matin ou en fin de journée ou à l'accueil de jour. Sans cet accompagnement il est très difficile de les faire venir aux activités que vous mettrez en place. Leur temporalité n'est pas la nôtre, ils participent volontiers à ce qui leur est proposé mais il faut être conscients que leur participation sera fluctuante. Il faut également proposer des flyers et transmettre les informations aux animateurs.

Mais le plus important reste votre implication, très précieuse et grâce à laquelle de nombreuses activités existent. Encore Merci à vous.

**English summary of Mireille's message** – It is important to realise that whatever volunteers are organising – they will need to go the day centres and shelters to fetch the asylum seekers – without this accompaniment it is very difficult to get them to come to any activities because they have a different sense of time, partly due to their lives in flux. It is also useful to have flyers and to be in touch with the main support workers at the day centres.

Above all – the most important thing is your involvement – which is very precious and thanks to which there are so many activities and possibilities to engage with asylum seekers.