

## OGHS MISSION MOMENT 2

### Info Park

Imagine a 12-year-old child that you know. Maybe this is a neighborhood child, one of your own children or perhaps a grandchild. In your mind, what does the child do on a normal day? Go to school? Eat breakfast with friends? Argue with a sibling about what game to play after school?



Today I would like to tell you about another 12-year-old child. Her life is a little different from most children you know. We're going to call her Z, which is the first letter of her name. For Z, a German language course in Serbia felt like the most normal thing she could imagine. She was born in Iran, but her family came from Afghanistan. They were refugees. And, like millions of other refugee and immigrant families, Z's family began the long journey towards a better life. They went through Serbia, and eventually made it to Germany.

In Germany, aid workers spotted Z and her family. They were walking through a park, looking out of place and afraid. The aid workers offered them hope in the form of a safe space to rest and warm noodles, which Z described as "the sweetest food she had tasted in years."

"O taste and see that the Lord is good; happy are those who take refuge in God," the Psalmist sings.<sup>1</sup>

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing help the aid organization, Info Park, assist refugees with a safe place to rest, educational opportunities, and nourishing food to eat when they are hungry.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing help children like Z, inch closer and closer to the goals they only dream about as they navigate borders, checkpoints, and an exilic life.

Your gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing assist learning centers where girls and boys can escape the life of refugee camps and experience the normalcy children in many parts of the world take for granted.

Because of your generosity, Z is on a path towards education that only she and her mother dreamt of for her. Z won the Hamburg regional competition for best writing skills among newcomers to Germany. Two years earlier she didn't know a word of the language. She had only begun attending a German school in Hamburg a month before the award, and yet she walked away with the prize.

Thank you for making it possible for families like Z's to "taste and see that the Lord is good." Your gifts provide more than we can imagine!

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<sup>1</sup> Psalms 34:8

Since July 2016, nearly 170 women and girls have attended German classes at Info Park. Of those, 140 successfully graduated and received a language certificate. Teachers from Germany, Austria and Switzerland inspire students to gain confidence, knowing that if they work hard they will have more opportunities.