

# Annual Report

## Space Lama e.V.

**-2020-**



[www.spacelama.de](http://www.spacelama.de)



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Space Lama e.V.



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**SPACE LAMA**



## Preface

### **Dear friends and supporters of Space Lama e.V.,**

the year 2020, the year of the Covid-19 pandemic, has confronted each of us with great challenges. At the same time, it was also the founding year of Space Lama e.V. and we were able to achieve successes that exceeded our expectations by far. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your cooperation and help, without which we would not have achieved these goals. We received overwhelming feedback, which strengthened our intention to continue doing everything possible for the welfare of children in the Philippines. We are confident that with your support, we will be able to help more children escape social injustices and sexual exploitation and grow as a community in 2021. Our special thanks go to Father Shay Cullen, who has been working tirelessly for decades with the PREDA Foundation (Peoples Recovery, Empowerment and Development Assistance Foundation) to help each and every child and who is a trustworthy partner at our side.

## Founding phase

As 2019 drew to a close, our chairman Hamid Kamrani launched an idea that was well received by us, seven of his closest friends, and finally prompted us to found the Space Lama association. In the following year, the time had come, we succeeded in bringing this association into being. The basis for what drives our project and for all that we consider necessary to achieve our goals was written down in our association statutes. The official foundation of the association marks the beginning of our fight against child prostitution.

Eight young, ambitious people, some of whom are still studying, while others are already entrusted with responsible jobs, have taken great pride in the founding of the association: an association with vision, a vision with future, a future for children.

The locations of our members cover all over Germany. We use this network to draw nationwide attention to political and social problems of the Philippines,





which are referred to child-abuse. In the long run, we also want to promote political development in the Philippines and fight the causes whose destructive effects have had a firm grip on the country for decades.

## Structure and strategies

In order to achieve our goals, we have come up with a promotion strategy that focuses on the aspects of reach, economy and recognition value. For this purpose, a suitable logo and motif were designed at the beginning of the year, which will be used for the sale of merchandise and the representation of the association. Despite the difficult pandemic conditions, our members sold T-shirts with immense enthusiasm in large numbers and knew how to convince the buyers of our idea. Through the appealing design we create a commercial aspect and an additional incentive to support our cause. To enable nationwide sales, we set up an online store via the Spreadshirt platform. This generates a profit that directly and in entirety goes to PREDA's work, which also means that all Space Lama employees work voluntarily and unpaid, but with all the more dedication. From the 20 € purchase price for an over-the-counter T-shirt, 12 € go to PREDA (deducting 8 € production costs). The following figure shows which way the money takes, respectively for what it is used.



We try to work as transparently as possible, in this context, a complete listing of any financial transactions can be found on the website. A treasurer has been appointed to control our income and expenses. Each member deals with different tasks (e.g. sales, website, acquisition and social media), but Space Lama also stands for working in a collective and so we approach most tasks together. Joint members' meetings (currently exclusively online) promote a lively exchange about projects that have already been accomplished and those that are still in the planning phase. At this point we would also like to express our gratitude for external help through private contacts, who helped us free of charge with





translations, designing the logo, printing and with countless (small and big) advices. Together, we will succeed in creating awareness and bringing attention to poverty and misery in the Philippines, which especially affect the least most vulnerable – the children.

## Website and social media

In addition to the association's statutes, we laid a second foundation stone for the founding of Space Lama with the creation of the website [www.spacelama.de](http://www.spacelama.de). It serves to provide transparent and quickly accessible information about us and our work. The website is fundamental for the education of the public at large and to raise awareness.

The *about us* tab takes the visitor to the structure of the association, i.e. which staff member is responsible for which task, and to our motivation. The association's statutes can also be found here. Furthermore, our goals are summarized on the website and *information* regarding transparency can be found there. The identically named tab provides information on campaigns, which are, however, mainly scheduled for 2021. The tab *Lama Children* provides discreetly information about the children who have been actively supported by the funds we have raised (for more on this, see the relevant section of this report). Of course, the website also contains a link to the *webshop* and the bank details for donations.

In addition to a classic website, we also use social media to increase our reach. Links on social media in turn refer to our website (cross media marketing). We use *Instagram*, *Facebook* and *YouTube* and hope to reach the widest possible range of target groups and people of all ages. On *YouTube* informative documentary videos about the work of PREDA can be found. In the future, we are planning to also provide videos of our own campaigns on *YouTube*, e.g. from festival campaigns or report from events on site. We also want to use more recent platforms like *Twitch* as a new source for donations as of next year.

In short, we want to use social media to maximize our reach in keeping with the spirit of the times and to raise awareness in an efficient way.





## Merchandise and networking

One action stood out like no other in 2020: the production and distribution of T-shirts. We have clearly exceeded our own expectations here, because through the T-shirt sales we were able to collect a total of € 3,378 as clear profit! The first sales phase, our first steps into the Space Lama association, was thus a complete success. The money contributes to the development of social aid in the Philippines, but above all serves as an indicator that the idea is well received by the people. Not least, this was clearly noticeable due to the positive reactions in individual conversations!

Special thanks to the state of Saarland, which kindly supported us financially with a Corona-aid package. We want to grow steadily from operating only regionally and thereby also distribute our current main source of income, the merchandise, at larger festivals. In the medium term, we also have our own events in mind, where we can acquire more donors and thus give the success of our work a further boost.

In addition, personal recruitment of supporting members will become a more important factor in 2021. With posters, flyers and similar media that we are currently finalizing, we are well prepared, as soon as "normal operation" will be possible again. The fact that we can look back on the last year with pride and success gives us additional self-assurance and confidence for the future of the association, especially because of the very limiting exceptional current situation.

## Rescues and successes

At this point we would like to report on the successes of our first year as an association: the rescue of four children and young people in the Philippines. In the following, we would like to go into more detail about their cruel living conditions, at least to the extent that respect for a person's privacy allows.

### Jamil

12 years old

Date of birth: November 8, 2007

Place of birth: Pasig City, Metro Manila





Religious affiliation: Islam

4th grade

Jamil is the oldest of three children - he has a nine-year-old brother and a six-year-old sister. His parents live separately, Jamil and his siblings grew up with their mother, who is not only addicted to drugs, but also sells drugs with her life partner. The mother's partner even gave Jamil drugs, which made him addicted as well. During a raid, Jamil's mother was arrested for drug possession and served time in prison until 2017. After her release, she started using drugs again. Jamil was unable to receive a proper education due to his mother's and her partner's drug addiction. He felt neglected and befriended street children. Much of the time they lived on the streets, begging and even starting to sniff solvents to forget their troubles, at least temporarily. Their own drug use eventually forced them to steal. Jamil and the other boys were eventually arrested and detained in a juvenile detention center. He was mentally and physically abused and mistreated by the guards, and often the boys were even deprived of food. After months in these inhumane conditions, PREDA learned about the fate of Jamil and freed him through bureaucratic efforts from prison.

He was brought to PREDA, where he is happy and free now, learning karate, playing basketball, dancing and starting to study again. Just two weeks after being rescued, he stands out for his intelligence, brightness and cleverness and plays an active role in his new family. He is a true Space Lama success story.

## Jeselin

26. September 2020

Jeselin's biological parents abandoned her when she was just four years old, which is why she then grew up with a childless couple in the same village. At the age of twelve, she was the victim of sexual abuse by a neighbor. At the age of 15,





she moved in with her adoptive cousins and initially worked there as a household help. The two cousins ran a human trafficking ring that sold children for the sexual pleasure of foreign men and to other sex tourists. The women abused Jeselin mentally and physically, and at the same time the girl was financially dependent on both of them, which is why she stayed with them out of fear. Over the next few years, Jeselin was sold several times through the prostitution ring, severely abused and sexually assaulted. The extent of what Jeselin had to experience is unimaginable. In September 2020, her suffering was so great that she decided to flee and found refuge with her second adoptive mother. PREDA learned of Jeselin's fate and the social workers brought her into PREDA's protection. Jeselin now lives in safety from the traffickers and can recover from her ordeal. PREDA is now trying to track down the women who run the prostitution ring and bring them to justice.

## Stella

15 years old

Stella and her brother grew up with their mother. She reports that at the age of twelve she was physically abused for the first time by her mother and later by her brother. At 13, she began working to help provide for her family. When she was 14, she met a woman at work who asked her if she could live with them and help with the household. She dropped out of school and moved in with the family. The family manipulated her by telling her that she owed them money for board and lodging. To pay off the debt, they urged her to go out with "foreign friends" who would in turn introduce her to so-called "clients", where she could earn a lot of money.

In October 2019, she met the first foreign "client" who sexually abused her knowing she was a minor and gave her 5000 Philippine pesos in hush money. After this first incident, she was resold several more times to foreign sex tourists from Germany, Austria, and the United States, and as a result was sexually abused multiple times.

In November 2020, PREDA Foundation social workers became aware that Stella was being taken to a resort from where she was supposed to be resold. They







worked with the local police and the Philippine Bureau of Investigation (NBI) to develop a rescue plan. When they stormed the resort, they discovered that in addition to Stella, another 19 girls were being held there, four of them minors and 15 young women between the ages of 18 and 22. The three traffickers were arrested and the girls and young women were taken into the care of the PREDA Victoria Girls' Home. They have settled into the community and are now learning that they have a chance to recover, learn and go to therapy to deal with their traumatic lives so far in which they were abused, raped and sold. Now they can live a good life without fearing a lifelong existence as sex workers and victims of human trafficking.

## Juanito

12 years old

Juanito was detained in a prison near Manila until his release. He comes from a poor and broken home. His mother has been a single parent with him and his three younger siblings for several years. He mostly lives on the streets or in prisons. The conditions there are very harsh and traumatizing. Juanito is mentally and physically abused by the older boys in his cell, he has to clean the dirty toilets and wash the laundry of the other cell inmates.

Unfortunately, we are unable to provide an update at this point, as the information has not yet been provided to us.





## Outlook

We have defined our mission clearly: to fight with all our strength against the problems in the Philippines! Together with new supporting members, we want to further raise awareness and conclude the path of educational work with resulting actions. With an increase in our capacities, our reach will be extended and helping on site by volunteers will also be made possible. If necessary, our donors can become actively involved through sponsorships - we are already working on this project. We will ensure maximum transparency and awareness through our public relations work on all common platforms. In addition to raising funds, we are also committed to a political responsibility. As a connection between the Philippines and Germany, we forward important information from PREDA, which focuses on political development work accomplish sustainable change, directly to Ms. Bärbel Kofler, Member of the German Bundestag. The goal must be to achieve changes in the long term. For this it is essential in the first instance to gain the necessary attention, in order to concretize social injustices. One of our visions is to give rescued children a job in Germany after their rehabilitation. This would be conceivable in the health sector, for example, and we are currently beginning to sound out political and educational hurdles. In general, with our symbol, the **LAMA**, we want to create the necessary **SPACE** to give children chances and perspectives for the future.

