Dear Friends,

“I THINK OF ARSP’S WORK AND MISSION AS AN IMPORTANT ONE: TO LIVE UP TO THE HISTORIC RESPONSIBILITY SHARED BY MOST GERMANS, TO WITHSTAND ELEMENTS IN THE GERMAN SOCIETY WHO WANT HISTORY TO REMAIN A DISTANT PAST, BUT MOST IMPORTANTLY TO LET THOSE WHO SUFFERED KNOW THAT WE WISH AND WORK FOR A BETTER FUTURE.” These words from Enno, a 19-year old ARSP volunteer with the Center for Holocaust Survivors at the Jewish Family Service in Cincinnati, give us hope. 21 young Germans have resumed supporting organizations that combat homelessness in Philadelphia, provide companionship to aging Holocaust survivors in New York, Cincinnati, Boston, and Chicago, fight discrimination against immigrants in Cleveland, and help an African-American and Latino community in Camden.

Moreover, we are pleased that three American ARSP volunteers in Germany support the Sachsenhausen Memorial and Museum, the Dachau Memorial, and people with disabilities in Berlin. Emily Mohney was a former volunteer at the Neuengamme Memorial. As a proud American Friends of ARSP Board member, she is motivated to back ARSP in the future as well: “I CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ARSP BECAUSE OF THEIR LASTING PARTNERSHIPS AND THE IMPORTANT WORK THEY ARE ACCOMPLISHING WITHIN VARIOUS COMMUNITIES -- ALL WHILE AFFORDING PEOPLE LIKE ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO LIVE AND WORK WITHIN A NEW CULTURE.”

Since 1968 we promote mutual understanding through daily service work, opportunities for education, and acts of kindness. Sadly, this year saw increased antisemitic violence, continued homophobic attacks, and the beginning of an aggressive Russian war against Ukraine that threatens our democratic values. ARSP and the American Friends of ARSP believe that we have an obligation to denounce all forms of violence, aggression, and extremism. We are asking you to take action with us – to be a part of this unique transatlantic community that is already strong and growing every year.

Each year we must raise an additional $30,000 for uncovered volunteer living costs, $25,000 for volunteer educational programming and over $10,000 for events and special programs in addition to our regular outreach and administrative costs. We can’t do it without you! Your tax-deductible donation to the American Friends of ARSP makes this work possible. Thank you.

Happy Hanukkah, merry Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

Monika Moyrer
US Program Director

Sarah Heim
Chairperson, American Friends of ARSP

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About the Voluntary Service in the United States and Germany

The one-year service with Holocaust survivors and disenfranchised groups leaves a life-long impression on the volunteers. Volunteers learn first-hand about the long-term consequences of actions taken by Germans in the past. History becomes alive. The volunteers are encouraged to critically reflect on their own society and themselves. The service promotes intercultural learning and encourages the volunteer to make positive contributions to a more peaceful, just, and tolerant world.

Our International Volunteer Program in Germany

Every year two to four Americans age 18+ serve in Germany as well. They work at Holocaust memorial sites, social service providers, and civic educational institutions. Participants take part in seminars and have an opportunity to experience the German culture of remembrance, visit memorials such as Oświęcim/Auschwitz, learn about everyday life in modern Germany, expand their German skills, and set a sign for peace and democratic values. Our application deadline for the 2023-2024 service year is January 31, 2023. Access the online application through his link: https://www.asf-ev.de/de/english/volunteer-service/application-form/

Summer Service projects

Each year ARSP/ASF offers special projects, approximately 2 weeks in duration, on topics relevant to our service mostly in Eastern and Central Europe. Projects include clean up and maintenance of abandoned Jewish cemeteries, rehabilitation of facilities for people with disabilities, archival work, programs against right-wing extremism, and programs of encounter with immigrants, refugees and other excluded groups. Registration for 12 summer projects ages 18+ with a few options for older volunteers 40+ opens in April. https://www.asf-ev.de/english/summer-camps/

A heartfelt Thank you to our project partners and generous contributors