Dear Sir/Madam

Enclosed please find some pics and images of this very successful event. I was so thrilled by the enormous commitment of my students, all young refugees or asylum seekers, who had left their home countries due to war or continuing atrocities in their home countries. Watching their commitment in preparing this event and the positive echo of Baden citizens was overwhelming.

My expert advisor Ms Hertha Maria Toolsie, a former graduate of my school and now serving as an Ambassador for Peace of the UN, who I could win to support me and my team of fellow teachers in this challenging task of guiding our new students into their future is supporting me enormously. These young persons need to get a perspective in their lives again after having been forced to leave their home countries. We have been witnesses of how important it is for persons to regain their self-esteem again by offering them a platform where they could meet the inhabitants of Baden at same eye-level.

We were inviting the citizens of Baden to this festive 6 course meal which my ISCEC students had been preparing with great enthusiasm. And they all were so happy to offer their delicacies.

I personally like the following idea best, just to illustrate what had made me so happy.

In doing the preparations for the cooking at the Red Cross kitchen in Baden they realized that they did not find appropriate pots in cooking rice for some 250 persons or 60 kg of beef and 20 kg of chicken. When I went to the Turkish shop in Traiskirchen to buy the meat, vegetables, etc. one of my students told me that a gentleman who also did his shopping is a member of the mosque in Traiskirchen. This student had been staying at the camp in Traiskirchen for more then 6 months the last year and during Ramadan he was invited to meals after dark. He had told me that they have big pots with lids – ideal for cooking in big quantities.

So I approached this gentleman and after introducing myself I was asking him politely whether we may borrow 2 big pots for our event.

He was listening to me carefully and did not hesitate to offer his help by phoning Mr. Erdal Kaymaz, the president of the Turkish-Islamic Association in Baden.

We could borrow the pots and my students were cooking in the Red Cross kitchen and serving their wonderful 6 course meal to Roman Catholic church goers after Sunday service in the Roman Catholic parish house. The Roman Catholic priest Mr Leopold Steyrer is a personality showing great humanity in supporting persons in need – in my eyes this is the way intercultural cooperation and acceptance ought to work. Supporting and accepting each other and learning from each other by breaking down barriers of ignorance.

Yours truly

HR Mag. Dr. Bertram Zottl

Dir BHAK und BHAS BADEN
Dean ISCEC Int. School

Enclosed I feel free to attach some pics.