

# IMPACT

April 2026

Dear friend,

we are delighted to once again share updates on the work of Nehemiah Gateway this new season.

In this issue, you'll read about women who are exhausted and isolated, yet find respect, a sense of belonging, and new strength through shared conversations and prayers.

You'll also meet our new Executive Director of NG Germany and learn about his rich experience with volunteer involvement, specifically, his important drug prevention awareness programs.

All of this paves the way for people to find hope and take control of their own lives with strength and determination.

Thank you for standing by our side and continuing to make it possible for us to positively impact the lives of those we serve!

Your Impact Team



## Between Burdens and Lightness: Womens' Meetings Become a Lifeline Support groups for Women with serious family, social, or medical problems

They seem relaxed and cheerful—women enjoying coffee and cookies in the sun with Anila (in the red sweater). What you don't see: These are the few carefree moments in their lives.

Anila has been working in NG's social services department in Albania for nearly 24 years. She cares for people who are paralyzed or bedridden, as well as children with disabilities. She explains: **"When I worked with these families, I sensed that the family members also needed help—the women and mothers were in very poor shape; they were exhausted, overwhelmed, and often at the end of their rope.** That's why, years ago, we started holding regular meetings in a small women's group." Meanwhile the work has grown. There are nine groups, each with about five women of various ages, all of whom are connected in some way to NG's social and medical work—whether as mothers, relatives, clients, or patients.

For the women, these gatherings are more than just a coffee break. They often live in great isolation. During a trip to Drilon, one woman burst into tears: she had never visited the beautiful park, even though it's only a 3 minutes drive from the city! Others had never been in the ancient village of Lin, Europe's oldest known lakeside settlement, right along lake Ohrid. That's why the gatherings take place at different locations whenever possible—in a café, a park, or a small tourist attraction. For some of them, even a walk without their husband is not a given. With some husbands, Anila has to ask permission every time to pick up the women for the meeting. Nikoleta, head of NG's social and medical services, emphasizes: "It gives the women self-confidence and a sense of worth when they suddenly have something to share

or can contribute to discussions on local issues. This elevates their status to a new level." In conversations with the women, one important word keeps coming up: respect. The women feel seen and respected in a way they rarely do otherwise.

Anila says, "In the groups, we discuss the problems each woman faces—they're often enormous. And we always read a passage from the Bible, talk about God, and pray. That's the most important thing."

Time and again, they experience wonderful acts of providence. A family with a disabled daughter had lost their home and were suddenly able to buy a small house at a bargain price. Or the mother whose son was found innocent and unexpectedly released from prison. For many, their financial hardship has slowly improved. Anila tells of several young women, all recently married, who shyly asked for prayer. Each one was experiencing severe domestic violence! Not long after, one after another, they reported: "Anila, things have gotten much better at home."

The women sum it up: "We finally get out, do something, talk about our problems, our suffering, we pray together—and our stress disappears; it disappears completely!"

One of NG's guiding principles is: „Our programs are shaped by the needs.“ This is also true for this initiative. Born out of the needs of these women, we can achieve a great deal with only little funds. Thank you to everyone who participates through their donations, to support these women and their families even more effectively.



The women celebrated International Women's Day (March 8) together the festivities.



## CHRISTOPH LIPSKI

is the new Executive Director for Nehemiah Gateway gGmbH in Germany.

He is taking over from Kai Uellendahl, who, together with his wife Anne, will now focus on the further development of Nehemiah Gateway Switzerland.

## STANDING UP AGAINST DRUGS

For Christoph (Chris) Lipski, volunteering is a way of life. He brings his professional expertise to NG, in Albania as well as in NG's German branch. The police officer, husband and father from Germany, has been traveling to Albania regularly for 18 years, working with our students on the hugely important topic of drug prevention.

A large proportion of crimes in Albania are drug-related. This creates an environment in which young people have easy access to both legal and illegal substances. Alcohol is an integral part of daily life and community culture in Albania, and raki (a hard liquor which is often homemade) is particularly common". Children are often unaware of the dangers.

The Albanian school system still pays little attention to these issues. This is why Chris is happy to accept invitations to teach in public schools in Pogradec. He has developed customized lesson plans for each class.

Our students always look forward to his classes, pay close attention and, hopefully, leave well-prepared for life—and, as has become a tradition, they also leave with a tasty piece of candy to take to their next class.

When asked why he became so deeply involved with NG, his answer comes instantly: "I'll never forget my first visit to Albania. Just watching the children at the Amaro Tan School alone touched me deep down in my heart. I still have tears in my eyes when I think of them. I can only recommend for everyone to make the trip and get this experience first hand."

Another reason is crystal clear to Chris. As a paramedic, lifeguard, and church member, he has a lot of experience with volunteer work. "All too often, there's no real plan on the ground for exactly how to deploy the volunteers. Valuable time and energy are wasted, which is incredibly frustrating. **At NG, I can focus entirely on my task; everything else is perfectly organized."**

"That's also a reason why I'm now getting more involved with the work of NG here in Germany. I can help to ensure that everything here continues to run smoothly and efficiently. That way, **we can optimally support the incredibly important work in Albania. After all - that's what we're here for!"**

Nehemiah Gateway  
gemeinnützige GmbH

**WE'VE MOVED:**

Hubmersberg 2, D-91244 Pommelsbrunn

IBAN: DE08 7605 0101 0015 3535 35

T +49 911 60009960

F +49 911 60009969

office@ng.team

www.ng.team

BIC: SSKNDE77XXX

