



IMPACT

August 2026

Dear Friend,

We've had an eventful summer! At all our locations and projects in Albania, we offered summer programs for children, specifically tailored to the participants' needs.

After all, summer vacation in Albania lasts almost three months! That feels like an eternity for children. Especially those who come from difficult backgrounds or need special support are at risk of losing the good rules, habits, and skills they've learned—and forgetting what they've already mastered.

For young people with special needs, the summer camp is therefore especially important. For them and their families, it's the highlight of the year. We'll explain why.

At Amaro Tan, preparations are already underway for the new school year, which brings its own unique challenges. We hope you enjoy reading this.

Your

Nehemiah Gateway Team



Not a Sprint, But a Marathon

Summer Camps for Young People with Disabilities and Special Needs

Therapy for children with disabilities takes time—a long time. This is also evident at the two-week day camp, as Nikoleta, head of social and medical services at NG Albania, reports: "In the beginning, when we started the camps years ago, we had to teach the children how to interact with one another at the basic level. Back then, they would lash out at each other, fight, scream, or run away." Today, that's hardly an issue anymore; respect and mutual support prevail. Considering that the participants have physical or intellectual disabilities, autism spectrum disorders, or Down syndrome, that's quite an achievement. The summer camps are an important component of the support provided for the therapy group.

„Now we're in a new phase. The big challenge is to prepare them for adult life—for the harsh reality of a time when their parents will no longer be there for them." says Nikoleta.

In Albania, very little is expected of people with disabilities; they're cared for as best as possible, but kept out of social life. That has to change for our group. Here, they receive help with the things they can't do on their own. But in return, they also learn to be there for others.

„It's wonderful to see a child with autism help an adult woman with physical challenges—taking her by the hand and guiding her to her seat. In this way, they come to understand that they, too, can contribute and be part of the community."

Each of the 14 participants (12 teenagers from the therapy group and 2 women from the social projects) is assigned tasks at camp: they decorate and set the table, serve meals, clean up, and help one another. They really come alive while doing this.

Of course, there's plenty of time for fun and games, too. Absolute favorites are the wild water fights and a day at the beach, but also the field trips, the many group games, and the awards ceremony at the end. In every game and every competition, a different person was named "best." This year, we even discovered a real talent at table tennis! Everyone went home proudly with a gold medal.

Hardworking Volunteers

The program is very intense for Nikoleta and Anila from the social services team. This time, they seriously wondered how they were going to manage it all on their own. Help came from a completely unexpected source—a student at Nehemia School. Dioneo, Anila's son, asked of his own accord if he could help out. Nikoleta is thrilled: "Dioneo was perfect! Full of energy. He instinctively knew how to handle the group, how to approach each person, and when to say 'stop.' We didn't even have to explain much to him. When we've had volunteers in the past, they usually couldn't keep up with the pace for long. Not so with Dioneo—he stuck with it until the end, joined in, and took care of each person. He must have been born with that talent."

The fantastic support from all the other staff on campus was also exceptional—whether cooks, custodians, or drivers—everyone treated the participants with respect and did their best to make the camp a success. The participants felt that too; it clearly did them a world of good.

And What About The Parents?

The families are very grateful for these summer camps: "Why don't you run the camp for 1–2 months? Then we could finally relax for once and take care of ourselves and the rest of the family." Many parents told us: "After a day at camp, my child comes home, falls into bed, and falls asleep immediately. No more games on the phone, no restlessness, no aggression. In the evenings, we can go out together; the child is balanced and calm. It's completely different from usual."

For now, it'll probably stay at two weeks a year—but those two weeks make a huge difference in these families' lives. It's worth the effort!



A Rocky Start to School

It's that time of year again—a new school year is about to begin. Preparations are in full swing. In addition to the usual tasks, Amaro Tan faces a very special challenge: enrolling the first-graders.

Each child must be registered online for first grade by their parents. Albania is way ahead in this regard; almost everything that still requires a trip to the government office here is handled online in Albania. But that also has its pitfalls: You need internet access, a cell phone, and a password to log in. Anyone who doesn't have these (or loses them) has a problem.

Especially in the families of our Amaro Tan kids, things aren't particularly organized. Many forget their passwords, can't afford data plans, swap cell phones, or have trouble navigating logins and online forms.

August 1 was the registration deadline—and almost everyone missed it! For Principal Marin and his staff, this means a lot of extra work and headaches. But in the end, they always manage to make it work somehow. In any case, we're looking forward to our new first-graders!



Of course, Amaro Tan also held their summer camp—the kids had a great time.

Nehemiah Gateway
gemeinnützige GmbH
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

