

# Compact *mini*

February 2021

Dear friends,

A new year, new opportunities and a new look!

We're happy to debut our first Compact Mini letter. We hope you like it! Our goal is to provide you with a more concise view of NG's work a few times a year. We'll still send the large Compact, just not quite as often.

Also, you can keep up with us through our eNewsletters, social media and via our website. We're busy and we want you to know what we're doing!

This winter we're providing relief packages to Albanians in severe hardship situations. We're also connecting with Nehemia School alumni now living in the U.S. Did you know about our work in places like Tanzania? You'll have a chance to read a bit about that too.

Thank you for making what we do possible.

Your Compact team



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## Growing a Spirit of Service

"The day was a beautiful experience for us," says Megi, a high schooler at Nehemia School in Pogradec. "Having the opportunity to make someone happy is a wonderful thing. When we distributed the aid, we realized how much we really have and that we should always help others."

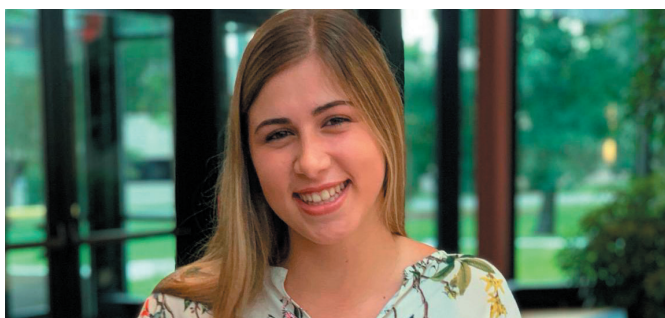
Students at NG's Nehemia School learn in a rigorous yet supportive environment. The school is among the best in Albania, but students are not focused only on academic achievements. They get involved in an array of activities, including volunteering, and learn lessons that have a life-long impact. Located on the NG campus in Buçimas, Nehemia School students are surrounded by good works. If they want to help, they are very welcome.

A grant from Kosovo and UK-based The Ideas Partnership supported an aid distribution by Nehemia School volunteers this fall. High schoolers Rafaela, Megi, Alisa, and Jola shopped for and assembled 71 aid parcels and joined the NG social work team on a trip to villages outside Pogradec. They visited two schools, where they brought sorely needed school supplies to children, and delivered food to the homes of people living in poverty. The girls were surprised and saddened by the hardship they saw, and felt grateful for what they have, and glad to help.

Finally online:  
The NG Website in a new look!

» [www.ng.team](http://www.ng.team)

## The Gift of Data



Pogradec native Elda Pere graduated from Nehemiah School in 2016 and is one of many Nehemiah School students who participated in the aid delivery program as a student. Now, as she finishes her Bachelor of Science degree in Data Science at University of California Berkeley, Elda is finding new ways to help others. Elda is an External Project Manager for a new club at Berkeley, DataGood, whose mission is to make data science tools available to campus and community nonprofits.

In spring 2020, Elda approached Sarah Pita at Nehemiah Gateway USA and asked if her team could donate their services on a project. The offer came at a helpful time, as NG USA had been discussing ways to improve their outreach. Elda led a team of five Berkeley students, who systematically went through NG USA's communications platforms from a data science perspective. They presented their findings and recommendations in a Zoom meeting in November 2020. "The team's work was timely and professional," says Pita. "Elda and her team provide a wonderful service to nonprofits. We are so grateful for their time and work."

Says Elda, "After my high school experience of collecting food aid for local villages with Nehemiah Gateway, I have focused my career efforts onto projects that make a difference in the world. My way of giving back is providing a data-driven backbone for nonprofit decision-making, and with it I hope to reach as many lives as possible."

## Against all Odds

For six young people from Tanzania a dream has come true: Benediktor, Rijard, Meki (the three young men in the picture) as well as Maria, Richart and Vennans graduated from high school in December.

Their home is the orphan village of NG's partners Tanzania Orphans Mission (T.O.M.). T.O.M.'s limited financial resources did not allow it to cover scholarships and school fees for their secondary education. This posed a real problem. After all, thanks to the care at T.O.M., they grew up to be bright young people, eager to learn, who did not let themselves be defeated despite their difficult start in life.

NG could not simply stand by and do nothing. So NG, with the help of donors, took over the scholarships for them to attend secondary school, an important step towards a self-determined life in freedom and independence.



## God in Albania

Photo Exhibition by Jutta Benzenberg

January - March 2021 - at NG Forum in Nuremberg  
You are welcome to a personal guided tour!

Nehemiah Gateway Services  
gemeinnützige GmbH  
Kontumazgarten 3  
90429 Nürnberg



T +49 911 60009960  
F +49 911 60009969  
office@ng.team  
www.ng.team

IBAN: DE52 760 50 10100 11777711  
BIC: SSKNDE77XXX