**SEE ME Project Description**

**Area of focus:**

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| Gjakova is a city located in southwestern Kosovo with a population of 95 000 composed of Albanians, Roma, Egyptian, Ashkali, Serbian and Gorani people. Gjakova used to be an industrial city, but during the latest war (1999) most of the factories were destroyed. As a result, Gjakova is now one of the poorest municipalities in Kosovo.  A sector of the society which finds it particularly difficult to meet a decent standard of living are those who are blind or have severe sight impairment. Gjakova‘s Society of the Blind (SoB) has 400 members, 50% of whom are under the age of 40. Its main goal is to help these members lead more independent and wholesome lives. To date, the Society has offered three different courses which focus on helping the blind learn Braille as well as gain mobility and computer skills. Unfortunately, due to lack of funding, the Society can no longer offer these courses. For this reason, the Ideas Partnership (TIP) has partnered with the Society of the Blind in order to secure funds for Braille and Mobility classes. |
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**Brief summary of project**:

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| Learning how to read braille is a first step towards a more independent life for those who are blind. However, braille classes do not fully equip the blind with the necessary skills for them to take part in the society. Therefore, TIP, in partnership with the Society of the Blind, would like to, in addition to the Braille class, offer a mobility course. The mobility course will prepare participants to be independent in the home or outside. It will do so through teaching them how to orient themselves and find their way around objects. The combination of these two courses will enable participants to become an integral part of the Gjakovar community. |

**Goal of project:**

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| The “See Me” project aims to help 10 blind people in Gjakova learn Braille and gain mobility skills. Such skills will allow them to lead more independent lives as well as contribute to the empowerment of marginalized communities in Gjakova. |

**Length of project:**

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| The three courses will run three times a week for 6 months. There are 10 people who are ready to start the courses as soon as there is funding, so the start date would depend on when the funding is granted. |

**Estimated Budget (in €)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Per Person** | **Per Month** | **Number of Months** | **Total** |
| Braille Course Teacher |  | €200 | 6 | €1200 |
| Course Coordinator |  | €100 | 6 | €600 |
| TIP – SoB Liaison |  | €100 | 6 | €600 |
| Braille Course | 2 | €240\* | 6 | €1440 |
| **Project Total** |  |  |  | €3840 |
| Global Giving (15%) |  |  |  | €576 |
| **Total** |  |  |  | €4616 |

\*€2 x 10 people x 12 sessions per month

**Photo Description**

The photos that you see were taken when the Society of the Blind were still offering Braille and Mobility courses. The photos were taken when children (aged 5 – 10) were learning braille and how to orient themselves. As you can notice in the photos, some of the instructors are blind themselves. In the photos, you can also see members of the leadership of the Society of the Blind in Gjakova.