

Shalom/UN-NGO Newsletter

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European Shalom Clubs by S. Margrit Hopfler



Europe has two new *Shalom* Clubs, one in Munich and one in Westphalia. Both were started after a student and a teacher from each school participated in the [UN's 51st Session of the Commission on the Status of Women](#) in February 2007.

The “*Shalom*-Club am [TGGaA](#)” (Munich) and the “PAX-an *Shalom*-Arbeitskreis am [Gymnasium Brede](#), (Brakel) were founded at the end of the 2006-07 school year and started operating in September 2007. Both clubs enjoyed the visit of the International *Shalom* Coordinator in November 2007. Then S. Roxanne Schares had discussions with club members about world issues. In a welcome ritual for the new clubs, she presented the group with a candle and each member with a medal of Mother Theresa and a white ribbon with the words “End Poverty Now!”

Whereas the Munich Club supports schools in Ghana and plans to support local and international institutions, the Club in Westphalia collects money for an SSND kindergarten in Romania and becomes involved in various efforts to promote the [Millennium Development Goals](#) and human rights, such as stopping girls from becoming child soldiers.



Today a big part of the world is covered by European *Shalom* Clubs: the *Shalom* Club in [Amberg](#), Bavaria supports the education of women in Honduras, El Salvador and in Afghanistan, and assists with projects of local and church charities as needed. The Magnificat Rehabilitation and Volunteer Center “*Shalom*” in [Nowy Sacz](#), Poland is very much involved in helping other youth in their town. At the same time they are committed to spreading the idea of mutual respect and tolerance as well as to sharing the richness of cultures and traditions in 34 countries that are on the geographical crossing (cities with the same latitude or longitude) with Nowy Sacz.

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