

Issue No. 1 Winter 2025

NEWSLETTER

Tiffany Circle

Celebrating Women's Philanthropy and the Power of Collective Giving

Message from the Founder



Dear Members and Friends,

As we present the first edition of our Tiffany Circle Switzerland Newsletter, I am filled with gratitude for the extraordinary women who make up our Tiffany Circle. Together, we continue to illuminate lives through generosity, compassion, and shared purpose.

Over the past four years, our collective efforts have supported Swiss Red Cross initiatives that support women and children in vulnerable communities — a powerful reminder that even the smallest act of kindness can ripple across borders.

As we look ahead to 2026, our vision remains clear: to empower, to inspire, and to give with impact.

With warm regards,

Dania Samawi

Swiss Red Cross International Ambassador

Founding Member Tiffany Circle Switzerland

Our Story

Our circle brings together women committed to giving back, supporting humanitarian action, and contributing to the global mission of the Red Cross.

We share a deep conviction: when we act together, our collective efforts create meaningful and lasting change.

We support national and international Red Cross projects chosen for their sustainability, their human impact, and their ability to strengthen autonomy and resilience. We believe that empowering women – especially by fostering independence and self-reliance – builds stronger and more resilient communities.

Each project we support is discussed, voted and if possible visited by our members. Through direct contact with beneficiaries and joint assessments with Red Cross teams, we gain a genuine sense of ownership and engagement.

We are also part of an international sisterhood founded in 2006. What began as a simple circle of women within the American Red Cross has grown into a global network of more than 1,600 members, all united by a shared belief in the power of compassion, collective giving, and a common mission to support the work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

According to the 2025 global Tiffany Circle statistics, our community now brings together women from Switzerland, the Netherlands, the United States, Australia, Canada, and West Africa. Together, this remarkable network has raised more than USD 455 million in support of humanitarian action.

As an international sisterhood, we exchange best practices, strengthen our shared mission, and come together every two years in Washington, D.C., for our International Summit – a powerful gathering that reaffirms our commitment to the Red Cross.

Our projects SYRIA

Livelihood Programme

We support hundreds of women on their journey toward economic self-reliance through small, income-generating activities.

Through the programme, they receive the resources they need to create and sell their own products in local markets, allowing them to sustain themselves and support their families with dignity.

Due to security constraints, our members follow the project remotely through regular virtual meetings with the local Swiss Red Cross delegate. Every four months, they assess progress, review needs, and adjust support to ensure continuous impact on the ground.



Our projects SWITZERLAND

Family Reunification

We support the crucial work of reconnecting families separated by war, displacement, and migration.

In close collaboration with the ICRC, the French, Greek, Italian Red Cross societies, and INTERPOL, these efforts ensure that loved ones can find one another again – with compassion, humanity, and dignity.



Our projects LAOS

Maternal and Adolescent Health

Since 2024, the Tiffany Circle Switzerland has supported Red Cross programmes in Laos that accompany mothers through pregnancy, childbirth, and early childcare.

The initiative also provides teenage girls with essential guidance on sexual health and informed life choices, helping them build safer and healthier futures.

Two of our members traveled to Laos to visit the project and witness its impact firsthand.



Our projects AMBULATORIUM

Swiss Red Cross Support Project

This ten week programme offers a safe space for women who have experienced trauma related to war and migration.

Each Monday, participants meet for two hours with a psychologist, followed by an activity led by two of our members. Through these shared moments, women reconnect, rebuild confidence, and find pathways toward healing.

Our members deeply cherish this direct contact, which allows them to witness resilience firsthand and to share moments of profound human connection.



Member Spotlight

On 30 August 2025, several of our members gathered with beneficiaries at the Jardin des Disparus in Meyrin, an event organised with the support of our member Carole Turincev.

The morning was warm and uplifting, filled with small bites, volleyball games, drawing sessions, and heartfelt conversations – offering a moment of relief from daily challenges.

A message from our members

Carole Turincev

"Sensitive to the distress of families searching for a loved one, I was motivated to help the Swiss Red Cross team in Bern organise the Jardin des Disparus event in Geneva.

I coordinated the event with the help of my eldest daughter, who is 28. It was a beautiful late Summer day – joyful, heartwarming, and welcoming.

Working directly with the Swiss Red Cross team was a privilege, and I appreciated their deep professionalism.

It was also a pleasure to share this experience with other Tiffany Circle members, some accompanied by their grown children – a touching moment of passing on our values as mothers.

I felt a great sense of humanity throughout this beautiful day, and it deepened my sense of belonging to the Tiffany Circle."

Member Spotlight

A message from our members

Dara Issa

"As a culinary instructor, recipe creator with more than 30,000 Instagram followers, and proud Tiffany Circle member, I was honored to share a cooking class for the remarkable women supported by the program.

What unfolded was more than a lesson. We cooked, shared stories, and created a space of connection, confidence and joy. Their resilience and warmth reminded me of the powerful impact we can make when women gather and support one another. I leave this experience humbled, inspired and committed to continuing this meaningful work."



Highlights

Washington Summit

Every two years, Tiffany Circle members from around the world gather to celebrate the impact of our global community of women leaders. The Summit offers an exceptional opportunity to connect, learn, and be inspired by the humanitarian values that unite us.

On 6 October 2023, founding member Dania Samawi represented the Swiss Tiffany Circle at the Summit held at the American Red Cross headquarters in Washington.

Photographed: Founding members Absa Kane (West Africa), Dorien Ter Haar (Netherlands), Dania Samawi (Switzerland), with Elaine Lyster, Chairwoman of the Tiffany Circle International Council.



Highlights

Geneva Forum · October 2024

Held in Geneva – the birthplace of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement – the forum brought together members from across the world for three days of learning, exchange, and celebration.

Participants attended panel discussions and speeches, enjoyed a gala dinner, and visited the Red Cross Museum, deepening their connection to the Movement's history.

A key moment was the intervention of Ruth Jebb, the Australian nurse awarded the Florence Nightingale Medal in 2017, who shared powerful reflections from her recent mission in Gaza.

Another highlight was the presidential panel, led by Kate Forbes, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, joined by women presidents of the UK, Turkish, Romanian, and Georgian Red Cross Societies.

A dedicated Tiffany Circle panel brought together members from Switzerland, the Netherlands, Australia, Canada, and West Africa to illustrate the transformative impact of volunteer engagement.



Our Circle in Action

Several of our members took part in the “Frauenlauf” in Bern and the Escalade in Geneva, embodying the spirit of solidarity, participation, and empowerment that defines our community.

At the “Frauenlauf”, our members – joined by friends and daughters – ran to support a cause close to their hearts, raising funds for the work of the Tiffany Circle and celebrating the joy of moving together for a purpose.

We also had the honour of marching in the Escalade alongside the Swiss Red Cross, with Nora Kronig Romero, Director General (CEO) of the Swiss Red Cross, present. It was a warm and uplifting moment of human connection shared among our members, their spouses, and their children – a reminder of the strength that comes from community.



Upcoming Events

22 January 2026 · 2 × Xmas Event

Each year during the Christmas season, generous donors across Switzerland send parcels to the Swiss Red Cross to support families who are struggling to make ends meet. Our members volunteer alongside SRC teams in Bern, helping to sort, organise, and redistribute the many donations received.

It is a meaningful, hands-on act of solidarity – a way to ensure that every parcel reaches the individuals and families who need it most.

May 2026 · Panel Lunch with Kate Forbes

We look forward to hosting a panel lunch with Kate Forbes, President of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies – and a proud USA Tiffany Circle member .

More details will be shared soon.

Call to Action

As we step into a new year of purpose and commitment, we invite each of you to continue engaging, participating, and lending your voice. Together, we amplify our impact – and together, we transform lives.

Thank you for being part of this remarkable sisterhood. Together, we continue to turn compassion into meaningful impact – in Switzerland and around the world.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our upcoming gatherings and to continuing this journey side by side.

For any questions, event registration, or further information, please feel free to contact:

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With warmest regards,

Dania Samawi

Founding Member, Tiffany Circle Switzerland

International Ambassador

Swiss Red Cross