



## HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

The NATO Charity Bazaar ASBL (NCB) was initially formed in 1967 as the NATO International Military Staff (IMS) Officer Wives Group. This Group was created to facilitate friendship and develop a *family* feeling within the IMS' international community. These women, dedicated to their cause, organized the first official bazaar two years later, and they brought unique items from their native countries, many homemade. This bazaar raised 24.586 Belgian Francs, which was all donated to the Save the Children Fund in London, England.

Over 35 years, the organization grew and on 26 April 2005, further solidified its legitimacy by becoming an officially registered ASBL (non-profit organization) with two objectives:

- To organize social events and activities with the aim of collecting funds to donate to charity, and
- To bring together the employees and family of NATO Headquarters to foster friendship within its international community.

Currently, the NCB is comprised of volunteers from 42 nations, with its members representing NATO Allies and *Partners for Peace* nations; an established board consisting of up to 20 positions; and the support and patronage of several key NATO officials – Secretary General, Deputy Secretary General, Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Deputy Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Director General of the NATO International Military Staff, and their spouses.

## FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

Over the years, the Bazaar has become a major social event for the whole NATO international community to include executive, administrative, political, and military personnel. It is NCB's largest annual event with over 5000 people in attendance each year and is typically held on the third Sunday of November in the NATO Headquarters building in Brussels, Belgium. The Bazaar comprises of national stands from NCB member nations, each selling their products and crafts. It also incorporates other activities including a Tombola (raffle), an International Restaurant, and performances (e.g., dances).

In addition to the annual Bazaar, the NCB raises funds through bake sales, arts and craft fairs, sponsors program, NCB cookbook sales, and *Small Change for a Big Change* (a program to collect change within the NCB nations' delegations). NCB member nations are also encourage to coordinate their own fundraising activities throughout the year such as the sale of items produced by their country (e.g., champagne, sortilege), tea parties, and painting classes.

## CHARITIES

Since its inception, the NCB raised over 3.5 million euro to support numerous Belgian and International charities. Currently, the NCB provides up to 10.000 euro to small non-profit charities that complete the application process and meet the requirements outlined in NCB's regulations. As part of NCB's tradition, the Belgian charities receive at least 35% (formerly 50%) of the annual proceeds as a 'thank you' gesture from all the NCB member nations to the NATO's host country. The remaining 65% is for charities that are based in the other 41 NCB member nations or a country where NATO is currently engaged.

*Table 1: Euros Distributed and Number of Charities Supported by NCB from 2007-2016*

Year	Amount Distributed to Charities	# Belgian Charities Supported	# International Charities Supported
2007	€ 155.986	10	11
2008	€ 166.596	13	14
2009	€ 177.229	14	15
2010	€ 189.192	12	16
2011	€ 184,738	11	17
2012	€ 188.000	8	18
2013	€ 190.844	6	17
2014	€ 202.640	10	17
2015	€ 212.626	7	22
2016	€ 213.879	6	20

Each year, the NCB strives to raise more funds to support the great work performed by the charities. Through all its fundraising efforts, the NCB serves to build friendships, embrace various cultures, and advance the important work of charities throughout the international community.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For more information about NCB, visit [www.natocharitybazaar.org](http://www.natocharitybazaar.org).