

## June 25, 2010 - Austria – The Don Bosco Refugee Center receives a civil award



**(ANS – Vienna)** – On June 15 there were celebrations at the Don Bosco Flüchtlingswerk Austria (Salesian Refugee Center): Margit Pollheimer, director of the Center, received the ORF-Greinecker Award for her work. For the last 23 years, the prestigious award has been given by the Österreichischer Rundfunk (ORF) (Austrian State TV) to people who have made a particularly distinctive contribution to solidarity and integration.

Mrs. Pollheimer thanked ORF for the award and the high profile this has given to Don Bosco Flüchtlingswerk and its work. She added that her work has always been supported by many volunteers who have worked with her in the Center and by the private donations of a good number of benefactors.

Present at the award ceremony were many of her relatives and friends and numerous representatives of the Salesian Family: Salesians, Salesian Sisters, young people from the Center and from Jugend Eine Welt, and in particular Fr. Rudolf Osanger, Austrian provincial, Sr. Maria Maxwald, FMA provincial, and Dr. Reinhard Heiserer, director of Jugend Eine Welt.

The president of the Flüchtlingswerk, Fr. Bernhard Vondrasek, remarked: "Margit is committed to the young people entrusted to her care and always very close to them. She has been working, constantly developing our projects with a great sense of responsibility and creativity."

The Don Bosco Refugee Center has been operating in Vienna since 2004 and looks after 15 young, unaccompanied refugees as they await the processing of their requests for asylum. During the last six years, 120 youngsters from various countries have found a welcome, protection, and support there.

Mrs. Pollheimer and the professional staff of the Center provide 24-hour care for the young people, helping them grow in human terms and receive an education. The Center is supported economically by the Salesians, the Salesian Sisters, and the Salesian NGO Jugend Eine Welt.

Margit Pollheimer was born in 1976 at Mödling, near Vienna. After leaving school she worked with the Salesians in Ecuador and Mexico in various Salesian centers for street children. This experience has served her well in her subsequent academic and professional career: education and integration in society are the two fundamental objectives in her work with young refugees.