

COMPASSIONATE CRUSADER

Sama Wareh

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ARTIST/ACTIVIST



Some perfectly laid plans must be discarded. Sometimes one must be led by the heart. Even a broken one.

Civil unrest in her family's homeland of Syria caused artist Sama Wareh, a cowboy-hat-wearing resident of Silverado Canyon, to forgo an exciting trip through Asia. Instead, she spent the long days and cold nights of November along the Turkey-Syrian border.

Unwilling to watch news of the violence without acting, Wareh flew to the war zone with \$8,000 from fundraising and art sales and two suitcases of medicine given to her by a friend.

She went – alone, with few contacts and no plan – to do what she could to help in the Syrian refugee camps. For three weeks, she sought and purchased blankets, heaters, diapers and milk, delivering the necessities on foot.

Not everything she provided could be bought. Wareh sat with the weary, frightened souls, holding their hands and listening to their stories. She cried with them to the tune of gunfire and sirens.

“The mission isn't accomplished,” says Wareh, who continues to raise money and awareness and has inspired friends to travel to Syria to continue her efforts.

Is Wareh courageous or crazy? For those she encountered, she was life-changing.

– JENELYN RUSSO