

SPOTLIGHT

www.handinhand.at

info@handinhand.at



We are
one family
Balashram Residential School



BALASHRAM
I have a dream

HEALTH PROJECTS
Our motto is to serve

YOUR DONATION COUNTS!

Fundraising for Hand in Hand in Europe

Various events took place for our projects in India, which were attended by donors, friends and people who were interested in the charitable activities



Austria

Dancing Group Schmelz of the Sport UNI Vienna made a donation to the 'Balashram Residential School'

Every year the Folklore Dancing Group organises a big **charity dance party** in favour of one humanitarian organisation. This year it was in favour of Hand in Hand. Young and old people were holding hands and joyfully dancing for the **Hand in Hand** Projects. With open hearts, lay musicians, dance teachers and organisers have invited, in May 2012, to a folklore dance chorus, and shared happy hours together.

On this occasion the **Hand in Hand** projects were presented together with a report on the school's positive influence on the children.

The entrance fees and the catering income cover all the expenses regarding teaching and board for two children at the school.



Germany

Children run for children

It is a joy to realise that young people are becoming more aware of the fact that in this global world, no human being can be really happy as long as there are other fellow beings on this planet who are lacking the basics. Inspired by this awareness, the Humanitarian Organisation AGEF (**Action for Peace and Progress**) organised a charity run. Almost 150 pupils of year 6 at the **Konrad-Adenauer-Gymnasium** in Westerburg, ran to three different arrival points and in this way obtained, with many small steps, a big success. The charity run collected 4350 Euros for Hand in Hand. During the run the children had to solve some riddles, which helped them to become more familiar with the work of Hand in Hand. An additional reward was handed out to the most successful class: free tickets for the Westerburg open air pool. So joy could be seen on all faces.



Germany

Magic moments for Hand in Hand

Europe's largest Varieté-Festival has supported the Hariharananda Balashram Residential School with a very effective public fundraising campaign. Over 150 modern artists, equilib-

brists, jugglers and clowns from all over the world, organised an additional performance at the public's request, for which they asked a 3 Euros ticket fee in favour of **Hand in Hand**. Under the slogan „we are all children of one world“ an additional call for donations was made during this family festival, which brought in even more contributions.

Dirk Denzer, the festival initiator, was very pleased to be able to show the cheerful visitors, on a projection screen, some images of the laughing Hariharananda Balashram pupils. He also informed the public about current Hand in Hand activities and the great help that donations can make.

He was even more pleased to be able to personally hand over a cheque of 4200 Euros to the representatives of Hand in Hand.



Paramahansa Prajnanananda and Peter van Breukelen with children at Balashram

Dear Friends!

When I'm on the school grounds, observing the satisfied faces of pupils and teachers, I feel a deep gratitude for what has been achieved here over the past nine years - thanks to your donations.

It is because of your financial support that we can help children to grow up in a secure environment whilst receiving an all-encompassing education

In this Spotlight edition we are reporting on how Hand in Hand can create a more dignified and decent life for many people in need.

- "We are a family", says Aradahana Mishra, a teacher from the Balashram School. She says that she imagines Balashram like a tree, extending its branches in order to provide shelter to desperate children's souls whilst embracing them with its divine touch.
- The story about Banita Nayak, the circumstances under which she was born after the floods and how she dreams today of becoming a dancer, touches our hearts very deeply.
- A new Health Centre will operate from next year in Jagatpur/Cuttack. In order to build the three-storey building that will offer free, professional and competent medical care to many poor people, **we do need your generous financial support.** More than 600,000 people have been given medical treatment in the Health Centres over the past ten years!

Thank you very much to all who have contributed with their donations, memberships and activities in strongly supporting Hand in Hand!

In the name of Hand in Hand

Peter van Breukelen (President)



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NEWS

Young helping hands

There is always a pleasant atmosphere when Manuel and Jan are in our office in Tattendorf on the occasion of the Newsletter and the Spotlight Magazine dispatch. They fold, put into envelopes and stamp with enthusiasm and drive. Both were overjoyed to have the opportunity to share this task with us, and have created a pleasant ambience with their joy and eagerness.



Manuel and Jan, two dedicated boys

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HAND IN HAND
Organisation for Humanitarian Aid
Austria, A-1120 Vienna, Pohlsgasse 10/4/7
A-2523 Tattendorf, Pottendorfer Str. 69
Phone: +43 650 7026050
Fax: +43 2253 80462
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Editorship: Nada Steinmann

Editorial staff: Annemarie Ackerl, Anneliese Mixan, Peter van Breukelen, Dr. Bhagavat Bal, Dr. Ratnakar Panda, Patrizia Brunelli, Linda Hawkings, Kathy Becker, Dr. Philipp Czaika, Dr. Ingrid Kohlmann, Kristin Mosch, Chandrakanta Mishra

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BALASHRAM



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We are one family

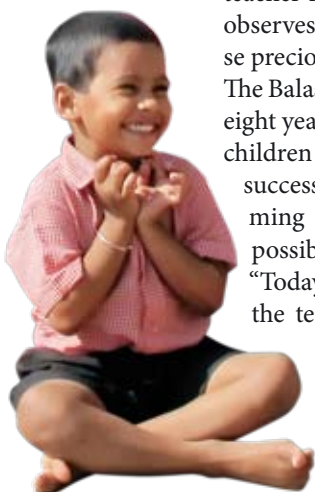
Aradhana Mishra, a teacher at Balashram, is very grateful that the school project is growing and evolving.

by Nada Steinmann

She is sitting in the garden and is observing how much the children are enjoying their play under the supervision of the tutors. In the bright sun teacher Aradhana listens to the children's laughter and observes their happy faces. She knows how to enjoy those precious moments.

The Balashram Residential School in India was launched eight years ago and Aradhana has been looking after the children since that time. She considers it to be a great success on how Balashram is providing children, coming from the poorest backgrounds, with the best possible education.

"Today Balashram presents itself in all its glory", says the teacher and she points out how the number of children has grown from 40 to 360. "For this reason the number of teachers and other staff had to increase as well", she says. "And the school itself needed to expand", she adds and proudly points to the new beautiful buildings.



Much evidence of joy

Tenderness as first experience

The living quarters include the kindergarten and both the girls' and boys' quarters. The

children feel at home here and they are lovingly looked after with motherly and fatherly care.

"We are the Balashram family", says Aradhana and she tells how she sometimes comforts the children wiping away their tears. At the same time she appears confident and competent when she needs to discipline them in order to facilitate and promote their independence. The pupils need to be active and take their lives into their own hands.

To learn whilst playing

They are taught how to stand on their own feet - that is the aim of the Balashram academic innovation. Great emphasis is put on letting the children learn whilst pla-

Everything considered it is a beautiful life to work here at Balashram [Aradhana Mishra](#)

ying and on leaving them enough time for sports, play, dance and music. Each and every child's talents are stimulated so as to enable them to find their way in this modern society. "Everything considered it is a beautiful life to work here at Balashram", says Aradhana Mishra and she tells us how she often sees the school project: "like a tree that expands its branches in order to provide shelter to the desperate children's souls, whilst embracing them with its divine touch". <



I have a dream

Banita Nayak was born in 1999, three weeks after the super cyclone in Odisha, which took the lives of thousands of people. Today at thirteen, her dream is to become a traditional Odissi dancer.

by Nada Steinmann

She is concentrated but appears at the same time relaxed and moves gracefully to the music rhythm - all by herself - making steps which are expressive and poetically beautiful. When she finally bows, everybody is applauding and Banita looks gratefully into the hall of the Balashram School where her mother Chabirani is sitting. Both are aware that the school, which admitted Banita in June 2004, is going to give her life a future with better prospects.

Saved by a tree branch

Life has not always been kind to the two of them. Living in the village of Kochila-Odisha, Chabirani was heavily pregnant when, in November 1999, thousands of people tried to save their lives from the flood waves caused by the hurricane. While the father of the unborn child was taken away by the waters, the 'mother-to-be' was able to hold onto a tree branch and escape death. Many more were able to save their lives by climbing onto trees. However the rain did not stop for 4 days and with a wind blowing 200km/h, many could not hold onto the trees anymore because they had weakened or had been bitten by snakes, and they fell into the waters. As if by a

miracle Chabirani survived.

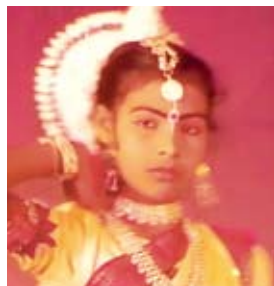
The story does not end here. Days later, after the hurricane had calmed down, the pregnant woman found her village completely destroyed. The flood waves had not only taken away all her possessions but her family as well.

Banita comes into the world

Chabirani had to flee to the neighbouring village Jhatipari, where she was taken in by relatives.

On 22 December she gave birth to a little girl. She was given the name Banita. The mother could not imagine a happy future for her daughter as she had neither a job nor money and was dependent upon other people. Therefore the bigger is the joy today that Banita is a pupil of class 7 of the Balashram School, learning Odissi dance with great success. In June 2004 Banita Nayak was selected for admission to Balashram while her mother is still living in Jhatipari in a house she built with the villagers' help.

"I have a dream", says 13 year old Banita, humbly. Everybody knows that when she grows up she would like to become a Odissi dancer. <



Balashram School offers Banita Nayak a future with better opportunities. This way her dream can become a reality.

HEALTHPROJECTS



Our motto is to serve

HCHC, the Hariharananda Charitable Health Centre organises not only ambulant treatments, but also regular Health Camps in villages and small cities, where no medical assistance of any sort is available.

by Dr. Bhagavat Bal

We conduct regular health camps in the city slums, called 'Basti', where there is no sanitation and no potable water. For the population in those areas, nutrition is poor and mostly limited to dry food. Cooked food is rarely available. Most of the population earn their meagre livelihood as day labourers and don't look after their personal hygiene that much. Men and women leave very early to go to work, where they stay till late, leaving little time for household matters. Due to the terrible living conditions, most of the children suffer from diarrhoea, a condition which increases also the mortality rate among babies. Therefore the mortality rate among babies is very high. The same condition is found in remote rural areas, where we conduct periodical health camps.

Monthly Health Camps

It is a difficult task to conduct these camps in the slum areas and in the remote rural areas because of the catastrophic working conditions. In most cases we do not have clean water, no electricity and the roads to those

places are dusty, stony and difficult to travel. We visit them once a month and always inform them of our arrival well in advance. That way, local people can support us by providing a small house where the treatments are going to take place. In order to coordinate all the work, regular meetings are held with the villagers.

Serving the people

We work at the camp from 8am until 2pm in order to allow the labourers and poor people to have access to the doctors and the medicines. Should we have people with more severe conditions, we recommend them to see one of our specialists at the HCHC Health Centre in Jagatpur. The most common ailments we are faced with at the camps are gastrointestinal and viral respiratory problems, coughs, skin conditions and advanced age-related problems like arthritis.

Our motto is to serve. Thanks to the free medical care we are providing, we give underprivileged people better health, thereby increasing their chances of working thus improving their overall quality of life. <



Dr. Bhagavat Bal, a retired Chief District medical Officer reports on his work and that of his colleagues.



1 Better professional medical care 2 Dr. Rathnakar Panda promotes health awareness 3 Swami Shuddhananda, President of Prajnana Mission, at the foundation stone ceremony 4 Patients appreciate and value the free medical service



A Beacon of hope

"I'm honoured to be part of this selfless project", says Dr. Ratnakar Panda, a retired Professor of Medicine, who reports on his work at the Health Centre which is sponsored by Hand in Hand, in Jagatpur/Cuttack.

For more than a decade the Hariharananda Charitable Health Centre (HCHC) has been offering free health care in Jagatpur and in the surrounding 10 km radius. About 80% of the population live in very basic socioeconomic conditions and would otherwise have no access to medical care. Due to their poverty and lack of education, people come for medical help only once their illness has already progressed so far as to become unbearable. These people are unable to afford even the cheapest medicines. Against this background the HCHC is a beacon of hope and joy for the population in this area.

Free health care

The HCHC at Jagatpur conducts outpatient services provided by general practitioners, surgeons, ENT-specialist and dentists on three days per week. The dental surgery takes place twice a month and patients receive the quite-costly medicines for free. The ambulance station at Jagatpur/Cuttack is, unfortunately, not suitable anymore to provide all the required medical care. On top of that, people are forced to wait and queue in the open. In view of the growing number of diseases to be treated, Prajnana Mission, who is actively supported by Hand in Hand, has decided to

place at the disposal of the needy people new and urgently needed diagnostic and treatment facilities. With the help of the Hand in Hand donations, the HCHC has, for this purpose, acquired a nearby large plot of land on which a three-storey building will be constructed.

The creation of a new Health Centre

On 24th October 2012 the foundation stone ceremony for the new Health Centre in Jagatpur was conducted in the presence of physicians and representatives of Hand in Hand, together with other guests of honour. As it is customary in India, the greeting messages were read out and a sacred fire ceremony was celebrated. The planned big Health Centre will be able to provide specialist doctors offering even more professional medical care to patients on six days a week. Good professional specialists are engaged for this purpose. All this is possible thanks to your donations, to all the doctors' voluntary work and, thanks to the support of the Prajnana Mission volunteers. <

The foundation stone celebrations of the new health centre occurred on 24 Oct 2012





Education and knowledge are the keys for the future
We want to help - please join in!

The 4th International Variete' Festival supports the Hariharananda Balashram School in Orissa, India - help that goes directly to the target



www.varietefestival.de

DANCING UNITES



One Drop can make the Difference

Please make that difference with just **1 Euro a day** for the Balashram children!

Give the children, from the poorest of circumstances, a new chance for their life.

With a **Class-Sponsorship of "35 Euro per month"**, you can give the children both financial support and a secure future.

Thank you!



More details can be found at
www.handinhand.at
 (sponsor a child)
 or secretary@handinhand.at

Since 2003 HAND IN HAND carries the Austrian Donation Certificate, which approves the lawful, legitimate and appropriate use of donations.

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