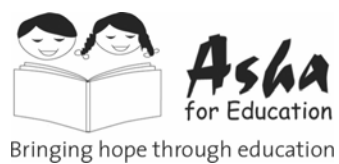


# Asha Zurich



## Annual Report 2005



**Asha Zurich**

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*From «Bildung für Entwicklung», a  
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*<http://indien.photoreport.net>*

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Pramod Prasanth

Gregory de Souza

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## Beyond 2005: A Time for Growth

As Asha Zurich begins its 5<sup>th</sup> year, I am pleased to say that the new Committee for the year 2006-07 will take over an organisation that has reached a state of financial stability and retained its ability to be a reliable – but ever-critical – funding source for educational projects in India.



The year 2005 witnessed the continuation of our *Notes of Hope* series of Indian classical music concerts, with a magical performance by Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma and his son Rahul Sharma at the Volkshaus Zurich. It also saw the beginning of a closer relationship with the Indian Association Zurich (IAZ), a relationship that has subsequently grown stronger, to the benefit of both our organisations. I would at this point like to thank the IAZ Committee for its support.

Looking forward, Asha Zurich's focus must be the most effective possible implementation of its funding resources. Our stable financial position gives us the opportunity to review new projects and commit ourselves to the support of further deserving programmes in India. This intensive process requires the dedication of a number of volunteers, and Asha Zurich must make efforts to strengthen its volunteer base, from among the increased influx of Indian students to Switzerland as well as in the local Swiss community. Necessarily, this goes hand in hand with the projection of Asha Zurich's achievements and goals to a wider public and improving the 'brand recognition' of our organisation.

To all of those who have supported Asha Zurich with their time and donations I would like to extend my most grateful thanks. With your continued support, we hope to continue our growth in the coming years.

Gregory de Souza  
*President*

## 2005: A Retrospective

### Notes of Hope 2005

Continuing the tradition of the *Notes of Hope* (NoH) concert series, Asha Zurich organised its second NoH after a break of one year on 28<sup>th</sup> May 2005. The artists, Pandit Shiv Kumar Sharma and his son Rahul Sharma, performed on the *santoor* for the Zurich audience. The event was organised at Volkshaus with an audience capacity of 600 and started at 6 pm with an introduction to Asha Zurich and the artists. Although the number of attendees (approximately 320) was less than expected, the artists played for about 3 hours, with a break of half an hour. Volunteers of Asha Zurich enthusiastically participated in this event. However, it should be mentioned that compared to the efforts and time put in by the volunteers, the monetary benefits from this event were marginal. The event was a learning lesson for Asha Zurich in terms of organising concerts on a big scale.

### General Body Meeting (GBM)

The fourth General Body Meeting was held on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> July 2005 at the ETH main building. About 25 volunteers and well-wishers of Asha Zurich attended the meeting. After the introductory talk by outgoing president Santosh Ansumali and project reports from various project coordinators, elections were held to elect the new Executive Committee. Following is the list of people who were elected for the year 2005-2006.

President	Gregory de Souza
General Secretary	Vishweshwara Herle
Treasurer	Priyanka Belawat
Project Coordinator	Vikas Mittal
Project Coordinator	Baiju John
Editors	Bikram Duggal and Srinjoy Mitra

### Zurich International School and Asha Zurich

In June 2005, Molli Kleeman and Akriti Rehani (aged 12 and 11 respectively) from the Zurich International School in Horgen donated CHF 480 to Asha Zurich, a sum they were able to collect through the sale of wristbands from [makepovertyhistory.org](http://makepovertyhistory.org), a member of the Global Campaign Against Poverty.

### **Baden sports event**

The Indian Association of Baden organised an inter-association sports event in Baden on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2005. This is an annual event at which Asha Zurich usually participates to meet people from many other organisations. This year, Asha Zurich participated in badminton, table tennis and carrom.

### **Indian event at Zurich Airport**

The Indian Association Zurich, along with Unicef, organised an Indian event at Zurich Airport on 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> August, 2005. Asha Zurich participated by having an information desk at the event. Many people talked with our volunteers to get to know about Asha and its activities.

### **Photo Exhibition**

From mid-September to mid-October 2005, André Urech and Elia Marinucci, two Swiss students, visited India to document and photograph our ongoing projects. Their photos were exhibited in Baden and Brugg during the months of February and March 2006. Many visitors visited these exhibitions, which spanned a period of more than four weeks. As a



part of this, Asha Zurich organised a number of small events: a disco, a classical music concert and a presentation about Asha. A similar photo exhibition will be organised in Zurich at the Restaurant Seehof from 2<sup>nd</sup> July to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2006.

Through all these events and ties with other organisations, Asha Zurich is steadily reaching a small and dedicated community of like-minded people within Switzerland. Founded in 2002, Asha Zurich will celebrate its 5<sup>th</sup> birthday next year and with the help of all our well-wishers we hope to keep working towards the cause of providing underprivileged children in India with education.

Vishweshwara Herle  
*General Secretary*

## Project Update: Akshardeep

*Pune, Maharashtra*



*Akshardeep* is an alternative, non-formal school programme initiated by the non-governmental organisation *Swadhar* in the slum areas of Pune. The programme targets the children of migrant labourers, most of whom cannot speak the regional language and are thus unable to enter regular government schools.

Asha Zurich has been sponsoring this project (which benefits 250 children) since 2004 and has recently decided to continue for a third year as well. In the last two years, 54 children from the 10 non-formal education centres have been admitted into regular schools. Out of these, 9 children have since dropped out for various reasons (because their family moved away in search of work, for example). *Swadhar* is monitoring the progress of the other 45 children. All the 10 classes supported by Asha Zurich are running smoothly with enthusiastic teachers who have participated in many different kinds of training programmes for new methods of teaching, spoken English and even early parenting, to help them better care for their charges. *Swadhar* motivates its teachers to enhance their educational qualifications by encouraging them to graduate and obtain a B.A. or M.A. degree. As every year, children and teachers celebrated many festivals as well as national holidays. Health check-ups for the children have been carried out for all classes and a detailed health record has been maintained. On the whole, the entire project is proceeding well and Asha Zurich is happy to continue funding *Swadhar*'s work.

Vishweshwara Herle  
*Project Coordinator, Akshardeep*



## Project Update: Parivaar

*Kolkata, West Bengal*

The *Parivaar Residential School and Resource Centre* was founded by Vinayak Lohani, an alumnus of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Kolkata. It seeks to provide shelter and education to destitute children – orphans, children of commercial sex workers, and street children. In 2005, Asha Zurich has financially supported 11 children (out of a total of 129 in September 2005) with a yearly contribution of ca. CHF 4,000.



2005 has been a year of expansion for *Parivaar*. A 2-acre plot of land at Bakhrahat, about 30 kilometres from Kolkata, was purchased at the end of 2004 with the aim of developing it into an *ashram* with a capacity of 500 children. As of September 2005, the following developments have been completed:

- 3 *Bal Sadans* (unit houses), each 1030 square feet in area, with a living hall, study hall, caretaker's rooms and sanitary facilities. Each *bal sadan* has a 'house mother' to care for the girls and younger boys, as well as a 'house brother' who is responsible for the older boys.
- *Annapurna Bhavan* (1825 sq. feet), kitchens and a dining facility for over 200 children.
- *Prathana o Sanskriti Bhavan*, a hall for prayer and cultural activities.
- *Arogya Bhavan*, with a sick bay and doctor's inspection room.

*Parivaar* aims at the admission of its children into mainstream formal schools, usually after a year-long Rapid Learning Course, vital for children who have had no formal educational experience. In 2005, 93 children obtained admission into local schools on basis of their performance in admission tests.

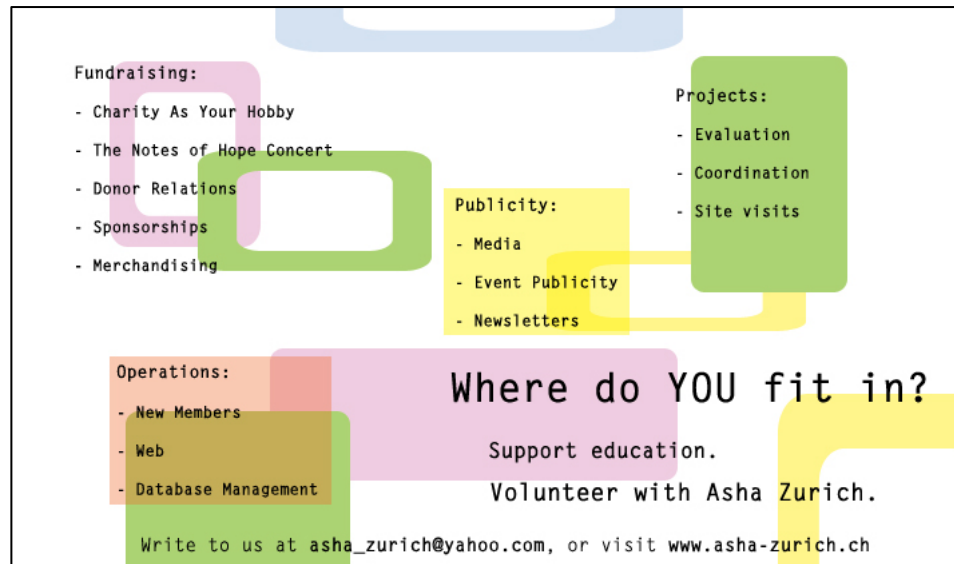
Children are provided with additional after-school help by *Parivaar* teachers in order to ensure their ability to cope with the requirements of the school, a strategy which appears to have been successful, since most new students have improved their academic results with every term, with a number of children reaching the top 5 of their class.



However, *Parivaar's* communication with Asha Zurich has been lax in the second half of 2005, after a very healthy initial regularity. Neither the required 5<sup>th</sup>-month report nor detailed financial information regarding the implementation of our financial support has been received. This lack of transparency and regular communication raises doubts regarding the future funding of *Parivaar*.

Vikas Mittal

*Project Coordinator, Parivaar*





## Project Update: Vishwa Mandal Sevashram

*Shirpur (Dhule), Maharashtra*

The *Shirpur Vishwa Mandal Sevashram (VMS)*, a Jesuit-supported non-missionary trust, runs an ambitious development programme in the hills of rural Maharashtra. With a network of over 25 learning centres in tribal villages of the region, VMS uses its educational foothold to draw the village community into small steps of self-development with programmes of organic farming, microwatershed development, credit groups and women's initiatives.



Vishwa Mandal Sevashram has been successful in taking education to first-generation learners and to an area where education is not being adequately addressed by the government. Additionally, VMS' educational programme is based on the premise that education must have direct applicability in the daily life of the learner. Classes at VMS learning centres are held in the children's mother tongue (unlike in government schools) and offer perspectives on dealing with natural resources, human rights, health, agriculture and women's



issues. The syllabus uses the formal system as a reference framework and includes – but is not limited to – literacy in the regional language (*Marathi*), general information, health topics, songs, stories and games. Children actively participate in tree planting, vegetable patch gardening and herbal learning. An emphasis is placed on picture-illustrated content in teaching

aids, in order to reduce the burden on learners from oral-traditional backgrounds.

The first year of Asha Zurich's involvement with the project has come to a close. A total of ca. INR 300,000 (ca. CHF 8,000) has been disbursed towards the running of the learning centres. According to the latest reports, the project is running smoothly and we will soon be evaluating the Annual Report from Dhule.

Our collaboration with Fr. Godfrey, the project coordinator in Dhule, has further been strengthened by André Urech and Elia Marinucci's visit as part of their photography project. They have given us an encouraging report of the work being done at Shirpur and it has been agreed that Asha Zurich will continue funding this project.

Chidambaram Narayanan

*Project Coordinator, Vishwa Mandal Sevashram*



boond boond pani हे झगर बंता है!  
(drops of water  
make a mighty ocean!)

a franc a day will help  
build schools for hundreds of  
children in India!

participate in  
CAYH  
charity as your hobby



[www.asha-zurich.ch/cayh](http://www.asha-zurich.ch/cayh)

CAYH - pledge a monthly contribution to help underprivileged children in India get basic education

## Financial Report

Asha Zurich started funding educational projects in the year 2003. Three projects were funded in 2005. The fund balance as on 31<sup>st</sup> December stood at CHF 30,113.71. In this report, the main features of financial transactions in the year 2005 are presented.

<b>Balance sheet for the year 2005 (CHF)</b>	
Opening Balance UBS A/c 1	12,570.28
Opening Balance UBS A/c 2	8,626.66
Receipts	56,951.92
Disbursements	48,035.15
Closing Balance UBS A/c 1	22,070.61
Closing Balance UBS A/c 2	8,043.10
<b>Fund Balance</b>	<b>30,113.71</b>

### Income

Donations from generous donors have always constituted a regular source of income for Asha Zurich. In the year 2005, these donations were a major source of income.

*Charity As Your Hobby* (CAYH) is a scheme that Asha Zurich started in the 2002. In this program, donors contribute a small fixed amount of money on a periodic (usually monthly) basis. This ensures a constant flow of income to Asha Zurich and allows it to plan projects in advance. A positive trend is seen in the second half of 2005, with the average monthly total increasing from CHF 590 to CHF 970.

Donations are usually one-time contributions. These donations also include contributions raised by individuals, clubs, schools etc. at their personal or social gatherings. The absolute amount received from these one-time donations has been increasing in the past four years. At times, the donors request their funds to be used for a particular kind of project. Asha Zurich helps them locate such projects in India and manages their projects with the

help of its pool of volunteers - for example, the tsunami relief projects and the Bastar project (to be executed in 2006).

'Other receipts' consist of the *Akshardeep* banking refund (CHF 3,878.00) due to insufficient account details and closing of the Asha Zurich's postal account (CHF 12,964.62).

<b>Receipts (CHF)</b>	
CAYH	9,356.00
One-time donations	13,234.90
Interest	47.75
Events (NoH, India Week)	14,600.65
Tsunami relief donations	2,870.00
Other receipts	16,842.62
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,951.92</b>

### Expenditure

Funds were disbursed to the supported projects in multiple instalments over the course of the year (the first instalment to *Parivaar* was transferred at the end of 2004). Tsunami relief donations were disbursed to the NGOs *GiveIndia* and *Dhan Foundation* as well as for supply of immediate rehabilitation materials. These materials (tents, roofing material etc) worth INR 25,000 (CHF 705.00) were sent to Andaman and Nicobar Islands in India. Dhan and GiveIndia were supported with sums of CHF 1,200 and CHF 6,100 respectively.

<b>Disbursements (CHF)</b>	
Projects	
Akshardeep	11,828.00
Vishwa Mandal Sevashram	8,600.00
Parivaar	2,000.00
Tsunami relief	8,005.00
Events (NoH, India Week)	17,297.55
Administrative expenses	304.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>48,035.15</b>

*Notes of Hope 2005:* The following list of transactions in 2005 does not cover all money movements made in regard to *Notes of Hope 2005*, since receipts and expenditure also occurred in 2004. Complete financial information for this event will be made available in separate documentation in due course.

<b>INCOME:</b>	
Ticket Sales	5600.65
Sponsorships	8,840.00
<b>EXPENDITURE:</b>	
Artists' fee	5,433.00
Artists' flight costs	4,846.00
Sound equipment	900.00
Venue & food stall	2,141.90
Printing costs	1,475.20
Others	422.60
<b>Total</b>	<b>-778.05</b>

Shyam Chikatamarla & Priyanka Belawat  
*Treasurers*

Numbers reported here correspond to the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2005. Periodic publications from Asha Zurich in the form of the newsletter *Zuriodhay* provide intermediate information regarding events organised and projects taken up by Asha.





## Making a difference is easier than you might think.

Whether in urban slums or remote villages, Asha Zurich supports the education of children from neglected sections of Indian society: tribal children as well as those of migrant labourers and commercial sex workers.

With a small sum of money every month, you can support our activities in a sustainable way as part of our '**Charity As Your Hobby**' programme.

And our **zero-overhead** structure means that 100% of your donation is received by those who are meant to benefit from it.

For more information, visit us at [www.asha-zurich.ch/cayh](http://www.asha-zurich.ch/cayh) or write to us at [asha\\_zurich@yahoo.com](mailto:asha_zurich@yahoo.com).



**Asha**  
for Education

Bringing hope through education

### **Contact Asha Zurich**

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[asha\\_zurich@yahoo.com](mailto:asha_zurich@yahoo.com)

### **Donate to Asha Zurich**

Bank:	UBS AG, Zurich
Organisation:	Asha Zurich
Address:	Höhenring 8, 8052 Zurich
Account Number:	206-259021.40Q

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I would like to:

- ☐ Become a member of Asha Zurich
- ☐ Volunteer time for Asha Zurich
- ☐ Visit Asha projects in India
- ☐ Donate to Asha
- ☐ Be informed about events organised by Asha Zurich
- ☐ \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

# Vol nteer

Asha Zurich needs yoU.

Donate your time and skills to support  
the education of underprivileged children.

Volunteer with Asha Zurich.

[www.asha-zurich.ch/volunteer](http://www.asha-zurich.ch/volunteer)

Affix  
required  
postage

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c/o Priyanka Belawat  
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