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Asha Zurich is a chapter of Asha for Education, a world- wide organisation that works dedicatedly to catalyze socio-economic change through the education of underprivileged children in India.

We have no paid staff, no office rent and hence very low overheads, typically covered through contributions from volunteers. This is a key factor that distinguishes us from many other organizations.

In 2014, Asha Zurich is sending more than 1,000 underprivileged children to school with an annual budget of more than CHF 35,000.

NEW PROJECT

In the October meeting, Asha Zurich decided to adopt a new project for underprivileged children. The school is currently under construction in Vadakkur village of Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu state.

When completed (see picture on the right), it will accommodate 500 children in 21 class rooms. Asha Zurich will start funding 30 children from June 2015.

The project is being managed by Ved Vignan Maha Vidyapeeth, www.artofliving.org/ved-vignan-maha-vidya-peeth, which is an NGO under the umbrella of the famous Art of Living Foundation.



UPCOMING EVENTS (NOV-DEC)

AN EVENING IN ZURICH

Asha Zurich is proud to be the philanthropic partner of "It's Showtime Entertainment", which brings to us a Bollywood show – An Evening in Zurich on 15. Nov. This musical evening will showcase Bollywood music, old and new and will feature renowned artists from popular music shows such as "Sa Re Ga Ma" and "Indian Idol" as well as local artists such as Feroza Simeon and Roy Alexander. More details can be found on www.itsshowtime.ch.

Asha Zurich will receive 10% of all tickets purchased through us, so please write to info@asha-zurich.ch to reserve your ticket.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2014

President: Pratyush (Prat) Das Kanungo
General Secretary: Deepika Sharma
Treasurer: Sachin Mehta
Project Co-ordinators: Umesh Ganoo, Samyuktha Muralidharan Sharma, Dipshikha Bannerjee, Namita Agrawal
Webmaster: Rajesh Varadarajan
Editor: Neera Mallick

A NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Asha patrons,

It gives me immense pleasure to present to you our third newsletter for 2014. In this quarter, we have successfully organized two fundraising events, a Bollywood Disco and our annual classical Indian music and dance concert, Spandan. The latter was attended this year by the Honourable Ambassador of India to Switzerland, Mr. M Lokesh. We would like to thank him profusely for his support.

Another achievement in this quarter is that Asha Zurich participated in Asha for Education's global fundraising initiative – Work An Hour for the first time. Additionally, we have adopted a new project and our volunteer Shantikumar has done the site visit of all five schools run by our project partner SACSAS Academy.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to our annual general body meeting on 24. January, 2015.

We sincerely thank you for being with us and hope that you will enjoy reading the newsletter.

Pratyush (Prat) Das Kanungo
President, Asha Zurich

GENERAL BODY MEETING 2015

Date: 24. January 2015

Time: 14:00-18:00

Venue: Gruppenraum, GZ Oerlikon, Gubelstr. 10, 8050 Zurich

FUNDRAISERS IN FIRST QUARTER, 2014

SPANDAN – NOTES OF HOPE



On 27. September, Asha Zurich organized its 5th annual fundraising concert of Indian classical music and dance – Spandan - Notes of Hope. This time we had a Bharatanatyam performance by Morag Pryde, followed by Indian classical vocals by Sayantani Dasgupta and Sarod recital by Somjit Dasgupta. The event which was also attended by the Ambassador of India to Switzerland, Mr. M. K. Lokesh was quite well received by an audience of about 80 people.

We are very grateful to our wonderful sponsors, donors and volunteers who made this happen. Along with the music and dance, the audience also enjoyed the delicious food served by Chat with Chaat.

Our sponsors: Chalet India, Agarwal Food, Chat with Chaat, Indo Kids, Yoga City, Mundial Restaurant, Malabar Restaurant and many private donors.

DHOOM MACHALE – BOLLYWOOD PARTY

After a gap of two years, Asha Zurich organized a Bollywood party that we named Dhoom Machale in the evening of 19. July. It took place at the Hey City Music Club in Zurich Oerlikon and was attended by around 120 people.

Stuti Aga and Veena Steiner from the Zurich based dance group Nachle (www.nachle.ch) gave a Bollywood dancing workshop and subsequently DJ Indro set the floor on fire with his Bollywood mixes.

Besides dance, the Henna stall by Asha volunteers, Shalmali and Samyuktha, was highly popular and so was the tasty Indian street-food offered by Kirti from her Chat with Chaat brand. The party was a big hit and Asha will organize it again in 2015.

OUR EDUCATIONAL PROJECTS

1. LOK BIRADARI PRAKALP

The project was started by Dr. Prakash and his wife Mandakini Amte in 1973 in Hemalkasa village of Maharashtra and Asha Zurich supports 100 children.



RECENT ACHIEVEMENTS

Work An Hour

Asha Zurich's project Lok Biradari Prakalp was one of the 11 projects selected for this year's Work An Hour fundraising program, <http://workanhour.ashanet.org>.

In this program, donors all over the world are urged to donate an hour of their salary to the selected projects. This was the first time that an Asha Zurich project was selected for the program. Till date it has raised USD 1,382.

The following activities were initiated in this quarter by the on-site coordinator Mr. Aniket and his team:

- A get-together of about 50 ex- senior students was planned in Pune to know about their progress, offer them help by providing knowledge and experience in areas such as personality development and technology.
- In addition to their regular cleaning program, LBP students and staff cleaned up the roads and the school campus to support the "Swach Bharat Abhiyan" launched by the Hon. Prime Minister on 2.October.
- Mr Aniket has also taken up another very good initiative. He intends to provide tablet computers in surrounding villages free of cost in order to make them aware of the latest technology and increase their inclination towards education. Additionally, one volunteer software engineer has been engaged at Hemalkasa to develop android based learning applications.

Last Site Visit: January, 2014 by Pratyush Das Kanungo

2. VISHWAMANDAL SEVASHRAM (VMS – PALAS SCHOOLS)

This project (Palas schools) supports the education of the children of the Bhil tribe in Dhule district (Maharashtra). Asha Zurich has been associated with the VMS project since 2005 and supports about 981 tribal children.

The funds sent, are spent in providing:

- Salaries of teachers, supervisors and on-site coordinators.
- Educational material for the students.

The students are subsequently transferred from non-formal to formal schools. According to government school records, so far 155 Palas students are admitted under the right to education (RTE) act from non-formal to formal schools.



3. SAVE CHILDREN SAVE SOCIETY (SACSAS)

The Save Children Save Society Academy (SACSAS Academy) is doing an excellent job by offering education to the children coming from the interior hilly areas of Manipur. The five schools in the villages namely New Dampi, Maovam, Wangoo, Loilamkot and Laishoi under the supervision of SACSAS Academy are giving primary education to local children with the support of Zurich and Houston chapters of Asha for Education.

Asha volunteer Mr. Shantikumar Ningthoujam visited those schools recently and shared with us the enthusiasm and happiness he witnessed in those kids. The children attend schools regularly despite the inconvenience of getting there due to poor road conditions. The dropout rate in the schools is as low as 4%. It gives us immense satisfaction to see the children keeping up the momentum imparted to them by the SACSAS schools. Six of the students went to public schools in towns like Sagang and Churchandur while most of the 2013 batch went to the nearby government schools after completing their studies from the SACSAS academy. Apart from their regular curriculum, the children also attended educational excursions during summer



Vol nteer

Asha Zürich needs yoU

The core of this organization is volunteerism. The incredible spirit of its selfless and dedicated volunteers and their friends has helped Asha to attain its goal.

What motivates someone to join Asha?

Let us hear it in the words of our secretary Deepika, the latest volunteer to join our "Asha Family", as we like to call it,

"Being a part of Asha for Education is an amazing experience for me as it gives me a platform to work as per my ability to support their mission. Knowing the fact that every single second of my time spent for Asha-Zurich will be helpful for an underprivileged child to get basic education, I always stay motivated to work as much as I can for this noble and humanitarian cause."

Want to join Asha?

Register yourself with us today at info@asha-zurich.ch.

GIVING TO ASHA

Asha Zurich team select educational projects for underprivileged children in India through a rigorous review process involving a site visit by a volunteer. Funds for the project are raised by direct donation and charity events.

Even small, regular donations count. Asha encourages its well-wishers to take part in the Charity As Your Hobby program.



With as little as CHF 20 per month, one can sponsor the monthly cost of education, food and accommodation of a child.

PLEASE MAKE A DONATION!

Bank	UBS Zurich
	In favor of Asha Zurich
Account Number	206-259021.40Q
IBAN	CH29 0020 6206 2590 2140 Q