



A world for Children



Leni Robert, President of the Pestalozzi Children's Village Foundation Council



To build a world for children

The tree has been planted – long may it grow and flourish!

2001 was an important year in the history of the Pestalozzi Children's Village Foundation. It was marked by a major event, namely placing its previously separate bodies – the Children's Village, the Central Secretariat in Zurich and the Foreign Aid Department in Fribourg – under the same roof. Their home is now the Children's Village in canton Appenzell, where it all began 50 years ago. Since 1 May 2001 all foundation activities – domestic and international programmes, fundraising, communications and administration – have been centralised.

This centralisation process undoubtedly required much time and effort, but the synergies it creates are invaluable. By con-

centrating its forces, the Foundation is now able to improve its commitment to help disadvantaged children and adolescents.

Thanks to Christoph Tanner, our first CEO, the entire procedure went like clockwork. It has been a stormy three years, but he managed to keep the good ship «Pestalozzi Children's Village Foundation» on course towards unified and integrated management structures, and effective strategic planning.

On the home stretch, Christoph Tanner handed the ropes to Markus Mader. The new CEO will be in charge of overseeing the daunting, yet exciting implementation of the Foundation Council strategy. Its objective is to focus the work of the Pestalozzi Children's Village Foundation on a comprehensive programme for disadvan-

tagged children and adolescents, in which education and living in an intercultural environment are central components. Our principle activity in the South is providing assistance with formal and informal basic education. In Southeast Europe we are essentially involved in peace education, interculturality and exchanges with Switzerland. In Switzerland and in the Village we offer our young residents education and training enriched by 50 years of know-how in intercultural living.

To symbolise our new start, we planted a linden tree in Trogen on 12 May 2001. Long may it grow and flourish!

Leni Robert
President of the Foundation Council

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Impressum

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No room for racism

Thanks to its family-like structures, the Pestalozzi Village enables foreign children and adolescents to integrate over time into Swiss society. Markus Mader, the new chief executive, thinks that the Foundation should reposition itself and its role in the Village.

Markus Mader, as outgoing municipal president, you told the residents of Eggersriet that the only constant is change. How open are you to change?

Markus Mader: I am very flexible and very open to change. However, this does not mean that everything must change from one day to the next. I prefer an evolution that is constant and continuous. It is important to move with the times, while retaining values which have proven worthwhile.

Your pragmatism has served you well over the past year. When you took over as CEO to the Pestalozzi Children's Village Foundation in mid 2001, the geographical centralisation process in Trogen was complete, the new strategy was waiting to be implemented, the programmes worldwide had been re-examined, with new ones developed and others closed. What experience from your municipal presidency do you bring to this restructuring process?

I not only draw on this experience, but also on my work abroad as an ICRC representative. It is important to be able to build relationships with people, regardless of who they are. I got to know people of all social levels, from different walks of life: children, farmers, poor families, high-ranking civil servants, soldiers, diplomats. This has stood me in good stead at the Children's Village.

Introducing Markus Mader

Markus Mader is committed to help children and adolescents professionally – and in his private life. Yeserash and Nanith from Ethiopia have been living with Wendy and Markus Mader in Eggersriet since June 2001. Before becoming CEO to the Pestalozzi Children's Village Foundation in August 2001, Markus Mader was active abroad. The ICRC sent him as its delegate to Sri Lanka, Peru and Pakistan/Afghanistan. He nonetheless kept in close touch with his community, and in 1995 was elected municipal president of Eggersriet on an independent ticket.

Markus Mader (born 1963) studied economics, law and social studies at the University of St. Gallen. Since 1998 he is president of the Cantonal Association of the Swiss Red Cross for St. Gallen. Yet, busy as he is, he still finds time to play football in his local club every week.

You are someone who likes to be on the move and likes to move things along. The Foundation strategy having been set, is there any room for your own ideas?

Unlike my work in Eggersriet, where the legal framework curtailed my scope, I feel the Foundation offers me considerable room.

50 years ago, the Children's Village in Trogen provided the children of Europe a safe haven after World War II. Today, the Village has no long-term foreign residents, yet the Village continues to exist. What is the current position of the Pestalozzi Children's Village Foundation?

I would like to establish a comprehensive programme for children and adolescents which focuses on education and living in an intercultural environment. In the South we particularly support formal and informal



Sometimes successful institutions find it difficult to break loose from their history. This is true of the Foundation.



basic education. In southeast Europe, we are essentially involved in peace education, interculturality and in exchanges with Switzerland. In Switzerland and in the Village we offer our young residents education and training enriched by 50 years of know-how in intercultural living.

In his call for the construction of the Children's Village, Walter Robert Corti in 1944 wrote, «Let's build a world for children to live in». The Foundation is actively involved in constructing such a world, and supports thousands of children and adolescents, yet very little is known in Switzerland about its work abroad.

Sometimes successful institutions find it difficult to break loose from their history. This is true of the Foundation. We have to increase awareness of our work abroad, while drawing attention to the global approach of our work in Switzerland and to

the constant transfer of knowledge and experience. Our programme leaders here and there learn from one another, and by actually visiting different projects. Once again, centralising the Foundation's activities in Trogen enables us to approach programmes, marketing, communications and funding from a global perspective. These synergies will allow us to cut costs.

In the countries of the South, the Pestalozzi Children's Village Foundation is committed to allowing children to grow up in their own family or in their own village. Yet the Children's Village is run along the same lines as a children's home. Is this not a contradiction?

In the countries of the South, our principal focus is education, not intercultural living. The opposite is true for Switzerland. Many other organisations provide education and training; our advantage is our intercultural

experience, making the Village a racism-free zone. The Children's Village with its family-like structures allow children and adolescents to integrate into Swiss society over time. This increases their chance of future success. Most children, who are permanent residents in the Village and attend school here, have lived in Switzerland before and have constant contact with their parents.

The Children's Village has very high structural costs.

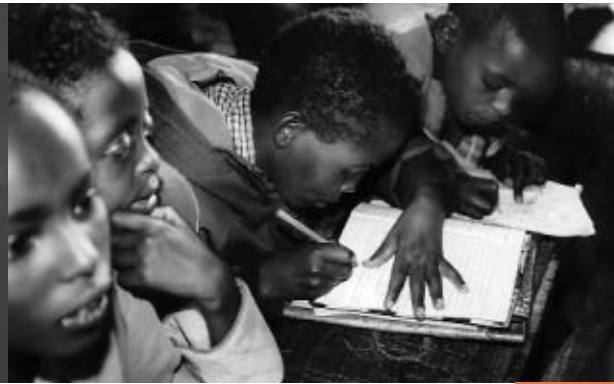
We are currently working on improving our cost-benefit ratio and trying to reduce the costs of managing the houses. The intercultural experience is the real added value which determines success and which we would like to fund from money donations. Our aim is also to offer our young residents other activities inside the Village and with

reliable partner organisations. This guarantees sustainability, and we will be able to reach even more children and adolescents by investing a minimum of additional resources.

Will the Village continue to have long-term young residents?

Living in family structures, which you can say has been a speciality of the Children's Village, is one of our key programmes. We shall continue to provide this service until 2008. Short-term stays are also one of our major activities. They enable children and adolescents from abroad to benefit from our experience, and allow for exchanges between them and Swiss children without uprooting them.

Interview: Dagmar Wurzbacher



Programmes abroad

In 2001, 181 840 children and adolescents benefited from the programmes of the Pestalozzi Children's Village Foundation. In 9 countries the Foundation backed formal and informal basic education and training, peace education, intercultural relations and exchange with Switzerland.

Horn of Africa

Informal schooling and backing traditional child care systems are the focus of the Foundations's activities in **Ethiopia** and **Zambia**. 16 508 children and adolescents followed informal or public schooling, or were trained for a job. Families were granted micro-credits to fund a small enterprise and improve their living conditions. 51 049 had access to better food and health care. All projects are based on traditional adoption and community support structures to render them more sustainable.

Through «traditional adoption», village communities (Idir) assume responsibility for children whose parents are no longer alive, or incapable of caring for them. The «Idirs» are social community structures where by people organized by kinship, friendship, geographical proximity, work or ethnic relation and whose objective is mutual social

and financial aid at the occasion of happiness or sorrow (mostly death) in the family. To day most of the Idirs (CBOs) are committed to involve in development initiatives. 52 children managed to find their parents, 135 were adopted.

In Zambia, our project reached 64 000 young people of all ages. We organised workshops on human rights and equal opportunities awareness, as well as more practical programmes on education and vocational training. 1200 young people learned a trade and set up an independent business. SKIP backed ten public schools with 3000 students. The Foundation closed down this programme at the end of 2001.

Programme directors: Jean-Jacques Bolanz (until the end of 2001), Amsale Mulugeta

Children and their world: Derartu, 11

«Derartu» means «runner». In fact, Derartu loves running and does so every day before school. Derartu's ambition is to become a professional runner like the famous Ethiopian athlete Haile Gebr Selassie. Or maybe a doctor like her father whom she does not know and who does not want to know her.

Derartu's mother comes from a village 20 kilometres outside Jimma in Ethiopia. She worked as a maid for a doctor's family. When she was 15, she was raped by the master of the house, and was sacked when her pregnancy began to show.

In the Ginjo orphanage in Jimma, the young girl gave birth to Derartu. Here she met Digitsy, a woman who took them both under her wing. This was a real stroke of luck, as Derartu's mother was to die five years later.

The Ginjo orphanage is now a school, which Derartu attends alongside 2000 other children. She is in fifth grade; her favourite subject is English. She also likes maths and geography, not forgetting running. Derartu has lived up to her name.



Central America

The programmes in **El Salvador, Guatemala and Peru** concentrate on education for working children and adolescents, opposing violence and youth unemployment, and trying to find children kidnapped during armed conflict. The Department of Usulután in El Salvador, in which we operate one of our programmes, was hardest hit by the earthquake in 2001. 45 working children and adolescents were able to follow special classes, and 380 families received support.

In two large cities, Chalatenango and Ilobasco, our partner organisations launched activities to keep children and adolescents from joining gangs. They reached 1650 young people. 80 of them have set up their own small company, or found a job. 15 went back to school. In Guatemala, 50 working minors attended an intensive programme enabling them to complete primary school.

By the end of 2001, the two organisations that search for children and adolescents in Guatemala and El Salvador treated 665 cases. Approximately half of these were closed, and 117 of these young people were reunited with their families. The project dealing with war trauma in Peru closed at the end of 2001. Today this organisation enjoys expert status and receives administrative support.

Programme directors: Mô Bleeker (until February 2001), Peter Lauchener, Peru: Christine Meier

Asia

Informal schooling and vocational training for children and adolescents, with the aim of integrating them in the public education system, is our main focus in **India, Bangladesh and Cambodia**. 6487 children followed informal classes organised independently by the municipalities. 3137 children transferred to the public school

system; they received backup and – in certain cases – remedial classes. 825 young people have found apprenticeship positions, or a job.

The Foundation stopped its activities in Bangladesh at the end of 2001.

Local savings and credit systems enable families to give their children schooling and vocational training, to feed them and give them medical assistance. Raising the population's and the government's awareness on such issues as human rights, slavery, education, training and health is another focus. 30 000 children and adolescents, and 40 000 adults took part in the activities of one of our partner organisations in India. 76 children were freed from slavery, and 25 child prostitutes lived in a protected residential project.

Programme directors: Françoise Genoud, Cambodia, Bangladesh: Peter Meienberger (until August 2001)

Southeast Europe

Our projects in **Romania** focus on caring for children and adolescents in orphanages and helping them integrate in society; 3339 young people benefited from these projects throughout the year. Qualified social education workers, trained jointly with Bucharest university, have been employed to work in the orphanages. Other specialists help young people integrate socially and professionally in communal housing projects and day centres, by providing them with practical assistance in making vocational choices and receiving relevant training.

Programme directors: Maria Vitagliano (until end of 2001), Roland Brunner



Projects in the Children's Village

In Switzerland too there are children and adolescents in need of assistance. The Foundation operates its own projects in the Village; in other locations, it co-operates with its partner organisations.

Educational projects

In the summer of 2001, three young people absolved their intercultural pre-vocational training before starting an apprenticeship. The «Brücke zum Beruf» (bridge to a job) project for young people was launched in October with a new concept. It offers foreign speaking adolescents the opportunity to complete their schooling and find a place in the job market.

Over 50 years' know-how and experience is transmitted by the Ongoing Education for Intercultural Living Unit (Fachstelle Weiterbildung für Interkulturelles Zusammen-

leben). It organises courses for students and teachers, schoolchildren (school project weeks), families and administrative partners. 496 persons have participated in this project since August 2001, 58 schoolchildren and their teachers took part in two school project weeks. By summer, seven children attended the German integration class in Trogen, 15 in Herisau.

Intercultural residential facilities

26 children from 12 countries lived in the Children's Village; they became acquainted with Swiss culture and acquired the skills they will need to determine their further life. Seven children prepared for transfer to the public school in the Children's Village own school, 11 attended the puppet theatre therapy classes on a regular basis. Three foster children lived with the Stadelmann family in Amden.

Mother-child projects

Sabia, the house for migrant mothers and their children, in the Village, dispensed 1820 days of care and counselled 14 persons. Violetta, the community housing project for migrant women in Zurich, dispensed 4222 days of care (2178 for mothers, 2044 for children). In these institutions, foreign women and their children find the peace they need to get their bearings in a new situation. In most cases this helps avoid having to place the child in a foster family.

Short-term projects

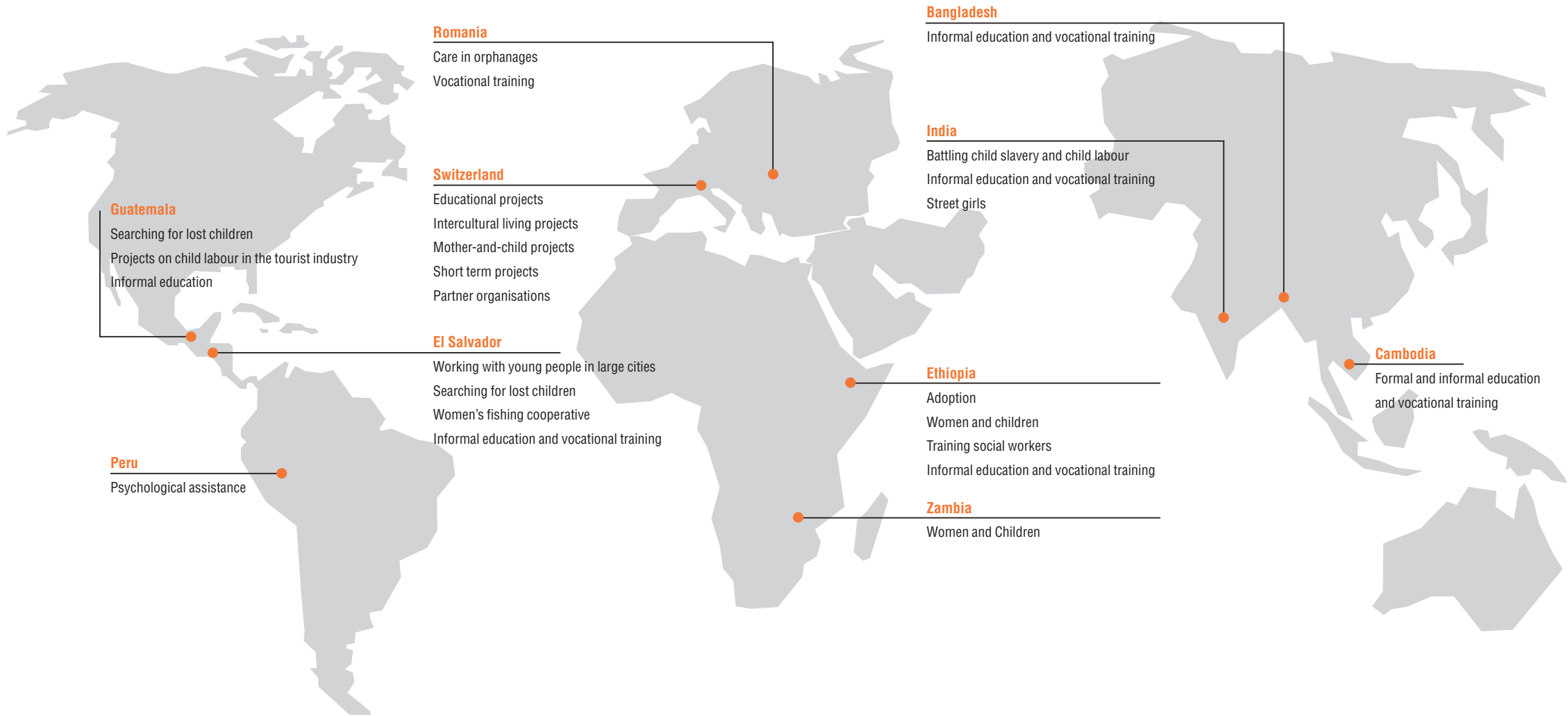
Short-term projects offer cultural, social and educational mediation aiming for active intercultural living of children and adolescents. These projects are operated with various partners. The relevant offers can be found under «Partner organisations».

Children and their world: Moses, 11

When we asked Moses what he would like for Christmas, he thought for a moment and whispered, «I'd like to stay in the Children's Village». This is not the kind of answer you would expect from an eleven-year-old, and not the kind of gift you can put under the Christmas tree. What is important to Moses is simply playing around with the others, building an igloo and taking part in domestic chores.

Moses comes from Kenya. His father is unknown; his mother left him with his grandmother and emigrated to Switzerland, where she married. At the age of seven, Moses arrived in Switzerland with his sister to live with his mother and stepfather. It is not clear what happened at home, but it cannot have been good as he refuses to discuss it. He had problems at school and there were complaints about his behaviour. In 1998 Moses was removed from his family. He was sent to various children's homes before arriving at the Children's Village.

He lives here with his sister, who will soon be eighteen, and four other children. His foster parents and their two children have had a very good influence on him. In the last two years, Moses has begun to let go.





Partner organisations



Partners in Switzerland

Young people from Croatia attend vocational traineeships in Switzerland to get a better start in professional life. Children from orphanages in the Chernobyl region come to the Pestalozzi Children's Village in Trogen to sing, laugh and play in a healthy environment.

In 2001, 281 children and adolescents and 141 adults from various countries came to the Village for short term stays. These stays present an excellent opportunity of living in an intercultural environment, and finding new ways of fostering tolerance, openness to dialogue, solidarity and respect for human beings and nature.

The Valentina communal housing project in Winterthur, and Katpakam, a centre for Tamil women and their children in Zurich (HEKS), are our partner organisations for mother-and-child projects. Women who

are currently going through an acute life crisis can live in Valentina for a limited period of time. For projects that accompany and counsel families we cooperate with the Villa YoYo project in St. Gallen, the Swiss Adoption Agency and the Swiss foster children charity. The Villa YoYo is a house in which children are free to put their ideas into practice. 3611 benefited from this institution in 2001. The YMCA, our partner organisation, aims to open similar Villa YoYos throughout the country.

Many projects are launched by deeply committed women and men with an extensive experience of helping disadvantaged children. That is why we co-operate with local partner organisations, not only in the developing countries, but also in Switzerland. We establish networks to incorporate this know-how at local level, and to back it financially. We also offer the Children's

Village as a meeting place for children and adolescents, and invite other organisations that work with children to set up their headquarters in the Children's Village.

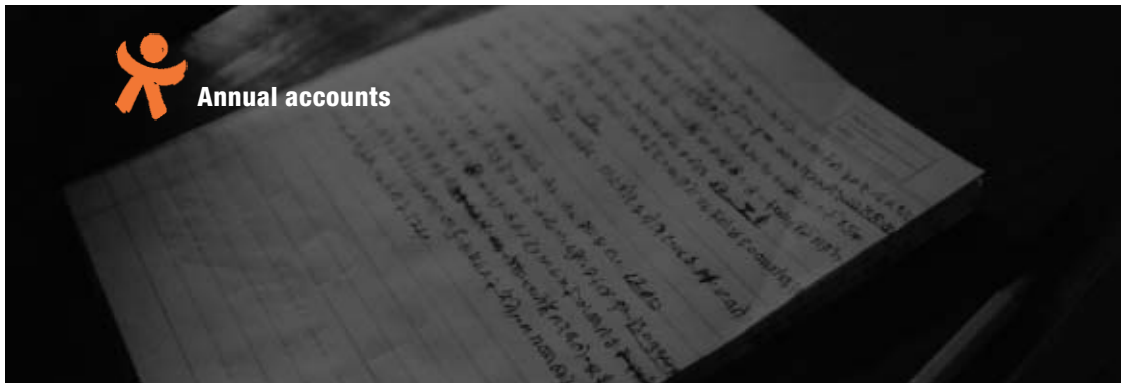
The first partner to move to the Village, in early July 2001, was the «mira» association. It specialises in the prevention of sexual abuse in sports and youth organisations, and music schools. Another newcomer was «rose», a socio-educational residential project for girls aged 10 to 18. Most of them have to deal with severe violence-related trauma.

Children and their world: Esubalew, 4

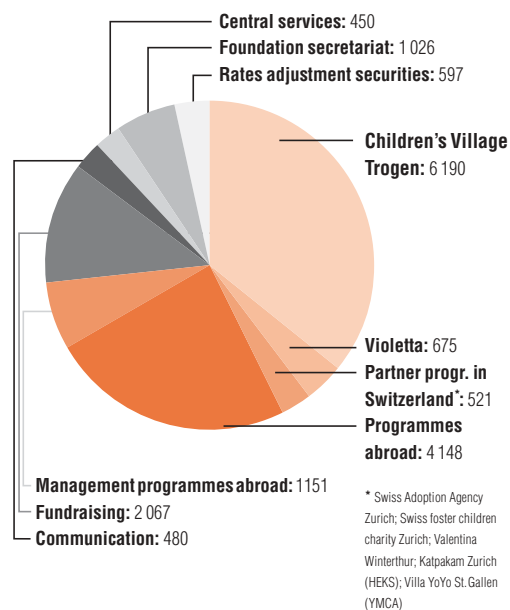
In April 2000, an ailing woman arrived at the hospital from Jimma, Ethiopia. No one knew where she came from or where she lived. Her small son, who was probably only two at the time, was huddled against her chest. The woman died while waiting to be seen by a doctor. It was some time before other patients noticed her lifeless body with her child still suckling at her breast.

The small boy was placed in a home and given the name «Esubalew», which means «God's Will». Esubalew was mistreated in his first foster family. He progressively withdrew into himself, and was unable to speak.

Thanks to the intervention of «Idir», the village community in his area, which looks after such cases, Esubalew found a new family. His new home offers him much needed safety and tranquillity. His eyes sparkle again and he can now say a few words. He has quite literally found his tongue.



Annual accounts for 2001



The annual accounts have been audited by PricewaterhouseCoopers and approved by the Foundation Council. The auditor's report and detailed annual accounts are available from us on request.

Expenditure (all figures in CHF 1000)

Children's Village Trogen	6 190
Violetta Zurich	675
Partner programmes in Switzerland*	521
Programmes abroad	4 148
– Southeastern Europe	479
– Horn of Africa	1 218
– Bangladesh	100
– India	485
– Cambodia	738
– Central America	799
– Peru	134
– Zambia	195
Total Programmes	11 534

Management programmes abroad 1 151

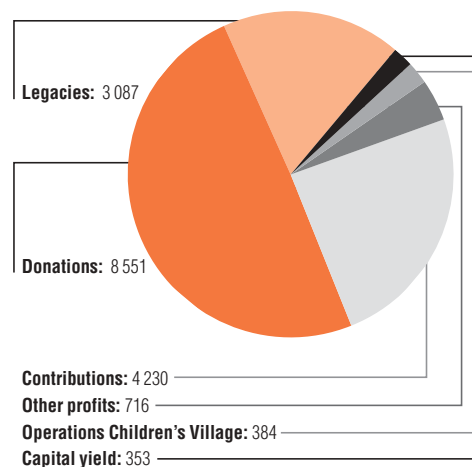
Fundraising	2 067
Communication	480
Central services	450
Foundation secretariat	1 026
Total Foundation services	4 023
Rates adjustment securities	597

Total expenditure 17 305

Annual results 16

Revenue

Legacies	3 087
Donations	8 551
Contributions	4 230
– from the SDC	1 745
– from Swiss Solidarity (Glückskette)	331
Capital yield	353
Operations Children's Village	384
Other profits	716
Total proceeds	17 321



Children and their world: Sharada, 14

Sharada is sitting cross-legged on the ground. She fiddles constantly with the hem and buttons of her dress. She is very shy and nervous. Sharada is fourteen, maybe fifteen, nobody knows for sure. She lives outside Mysore, in a house for street girls. Where she comes from is uncertain. When a member of our partner organisation, RLPH, spoke to her near the train station, she said, «I came on the train. It took three hours».

Since then, she has opened up little by little to the team in «Asha Bhavana», the girls' home. She has no father; she came to Mysore with her mother who works as a prostitute.

The next step for the project team is to find Sharada's mother and inform her of her daughter's circumstances. They will try to explain that the streets are no place for a child to live, and that Sharada should attend school as soon as possible.



Today 500 million children and adolescents are living below the poverty line. There are 100 million street children, and a further 100 million are forced to work illegally. 130 million children and adolescents have no access to education.

We should not turn a blind eye to their plight. The Foundation provides direct help where it is needed, in its Children's Village in Switzerland, as well as in various developing countries and in Southeast Europe. Our primary focus is education and vocational training, the building of

family structures, the provision of a healthy environment for children, and protecting them from exploitation and violence.

Thank you!

Every donation is important and welcome. It goes to help disadvantaged children and adolescents living in the Pestalozzi Children's Village, in various developing countries and in Southeast Europe.



The language of play

Süleyman runs. He's running down a narrow paved path that leads through the sports ground. When he comes to the icy parts he braces his legs and skates along. Luckily he's only eight years old – who else could avoid taking a spill under such circumstances?

Süleyman is on the way to the puppet theatre therapy workshop. Today he and his twin sister Merve will be making a hand puppet. When Süleyman enters the classroom Merve is not yet there. Dozen of puppets adorn the walls: princesses and devils, witches and clowns, crocodiles and snakes. Next to them are shelves bearing

many mysterious objects – a golden jewellery casket, an old wristwatch. The stage is decked out with fabric – green for a meadow, blue for a pond, white for a splendid castle. Someone has lit a candle, a fine aroma pervades the room.

Time to come alive

Süleyman's small hands knead the clay into the shape of a monkey, and Merve then paints its face. This is what children learn in the Pestalozzi Children's Village puppet theatre therapy workshop – puppet making. Kneading the warm clay, breathing one's wishes into it, letting it dry. Then adding colour, deciding whether the pup-



A day in the life of the Children's Village



pet should have tousled or straight, long or short hair, sewing clothes for their small artefacts. Like all creatures, a puppet too needs time to come alive.

Abdi from Somalia and Gullit from Angola also visit the workshop on a regular basis; time and time again, they enjoy playing with the puppets. Although they are older than Süleyman and Merve – 11 and 13-years – they too need to play and act childlike. In fact, it is often the older children who need to «catch up on things». Eleven youngsters come to the workshop regularly, some have been making puppets for several years. Other children attend the workshop while on a short stay in the Village. What they all share are some very hard experiences: deprivation, violence, flight, sexual abuse, street life, broken families, being torn between two cultures.

Finding a solution in oneself

In the puppet theatre therapy these children try to find solutions to their problems. Here they find a safe haven where they are listened to, and where their language – the language of children – is spoken. «I don't need to translate things to the children here», says Stine Polonius, therapist in the Children's Village. The puppet theatre makes use of the language of games and symbols, a language akin to our dreams. A story starts off with few props: a magic ball, a cage, a colourful flower. The props motivate the children, give them ideas, fire their imagination; they open the path to a form of therapy in which children feel comfortable and confident.

Maybe it is a conflict – difficulties with learning, sadness because of a mother's death, the transition from girl to woman; maybe it is the joy of living that sets off new ener-

gies. While playing children deal with their development processes, they try out new roles and pass on to the next stage. They process their experiences, and bring order into their world.

Afterwards, Stine Polonius returns to the subjects disclosed through the children's games, and reflects them in a fairytale. For example she creates a Tom Thumb like figure who, in spite of his diminutive size, survives all of life challenges and becomes a hero. A child that has experienced powerlessness due to war or flight can identify with this figure, and regain confidence.

There are other themes from the world of German fairytales, the «Bremen street musicians», for example. Rejected by all, they beat the robbers and build their own lives. Children who have been pushed around and displaced identify strongly with these

Children and their world: Gizachew, 6

In the hot summer sun, Gizachew and his friend Mandela, who is 4 years old, are having a race; running to the right of the haystack, climbing the hill to the next tree and back. They have no need for toys. With imagination alone, a dry piece of wood becomes a football. Perfect. Not quite. Their little stomachs are grumbling with hunger.

Gizachew's 10 year old sister does not have the time to play. With her mother Fikre and an older sister, she looks after two-year old Abdissa. He suffers from a serious eye illness. But the family has not enough money for food, let alone for medication and treatment.

Fikre and her four children have a difficult life. Fikre's husband was killed, and she has no other relatives who could support her. Now she has asked for a loan from our partner organisation, Facilitators for Change Ethiopia. She would like to try to set up a small retail business to provide for her family. That way Abdissa could receive treatment, and Gizachew and Wolela could attend school.



Children and their world: Patrick, 20

figures and find the courage to grow more independent.

The dolphin, the snake, and Pipi Longstocking are friends. The animals swim in the sea and find a magic crystal that gives them power. Pipi and the snake climb up a tree and into the sky, where they visit God. A small, invisible robber comes, the snake bites him, and everything is all right again. God gives the three friends the gift of music – they dance and swim together, and all are happy.

That's what confidence is about.

Dagmar Wurzbacher

Patrick is annoyed. He answered a maths question incorrectly. «It's a careless mistake», he says, «I apply myself 100%, but the result is only 65%. It's not good enough». Patrick shakes his head. He does not, or perhaps cannot, really understand the problem. The 20-year-old is finishing his pre-vocational year in the Children's Village. The aim is to strengthen resources, fill the gaps in the young person's schooling and offer work experience.

The first work experience Patrick had was in the Village kitchen, where he discovered his love of cooking. «Before, I had thought of training in the retail trade». Now, his mind is made up. He would like to find a position as an apprentice cook, «Preferably in a home or hospital». Why? «Because of the hours», he declares bluntly. He would be «stressed out» working every evening and weekend to 10 at night, not to mention the hectic atmosphere in a restaurant kitchen. It would be too much for him. Subject closed.



Pestalozzi  Children's Village Foundation

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The Pestalozzi Children's Village Foundation is recognised as a non-profit making organisation by ZEWO.

ZEWO awards its seal of approval to organisations which meet strict criteria, use donations carefully and which are subject to independent audits.