



Annual Report 2013/2014

After adjusting to the Indian charity year, this is the first club year that lasts from April 1st to March 31st.

Board Meetings

During the club year of 2013/14 the ARS board met for four board meetings. On April 4th, 2013 the General Assembly was held. The incumbent members of the board Lilian Suter, Annemarie Lehmann, Richi Häne (cashier), Lukas Raymann, and Peter Diener (president), were all re-elected. It should go without saying that all board members do their work free of charge and do not receive a salary.

Club Activity

A regular exchange on the status of all individual projects was maintained with Madhan Mohan, the Indian project manager. He himself visited Switzerland in August in order to inform current and potential sponsors about the projects in the Southern Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

ARS – together with AVS – organised two informative presentations in Zurich and Winterthur for that very reason.

Additional presentations were arranged by ARS board members in their respective residential towns of Beinwil, Bischofszell, and Winterthur.



Marlise Meier, who experienced the projects first-hand as a volunteer, organised yet another informative presentation with Madhan. In order to keep the projects running and guarantee their further development it is necessary to expand our list of sponsors. Hence, Marlise's effort is very appreciated and we would like to express our gratitude towards her.

Annemarie Lehmann has updated our webpage regularly and bilingually.

Peter Diener visited the projects on site in October, Annemarie Lehmann and Richi Häne did the same in December. They witnessed the exceptionality of the projects first hand and confirm that the donations are being employed in the most affective and sustainable way to help the locals who are in desperate need of support.

As always, all three board members paid the travel costs out of their own pockets since all donations must go completely towards the projects only.

Throughout the year, all sponsors and interested parties were informed twice about the current state of the projects by letter. The board is grateful for all the sponsors and gives thanks for their solidarity. The printer's shop Baldegger from Winterthur sponsored the printing of beautiful thank you cards, thank you!

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Projects in India

We have recently been able to start and maintain an evening school at Arunachala Village School (AVS) for children that come from the villages of Vedjapanur, Chinna Vedjapanur, and Selvapuram. At the request of the population, an evening school in Paliya Pattu as well as yet another in the city of Tiruvannamalai have been opened. All in all, the evening school project now spans six locations at which a total of 500 children receive support in their education.

In October, the Sarasvathi Children Village (SCV) celebrated its first year of existence. It has already become a much-noticed and respected institution in the region over the last year. At 37 children the maximal capacity of the SCV has already been reached. In order to enable the project's future expansion we have supported the acquisition of adjacent land. The choice to supply the SCV with electricity through solar cells is future-oriented and progressive. For this reason, Madhan has been invited to share his thoughts and experience in front of large expert committees on several occasions.

In order to provide sufficient means of transport to school and back for the 19 older children of SCV, a small school bus was bought whose acquisition was made possible by the generous support of a Swiss foundation.



We have started to support adolescents with their secondary school education as well. Currently, 17 students enjoy these benefits.

The Mobile Library has finally become a reality and was inaugurated in December with a festive celebration in the presence of Annemarie Lehman and Richi Häne.

What had started with the donation of books and an improvised system of circulation three years ago was brought to a terrific ending owing to the experiences made during the probation phase. On the chassis of a Tata AC a small, well thought-out library bus was raised with which even children and adolescents from other projects can effectively be supplied with reading material.



At this point, we would like to express our deep gratitude toward the corporation of Kulsen & Hennig for their generous support in establishing this project.

Unfortunately, we have had to cut the medical assistance in the Jawadhu Hills to two days per week. The main problem is finding a physician who is willing to work in this remote area that lacks even basic infrastructure.

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Preview:

- We intend to provide medical assistance to the people living in the Jawadhu Hills on five days per week once again.
- An additional sleeping hall is being planned for the SCV. It should be completed by December 2014 and allow 12 more kids to join the village.
- The support of adolescents will be expanded.
- A new and pictured informational brochure will be made and attached to the letter you will receive in November.

Winterthur, 10.5.2014 Peter Diener (Präsident ARS)