

## Annual Report 2016/2017

### Board Meetings

The ARS board met four times during the 2016/2017 charity year. The general assembly took place on April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2016. All incumbent board members were reelected and continue to work diligently and without compensation for ARS. The current board includes Annemarie Lehmann, Lilian Suter, Lukas Raymann, Silvan Diener, Richi Häne (cashier), and Peter Diener (president).

### Activities

In place of a simple new brochure we were able to produce an extensive, beautifully illustrated booklet documenting all the projects and developments in India. The idea was brought to us by Andreas Baldegger whose printing company generously sponsored the booklet. Emily Eibs, a design student from the USA, worked Regina Jäger's photographs and Silvan Diener's descriptions together into a wonderful brochure. We greatly appreciate their efforts.



We were able to produce a calendar for the second time last December. Due to the CHF 30.- per piece that could be used for the projects we were able to cover 20% of ARS' annual budget with the profits from the calendar sale.

We received 12 used but fully operational laptops from the Zurich based charity *Labdoo*. They had sanitized the computers and set them up with diverse educational software. Six of the laptops are already helping children in India acquire important digital skills. The remaining six will be put to work as quickly as possible.

Everyone interested in our work received two updates by mail last year. We would like to thank our sponsors for their continuous support.

Over the last year, ARS maintained consistent communication and exchange of information with Madhan Mohan, the project manager in India.

In January 2017, Peter Diener and Eva Völkle had the chance to visit the projects in India and witness once more the great passion and care with which the projects are being lead. They had the opportunity of meeting personally some of the students whose higher education is sponsored by ARS. The dedication to their studies and their gratitude was inspiring. As always, the travel expenses were covered privately. All donations must be used in its entirety for the benefit of the projects alone.



## Projects in India

All projects continued and optimized their operation this year. In January 2017, the Regenboog India Foundation celebrated its tenth year of existence throughout which they unyieldingly worked to improve the lives of people around them.



The Mobile Library rotated more than 11,000 books by February 2017. This very successful project continues to grow. It is our goal to serve even more schools in the future.

The oldest “girls” in the children village are now 21 years old. We are looking for ways to enable these young women to gain independence from the project in a manner that is safe and sustainable for their future.

It remains a challenge for Madhan to find qualified personnel willing to work for a charity in the countryside. Usually, educated professionals prefer to move to more developed cities.

## Preview

- The jeep used by Regenboog to bring medical assistance to the remote Jawadhu Hills is becoming old and unreliable. To avoid costly repairs and maintain steady service to the people in the hills it will have to be replaced.
- The vehicle of the Mobile Library must be renewed for the same reasons.
- The ARS website will receive a new face and be updated to today’s standards.

Winterthur, April 10<sup>th</sup> 2017

Peter Diener, President of ARS