

Enfants des Etoiles

Une école pour enfants
avec autisme & trisomie 21

à Varanasi (Inde)



OU *Zaaro ke Bacche*

तारों के बच्चे



Newsletter - March 2019

News from the Association in Geneva

During the winter of 2018-2019, the association kept up the good work in the absence of Marie-Françoise.

Alexandra Dupraz our treasurer has finalised the accounts for the last quarter of 2018. She wishes to resign from her post in the committee, which she has been holding for two years. We are looking for someone to replace Mrs. Dupraz to whom we are most grateful for all the work she has done.

Joseph Hayoz has taken over the administrative tasks of the association.



Via this newsletter we would like to invite any newcomers willing to give some of their time and get involved with the committee of the association.

Although we do not have any more information yet, we are planning to organise a fundraising concert in the autumn of 2019.



Anjel, Krish and Nishant are ready to go home

We extend our sincere gratitude to **Mrs. Solange Demole of the Albatros Foundation** who made a donation of CHF 15000, **the Municipality of Dardagny** for a donation of CHF 1000, **the Municipality of Choulex** for a donation of CHF 2000, **the Gertrude Hirzel Foundation** for a donation of CHF 6000, and **all our monthly donors.**

Funding requests have been submitted to the municipalities of Genthod, Russin and Meyrin.

We also thank all those who assist us with fundraising work by contacting potential donors on our behalf or by helping us preparing funding requests, especially **Patricia Bell, Ena Singh, Jhilmil Ball** and **Corinne Grand**.

The search for public or private donors is also an important part of Marie-Françoise's work when she is in Geneva. All suggestions for new contacts would be most welcome. We must absolutely expand our donor network in order to meet our budget for 2019-2020.

We have already mentioned our hope to acquire FCRA status (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act). We now have the certificate, and the last thing we need for the bank account to be operational is an agreement between our Swiss association and the Indian association representing Taaro ke Bacche India. We hope this will be completed very soon.



Angel is cuddling her doll

The date of our next AGM is set for Wednesday 1 May 2019 at 20:00.

Life at the school in Varanasi



Arush

In November we welcomed **Arush**, a new child from Delhi who has a severe condition of autism and who had been placed with his uncle in Varanasi. Sadly his situation deteriorated and he has had to return to Delhi.

Work continues with our two groups of children: the early intervention programme for **our young children** with their mothers and families, and **our older children** who are making significant progress with regards to behaviour, social openness and even verbal expression.

Significant events:

Last November, we organised a workshop run by the Indian Clinical Psychologist Researcher Prof. Ratan Singh. The topic was "**The Relationship between Nutrition and Autism - ADHD**" (attention deficit disorders with or without hyperactivity), which he approached from a biological perspective.

With over 20 years of experience, Prof. Ratan Singh runs a consultation service. The core of his research is that allergies caused by the consumption of gluten,

sugar and casein could also be partly responsible for behavioural disorders in autistic children.

The workshop was mainly open to parents and professionals of Taaro ke Bacche and Deva Centre (whose founder Dr. Tulsi opened the first centre for children with disabilities in Varanasi in 1991), but anyone interested was welcome to come along as well. Following the seminar, which was widely attended, we decided to continue our work with children with autism and ADHD by organising meetings with parents who are interested in starting a diet programme for their children at home. This programme will also be supervised by Prof. Singh.

In February we had a visit from the founder of [Pink Maharani](#), Narmada Ramakrishna, and her team. All of them were enthusiastic about our project. Narmada is a person of Indian origin living in Geneva. We parted with the firm intention of meeting again in Geneva in May to discuss possible support and collaboration.



AUTISM AWARENESS CONCERT
स्वलीनता जागरकता संगीत समारोह

VIOLIN
Pt. Sukhdev Prasad Mishra & Vio Meena Soni (Varanasi & France)
Tabla by Pt. Kishore Mishra

KATHAK DANCE
Monalisa Roy (Lucknow)

& an exhibition of drawings and paintings by children with autism

CATJEE, Raman Niwas, Mahmoorganj Road, Near Akashvani, Mahmoorganj, Varanasi
Sunday 17 March 2019 at 4pm ~ free entry
Information: 9473971667 (English)/9839976757 (हिंदी)

Organisation: Taaro ke Bacche, Shipur, Varanasi - www.taarokebacche.com

On 17 March we organised a **concert to raise awareness about autism, with renowned Indian musicians from Varanasi and Lucknow** - Pandit Sukhdev Prasad Mishra (violin), his brother Pandit Kishore Mishra (tabla) and Kathak dancer Monalisa Roy. It was a great success but for Marie-Françoise a tough learning experience. In India, every cultural and even sporting event takes on such a ritualised and spiritual dimension that it is sometimes difficult to know exactly how to proceed.



At the concert we also held a small exhibition of colourings and paintings made by our children.

This year, we are celebrating **World Autism Awareness Day (2 April)** by taking the children on a trip to a city park.

A few more pictures of our life in Varanasi



Our websites:
www.enfantsdesetoiles.org
www.taarokebacche.com