

Taaro ke Bacche

A school for children
with autism & Down's syndrome

Children of the stars

तारों के बच्चे



in Varanasi (India)



Newsletter - November 2019

News from the Association in Geneva

After Marie-Françoise's return to Geneva in mid-April 2019, the association held its Annual General Meeting on 1 May 2019.

The following decisions were approved:

- to put in place a system of membership fees with a basic fee of 30 Swiss francs and a solidarity fee of 50 Swiss francs;
- henceforth the accounting of expenses in India will be done on site and then sent to the auditors at Comptabilis, the Geneva social and solidarity accountancy organisation;
- for reasons of registration of the project in Varanasi, the school will be known in India as the "Taaro ke Bacche Rehabilitation Centre";
- to submit funding requests to all Geneva municipalities, either spontaneously or by completing the official application forms. Mrs. Corinne Grand took on this task and has handled it enthusiastically.



Krish

At the Annual General Meeting, it transpired that there was an urgent need to establish a stronger committee and increase the membership. Hence, three people took the initiative to organize a meeting on September 19, to which anyone interested in becoming a new member of the committee was invited. This was very encouraging for Marie-Françoise, because three of the persons who attended were of Indian origin and expressed their interest in getting involved.

During the summer Marie-Françoise was keen to maintain contact with our generous donors. To date, these donors are: Mrs. Rashika Uplekar, and the municipalities of Thônex, Troinex and Veyrier. We are awaiting more replies.

This year the association participated in two fundraising events: "The Meal" in Plainpalais, Geneva on September 21, and a concert hosted by the Indian Community of Geneva in Chambésy on October 19.

We thank all our generous donors, both private and public, as well as all those who have helped us in one way or another.

Life at the school in Varanasi

Marie-Françoise returned to Varanasi for 2 weeks during the summer to spend time with the team and to settle some administrative matters, before returning to Geneva.

On her return to Varanasi on October 23 she was happy to note that all was well, thanks to our highly efficient administrator Mr. Sanjay Albert.



Marie-Françoise's return - 24/10



Marie-Françoise, Nishu and Angel

Currently we have a group of **7 children aged between 7 and 13**.

For reasons of family and transport problems, the group of little ones aged 3 to 6 has been suspended until we can improve the existing infrastructure, especially for transport and weekly attendance.

The Early Intervention Programme is very dear to Marie-Françoise's heart. In July Marie-Françoise met a member of "Genève Ville Solidaire" a Geneva association funding aid organisations. He

encouraged her to submit a request for financial support for 2 years to the City of Geneva for this programme. Early intervention is essential; children who are adequately stimulated at an early age have better prospects for development and social integration.

We have received **4 new applications**, 2 for the middle group and 2 for the group of very young children. Marie-Françoise is currently meeting with the families, assessing the children and their families, and discussing practical arrangements.

Marie-Françoise has already put in motion steps to start a project, planned for October 2020, called "Vocational Training - Creation of a Gluten- and Casein-free Bakery" which will include an area for preparing and a space for sale of these products. She has met two people with relevant professional experience, (one of whom is a friend of a member of our Swiss committee).



Early Intervention Programme : Om

Special Events

As elections were in full swing in Varanasi on April 2, World Autism Awareness Day, no major demonstrations were permitted to take place. This is why, unlike in 2018, we celebrated the day more quietly. We went on an outing with children, parents and staff to Nehru Park, to which we invited our friend Linda and a group of street kids and young people who frequent her NGO, Varanasi Welfare Foundation, to join us. After playing in the park, the children took part in a drawing activity with the help of the adults, and then enjoyed a picnic.



2 April 2019, Nehru Park

For 2020 we are already planning to organise the day of 2 April as we did in 2018, and to invite other centres for children with special needs to join us.

In this period leading up to winter, our children also participated in a sporting event locally called the "Special Olympics Bharat" on November 8. Marie-Françoise was welcomed, together with other political guests, and thanked for her work by an official of the department in Varanasi responsible for integration of people with disabilities into Indian society. AT LAST!!! Not for the



« Special Olympics Bharat »

thanks, but for the efforts of the Indian government in favour of people with special needs! This event also encourages Marie-Françoise to look for funding within India, initially from individuals and various clubs...

A few more pictures of our life in Varanasi



Marie-Françoise's return, 24/11



Krish



2 April 2019



2 April 2019



« Special Olympics Bharat »



« Special Olympics Bharat »

Our websites:

www.enfantsdesetoiles.ch

www.taarokebacche.in