



Dear Friends of
Hand in Hand!

Vienna, 30th March 2023



This spring, members from all HAND IN HAND organisations in Europe, as well as from HIH USA, travelled to Odisha/India to visit the joint projects and discuss and plan their continuation with the local partner organisation, Prajana Mission.

Thanks to the progressively-developing, international cooperation among HAND IN HAND this year, our **HAND IN HAND magazine Spotlight was published not only in German and English but, for the first time, also in Dutch, French, Italian, Polish and Spanish.**

Please have a look at www.handinhand.at.



Each year, we are impressed anew by the efficiency, goodness and quality with which the projects are locally implemented. And, again this year, we can assure you: **Your donation for HAND IN HAND is working!**

In the midst of the worrying troubles of our times and the increase in poverty worldwide since the pandemic, **your donation to HAND IN HAND enables us to create places where humanity and charity can flourish and develop – first and foremost at Balashram.**



There, every year in spring, on the first full moon day in February/March, the children celebrate the **"Festival of Colours"** (Holi) with their teachers and Balashram staff. A spring festival that proclaims the message of victory of the good. When you visit Balashram on this day, **you experience the full extent of the joy that has returned into the lives of the children – thanks to your donations.**

Just a few days before the festival of colours, **the students took their final exams of this school year, which in India ends on 31 March.**

The exams took place in the morning of 3 March and everyone received their results on that same evening. When we visited the children in their classes – **amazed by the efficiency and care with which the teachers at Balashram work** – we saw only happy faces.

They all finished the school year on a positive note and their joy was as contagious as it was touching.



It seems, the festival of colours was also the best day imaginable to introduce **the new director, Mrs Binapani Dash**. She will be in charge of the school's operations from 1st April, taking over from Dr Malaya Nanda, who has successfully developed Balashram school over the past six years, guiding it also through the difficult times of the pandemic.

For the new director, the end of the school year marks the start of preparations for the new one. The committee decided again to admit just over 40 children this year. Therefore, in May, **45 little girls and boys are expected to be newly admitted to Balashram, which currently accommodates about 550 children**. After their admission and settling in, the new Kindergarten Classes will start at the end of June/ beginning of July.

This form of effective aid for people in need is only possible if we continue to provide help from around the globe. At present, we are in danger of falling behind everything that has been achieved worldwide in the past decades, in the field of humanitarian aid. The costs for financing aid projects are rising explosively.

And they are for **HAND IN HAND** as well: **in fact, the total cost per child, at Balashram, has doubled**.

Please support us! If you can, co-sponsor a class, or if you have already signed up for a sponsorship, please consider whether you could increase your contribution. In any case, **whatever your contribution, it will help towards a better future, because:**

One Drop can make a Difference! For all of us.

From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU!



Yours, Peter van Breukelen



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HAND IN HAND – Organisation for Humanitarian Aid

Austria & Germany: handinhand.at

France: handinhand.fr

Netherlands: handinhandnederland.org

Switzerland: handinhand-schweiz.org