



Dear Friends of  
Hand in Hand!

Vienna, Summer 2024



20 years of donation quality  
seal for HAND IN HAND.

## 2024 is truly a year of anniversaries for HAND IN HAND!

I am delighted – and also a little proud – to report that, during a ceremony in Vienna on 6 June 2024, those responsible for HAND IN HAND were presented with the certificate of honour for “20 years of the Donation Seal of Approval.” HAND IN HAND undergoes every year, in Austria, a strict testing procedure in order to obtain the seal of approval. And with each renewal of the seal, the tax and auditing experts confirm to their Chamber of Tax Consultants and Auditors (KSW), that HAND IN HAND handles YOUR money, dear donors, carefully, responsibly, and economically.

The invitation from KSW went to our loyal treasurer Annemarie Ackerl – yes, she deserves the honour! After initially playing a key role in the founding of HAND IN HAND, Annemarie took on the role of Treasurer in the 2003/04 financial year – also 20 years ago. It was thanks to her efforts that HAND IN HAND was awarded the seal of approval for the first time in 2004. Since then, Annemarie has applied, each year, for the renewal of the donation seal of approval for HAND IN HAND – with success! **A big thank you for your tireless commitment, dear Annemarie!**

**And especially to you, dear Friends of HAND IN HAND, I cannot thank you enough!** Because without your donations, there would be neither HAND IN HAND nor the donation seal of approval. **Your compassion, your generosity and your trust in the cooperation between HAND IN HAND and PRAJNANA MISSION made it possible in the first place: 25 years (soon) of HAND IN HAND; 20 years of the Seal of Approval; 20 years of Balashram, and 10 years of HCHC Jagatpur.**

1000 (!) little girls and boys have been given an incredible opportunity since the opening of Balashram. I remember, as if it were yesterday, when Paramahansa Prajnanananda officially opened the small Kindergarten building on 29 July 2004 and the first 40 children moved into Balashram. It started small and simple back then.



**And the love-inspired Vedic principle of “Simple Living & High Thinking” – a simple way of life paired with high thinking – continues to guide Balashram’s activities.**

**Today, however, children who come to Balashram for the first time are presented with a completely different picture.**

*On 21 June, the newly admitted children were warmly welcomed to Balashram. Beforehand, there was an ice cream – for most of the children, it was their very first ice cream.*





The Kindergarten building is integrated into an impressive campus that continues to develop and evolve, year after year, according to the needs of its young residents.

**At least 14 years pass before the children of a particular year leave Balashram again. Accordingly, the age difference between the younger and older children/adolescents has become ever greater.**

**A common recreation room for all is no longer viable.** Children between the ages of four and ten have completely different ideas when it comes to their leisure activities than the teenagers in the higher classes. It is therefore to be hoped that the plans for an extension can be realised in order to give pupils aged 14 to 18 in particular, the space they need for self-study and for activities with friends.

**Our Health Centres are also reaching their limits.**

From January to May alone, a staggering 32,000 patients were treated at the centres. The influx of sick people to our day clinic, the HCHC in Jagatpur, is particularly high. The dental clinic in particular, is working at full capacity with 6,600 treatments in just five months. **However, our laboratory, X-ray, ECG and especially the physiotherapy services need more capacity. From January to May, over 15,000 individuals were treated there - and the number of people seeking help is increasing!**

**In order to be able to accommodate all those seeking help in the future, the HCHC in Jagatpur has purchased neighbouring fallow land.**

Specific plans are currently being drawn up for the expansion of medical services. The date of realisation depends on donations being made to HAND IN HAND.

This year, your donation made it possible to purchase the long-needed, ultrasound diagnostics device and also the immensely important purchase of a haemoglobin A1c device for the efficient treatment of diabetes. The number of cases of diabetes in India has risen enormously over the past two decades and the need for medical care has grown accordingly.



Dear Friends of HAND IN HAND, an incredible number of people in this world cannot survive without support - not enough help can be given! And yet: 1,000 children who have been given a real chance of a good life in Balashram, and 1.8 million people who have received medical care in our Health Centres so far are impressive and represent 20 years of donations! **THANK YOU FROM THE BOTTOM OF OUR HEARTS FOR YOUR LOYALTY AND ALL YOUR SUPPORT!**



Yours, Peter van Breukelen

**HAND IN HAND – Organisation for Humanitarian Aid**

Austria & Germany: [handinhand.at](http://handinhand.at)

France: [handinhand.fr](http://handinhand.fr)

Netherlands: [handinhandnederland.org](http://handinhandnederland.org)

Switzerland: [handinhand-schweiz.org](http://handinhand-schweiz.org)