

# **HAND** *in* **HAND** made!

Second English Version!

Living in Sharing — Help to help themselves

No. 2 – September 2012



## It's time to act HANDinHAND

Dear friends of HANDinHAND !

The time flies like in an hourglass; 1 ½ years have been passed since our last edition „HANDinHAND made“. But we are sure that you know that we from HANDinHAND did not rest the whole time. „Good things need time“, according to an old saying. Thus we do look closely, where and for what we spend to India. When we read in newspaper some weeks ago, that the star Madonna has failed in running aid projects with well-meant

help and enough money or if the small farmers in Brazil should be supported due to serious droughts with 1 Million Euro from Germany, however 1/3 of the money disappeared due to corruption of the local governance, we from HANDinHAND become aware, how worth trust is and thank to good and small structures how important are personal and growing contacts and relationships to

... continued on page 2

Very soon -  
**HANDinHAND**  
was founded 20  
years ago!

It is time to reflect and to remember. You will learn more about our anniversary in the next edition in 4<sup>th</sup> quarter. And what did you experience with HiH? Please share your memories, your collected photos or newspaper articles and your opinions with us. Write us and support us to improve ourselves. By mail or email to [info@handinhand.info](mailto:info@handinhand.info)

## Continued: It's time to act HANDinHAND

the country, where we help. In autumn HiH has its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. 20 years have been passed when we started to help and support India with small steps, but from human to human. Many people in this big country have a name, a face and a life story for us. Thus in this time a lot trust has been growing. You as supporter and donors have the assurance that the money and your help will reach the poor people in India. This help is always close to the individuals, concrete for a person and for a real life situation. We do not build up any luxury estates with your money, but like to support more manageable projects f.e in health and education. In addition to this we build a home with small houses where many people can live now thank to you! In these 20 years HiH now exists we have gone a long way and without you and your tirelessly and creative willing to donor many things would not have

been possible... but this we will be deepened in a anniversary edition in autumn. HiH-help is yours, ours and of our team's heart. Everybody is unique and special. Everyone has the right to live gracefully. To share the richness in the world more fairly, to live more faithfully, honestly and meaningful, is what we want to reach and what connects us with India and the whole world. We are very appreciated about all your donations, for your trust in us and for the assurance that our help will reach India and does not burst like a bubble. Read our newest edition and think about where and how you can support us to create a better future.

**Yours Elmar Jung**

## Shared Joy is truly double the Pleasure

On June, 14th 2011 our founder of *HANDinHAND!* " Many friends and relatives joined the event. Elmar Jung was very grateful and asked explicitly not to give him gifts, but to donate for the following issues: „*The total proceeds of the Nazarius-Event on 14.6. with all birthday donations will be doubled by myself. The donations will run in equal parts to both the required church roof renovation and* 4.280.-, and had been doubled to 8.560.- by Elmar Jung. Half of this amount will be used for a slum school in Bangalore, an ambulance in Malayankulam and a water pump in Gudoor.

--- " Complete and send back to [info@handinhand.info](mailto:info@handinhand.info) -----

## 20th Anniversary Activity



About good turns should be talked about. Help us to tell others what you appreciate most about HANDinHAND!

- We/I support HANDinHAND (HiH), ...
- We/I are/am committed to help HiH, ...
- We/I are/am interested in work of HiH, ...
- We/I trust HiH, ...
- We/I donate for project of HiH in India, ...

because\_\_\_\_\_

## The most wonderful day

Ravi Kumar (22) from Warangal

When I met HiH founder Elmar Jung the very first time I was very inspired from him and wanted to help poor people as well. With some friends from university I decided to organise something special for the Children's Day (that is the 14<sup>th</sup> Nov in India). We wanted to do something for the poor children, but we had no money. Thus we collected first of all old paper from all rooms in the university. For this we earned 14.000 Rupies. With this money we invited the children in orphanage to our college. There we had lunch and the possibility to play and paint with the children. Some children arrived without shoes. Thus we gave them some new ones and also used and donated clothes from my fellow students. Our objective was to make the Children's day to something very special. And therefore we wanted to do the best for them what was possible for us.

## Water is life

Angelika Billing

In May 2011 we visited the kindergarten of St. Gallus in Urberach. The parents' council, the governess and children have met to hand over HiH a donation. Previously, Elmar Jung showed the marvelling children some pictures from his trips to India. Sometimes it was very very silent in the room when the children have seen how miserable and poor other children of same age have to live and that a house or room to live and sleep as well as clean water is not granted for all people in the world. But all the greater was the joy to hand over to HiH a donation amounting to 231 €. 200 € of this total sum was from a clothing bazar, which the parents' council organises regularly twice a year. The remaining amount came from the children themselves. They sold self-made jam and some handicrafts and thus earned the money for India. With this donation a new water tank in Sutarkheda, a small village in middle-India, which the kindergarten St. Gallus has been supported since years, will be built.

# Interview with Thomas Schnitter

At present Thomas is doing an apprenticeship for media design in Mainz. Previously, he has worked for about 6 months from August 2009 until February 2010 as volunteer worker for HiH in India.

**HiH-made:** What exactly did you do for HiH during this time?

**Thomas Schnitter:** I was deeply involved in running onsite projects. I worked together with the local coordinators and supported actively projects, f.e. the set up and planning of a small infirmary in a rural region next to big city Hyderabad. In Virapandianpatnam I helped to administrate the benefit fond for poor

been resulting of these talks. I noticed very often in those cases that for me as European it is easier to see miserable live situations than for Indians as they only know this case. Contrary to us they are confronted with severe poverty every day and have been grown up with this situation. For them it is usual.

**HiH:** Did you have any problems

communicate with many others as well. Unfortunately, English is taught and talked very little. Most of the Indians can only speak their local language, f.e. Telugu, Bengali, Nepali, etc. Without English or Hindi, which is one of the most popular language in India they are not able to communicate behind the border of their states. As India has no unique national language but over 30 different languages there are of course communication problems.

**HiH:** Which situations did you shock or inspired the most?

**TS:** The flood catastrophe of the Krishna river in October 2010 which has destroyed the city Rajoli in Andhra Pradesh has shocked me the most when I was visiting it. I only knew such pictures from TV, but when I was onsite, I was really aware of the tremendous destruction force of such a catastrophe. The dimension of such destruction can be compared with a bombed city during wartime. Never before it was so clear to me how destructive nature can be and how many misery it can bring on humanity. This situation has to be seen with your own eyes. In such a catastrophic situation it was totally unthinkable for me to be faced with the fact that people after they had lost their whole existence two weeks ago, were still waiting hopelessly for help and the governance only provided help at a minimum. Thousands of people had been left to their own fate and if at all they had been provided with only basics of some clean water and food. After this day I was just speechless and it was hardly to understand the governance's attitude with regard to this situation. In this time I had quite a lot of anger and incomprehension against the politics and those people,



Thomas Schnitter visits Rajacheru Valasa, a village of Adivasi people.

families of fishermen and as well with their work. But the most wonderful time and best task I had, was in orphanage in Bobbili. There I spent much time to teach the children in PC and games, to help them with school homework and to create the English lesson as well. In my free time I ate with them and also participated in their daily evening prayers. This was for me and the children a lot of fun.

In special situations I visited with other HiH-team members crisis areas as f.e. the flooding area around Rajoli and other poor regions. In the course of this I always tried to recognize extreme live situations with open eyes and to give those concerned people attention and new hope. I have often talked with other HiH team members about my impressions and then new projects had

due to your experience background or cultural differences? How was working together with HiH employees and with those people who you got to know and met during the project work with HiH?

**TS:** For me the Indian culture was one of the most exciting things. Especially the variety of religions (Muslim, Christ, Hindus) and the peaceful living together of these people, although they all had different beliefs. I was very fascinated about the very open-minded and welcoming people as well as the possibility that also an outsider can participate in some Hindu rituals. I had hardly communication problems. I could talk and communicate in English with my guest families and they helped me to

## Continued: Interview with Thomas Schnitter

which have always the upper hand in any dispute or situation in India. Unfortunately, many of these people are corrupt and only interested in their own affairs. There is just a lack of an acceptable social policy and this will not change in the next few years. For most of the politicians and rich people, the poor people disturb the real state of well-being and the fast emerging economic power in India. In this respect the officially disestablished caste system plays a decisive role – as it still exists in the heads of most of the people. For me it was difficult to see that the word “untouchable” (this is the name for people belonging to the lowest caste – editor’s note) is meant totally literally. Especially poor people need a lot of attention, acceptance and affection. But reality shows that most of the Indians look away in everyday life and try to ignore the miserable situation around them. I have spoken to many Indians and I was shocked when I heard: We simple folks cannot do anything anyway and have enough own problems to live our life.”

**HiH:** Did you return with the feeling that you can help people in some situations?

**TS:** Yes, definitive. Many very poor and sick people in India are already thankful if you give them attention as they can expect this only from some of them which are not destitute. And it does not matter what you give, only if you ask for their names, their concerns and hardships or their own needs and wishes. As I did not look away I appreciated the openness and hospitality of these people and also like to take. This made me very happy and gave me a lot. As only with listening, a nice gesture or eye contact you can raise joy and hope with these people. Due to a concrete misery my family and I have donated a house for a poor family of 5 people in Reddipalem. The gratitude which has been given by them to us after the housewarm-

ing party makes me still sure that I could really help in extreme situations. It was the most wonderful thing for me to see that my own donation really reaches the people with a concrete requirement. Also the great gratitude and respect which I received by the orphans in Bobbili and the cooperation from my guest families and the help from the organisation as well in the projects gave and give me still the feeling that I really could help onsite.

**HiH:** How did the time mark your life until now? In what way it can be seen?

**TS:** India was for me a great life experience but also a big challenge at the same time. In the beginning I was sceptical and always asked myself if I had been able to live as European in India for the next 6 months. But then I recognized very quickly that I was not only the giver but also receiver. I learnt to deal with extreme life situations and to see how good I

the handling with sick and poor people. I have learnt that little things like a smile or nice gesture are sometimes more worth. But I also received a view of how important family is and how difficult situations can merge people from different countries, families and religions. If I had the chance, I would go to India at any time again to engage myself in further projects. As only in this half year I learnt to love the people and the country. Until today not only my memories are linked with this country. My relationship to other people as well as my willingness to help has changed by this experience. Many things which people in Germany see as naturally I cannot see with the same eyes anymore. Because in India I had been faced with the facts that f.e. a daily warm meal or warm water for a shower are not taken for granted. And it is easier for me now to deal with a bad illness and to overcome my fears of contacts. Finally, I became more self-



A family in Bobbili invites the visitor to see its tumbledown hut.

and we live in Germany. Concretely, I learned f.e. to identify more with children and to respond to them. India showed me the real life and how to deal with poor and

employed, I have learnt to listen actively and to estimate daily's problems more realistic.

## What can we do with some little money ?

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Please don't be shy in even supporting us with a very little (regular) amount of money. In some of our projects an amount of only 200 Rupies (around 3 €) helps to support a poor family with a monthly food package. Here are some more examples of small, but concrete ways to help us:

- 100 € (1 month) maintenance support and all working expenses for a local sister working as a social worker among poor, rural people
- 70 € (12 x 70 €) 1 simple, but stable house
- 50 € (1 month) to enable a poor person to study
- 20 € (1 month) sponsorship for 1 child or medicine for 1 cancer patient
- 12 € (12 x 12 €) 1 rickshaw for a self employed work of 1 family
- 10 € (1 month) daily school lunch for 5 pupils
- 5 € (1 month) food package for 2 poor old persons or medicine for 1 leprosy patient

## Actual Projects

Concrete examples of the actual work of HANDinHAND — Help us !

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### Section 1 Family and Home

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#### **PNR 1-134 12 houses in Ramabadrupuram**

**each house 800 €**

In Ramabadrupuram at the east coast of India many families live in a village which belongs to the poorest aborigines (monthly salary per family about 10 Euro). They are living in simple huts which are in a miserable condition – not even a renovation would be worth. We would like to help these people which are really living outside to rebuild their village.

#### **PNR 1-132 63 toilets in Mallapurtanda**

**per toilet 140 €**

In Mallapurtanda the people are still living without any toilets. Due to this fact there exists a high risk of infections especially for children. The inhabitants of this village received 2011 a training regarding hygienic and health care and are now prepared for toilets. About 63 toilets have to be built for all families. This is a big and very important step for their future.

#### **PNR 1-128 A home in Gopalnaidupeta**

**per roof 400 €**

If you have seen the in some cases completely destroyed or in danger of collapsing roofs of 12 washer families in the small village Gopalraidupeta, you will ask yourself, how anybody can live at such living conditions at all. The washer families earn their money by washing clothes of other richer families. They pick it up, wash, dry and iron it. The little money is only sufficient for appeasing the daily hunger. If the nine houses do not get a new roof before the next monsoon arrives they are going to be destroyed more and collapse very soon.

### Section 2 Health and Hygiene

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#### **PNR 2-131 Medical support**

**per medical camp 330 €**

In order to provide medical support to people in remote areas who cannot afford the way to hospital or a doctor's surgery, we would like to offer a „Free Medical Camp“ in our infirmary in Reddipalem 3 times the year. At such a day more than hundreds of people are coming. The infirmary is led by responsible and well-educated nuns and a doctor.

# Actual Projects - Help us !

Some of the pupils at Premviswasam orphanage in Bobbili



## Section 3 School and Education

**PNR 3-724 Desks and Chairs for 100 pupils in our existing school in Kanudih per pupil 30 €**

As the existing school which is led by nuns in the North Indian village Kanudih is overcrowded, a building extension was necessary. Since ages HiH is helping there with its sponsorship programme. Our contribution to the new building of school is new desks and chairs. Please help us that the pupils can build up a good future.

**PNR 3-720 Costs for school for two orphans in Bobbili per child / year 160 €**

Their parents had leprosy and died recently. Rathnakumari is now an orphan and lives in our orphanage in Bobbili. He is good at school and should go on to school. Same as Sandhyarani who suffered from a similar fate. Who would like to take over the costs for school of one of these girls for the next two years?

**PNR 3-722 Power supply for school in Bhagavanpura 450 €**

As in many villages in India especially in very poor villages there is also regularly power failure in kindergarten and in primary school in Bhagavanpura. Due to this and also because of the heat the work of the teacher and sisters and also the children's attention is very much limited. Now we will see to a customary rechargeable battery system and with ventilators for each class room that the working conditions will be

## Section 5 Life or death

**PNR 5-038 Milk for baby each month 10 €**

The very slender and young mother Annamani has born a little child. As single parents she is overexerted with any financial provision. In addition to this her body does not give milk for the baby as she is too weak. HiH has confirmed to help her that she can buy milk and food for her

## Section 0 Administration

**PNR 0-010 New website www.handinhand.info every donation helps**

Starting from autumn 2012 on time for the 20th anniversary a totally revised Homepage of HiH will go live. And this also costs money! Who will support our administration costs with a small donation?

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