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«If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together. »

- African provert

### DEAR READER,

2017 marked the 40th anniversary of the Usthi Foundation. The life's work of the founders, Edeltrud and Kurt Bürki, has brought great benefits over many years and their hard work has given well over 30'000 children a better future.

Paying due tribute to this commitment, generous sponsors made it possible for us to organise an anniversary concert in Rapperswil Castle with the Zurich Chamber Orchestra and the violinist Leia Zhu.

Whilst much was going on here in Switzerland because of the 40th anniversary, our commitment to protecting vulnerable children in India continued unabated and with success. Last year too and even with our 40 years of experience, India showed it can be relied on to provide new challenges. However, in 2017, we managed to overcome the hurdles of the Indian bureaucracy unscathed.

Usthi's sustained success over 40 years is the result of setting the right objectives and implementing them through our reliable project partners on the spot. Our partners are familiar with the local languages and cultures. They have the best understanding of prevailing problems, which helps us to offer solutions in the Indian context.

2017 has once again reminded us how to appreciate fundamentals: a broad network of loyal supporters and employees who shy away from no effort to keep our projects alive, even in difficult situations. Usthi has come a long way in the past 40 years. Without doubt, this long journey has only been possible alongside our numerous supporters.

We should like to thank you for the trust that you have placed in us and wish you an interesting read.



Tanja Lirgg Executive Director



Simon Widmer President of the Board



## PROJECT OVERVIEW



Since 1977, Usthi has been providing comprehensive assistance to people in need, regardless of race, nationality, religion or language. In 2017, we successfully pursued existing projects. The focus remains on education, health and the prevention of child trafficking.

At school, children receive basic knowhow and a solid basis for a successful future is created. Many children are unable to go to school for economic and social reasons. With three schools, the Back-to-School project and eleven tutoring centres, Usthi is committed to ensuring that children, otherwise affected by poverty and marginalisation, are able to receive a school education.

Many young people, especially young women, have been denied the opportunity of a school education. Often, they are unemployed or forced to work in the informal economy. Usthi provides these young people with qualifications within employable skills training courses and permits them to work under fair conditions. The indigenous peoples of the tribal region of Somagiri are still among the populations most discriminated against in India. They live a remote simple life in unspoiled nature. When they become ill, they have little access to medical help. Usthi has developed comprehensive health care for these people because health is certainly the greatest asset and the fundamental right of every human

Child trafficking in Asia is growing every year and India stands high on this sad list. In order to curb this illegal trade, Usthi protects street children in childcare centres and carries out prevention campaigns. Young women who have already been victims of abuse find refuge in women's shelters.

What began in the 1970s with a street kitchen and construction of a school, has grown continuously over the past 40 years. Today, the Usthi Foundation has overall responsibility for 12 projects, reaching out to 2'670 children, adolescents and women each year.





## **EDUCATION**

Education has been the main working focus of Usthi since the 1970s. In the forefront have always been socially and economically marginalised children. Currently, Usthi makes schooling possible through three schools of their own, plus school sponsorships. Children are helped towards academic success in tutoring centres. With employable skills training courses, Usthi helps young people, without a school leaving certificate, to find entry to the working world. In 2017, Usthi permitted more than 2'300 children and young people to gain access to education.

### **SCHOOLS**

The three schools Ananda, Thaddeus and Penthakata were built in areas where many families live at subsistence level and cannot afford education for their children. In the Usthi schools, these children can receive education in a safe environment and thus create a sound basis for a better future. About 1'000 children, half of them girls, received schooling in 2017.

### **BACK-TO-SCHOOL**

Usthi sponsorships enable marginalised children in Hyderabad to attend school. There are adequate educational opportunities in the city, but there are also thousands of families living in poverty, who cannot afford education for their children. The choice of the Hyderabad site for the Back-to-School project is no coincidence. There is a particularly high concentration of traffickers in this city. In 2017, Usthi successfully offered protection from trafficking to 90 children, by enabling them to go to school.

### **TUTORING CENTRES**

Tutoring centres provide school children with a sheltered location to do their homework. These children are often the first generation of the family to attend school and parents are unable to help them with homework. At home, there is often a lack of space, quiet and light. In the tutoring centres, children have the opportunity to receive support and ask questions in case of problems. In 2017, 275 children received tutoring in one of the eleven Usthi centres.

### **EMPLOYABLE SKILLS TRAINING**

Without schooling, young people are denied access to fairly paid work and are often exploited as cheap labour. Usthi therefore offers young women without a school-leaving certificate, employable skills training in textile processing, accounting or beauty care. At the same time, they also work on their English and computer skills. More than 950 young people completed Usthi work training programmes in 2017 and more than 92% of them found permanent employment immediately afterwards.

# SILVER JUBILEE: PENTHAKATA SCHOOL

In 2017, Usthi celebrated two anniversaries. In addition to the 40th anniversary of Usthi in Switzerland, we celebrated 25 years of the Penthakata school in India. The school was opened in 1992 in Penthakata thanks to a generous birthday donation by Swissair Staff Foundation for Children in Need. Penthakata was formed on the eastern edge of Puri as an informal settlement of immigrant Telugu people from Andra Pradesh. The village consists of simple huts and houses, where a whole family lives together in a minimum of space. The settlement is still marked by poverty, but it has been able to develop strongly in recent years. Today, thanks to Usthi's support, there are sewers and access to fresh water. The construction of the Penthakata school offered children, marginalised by poverty, the opportunity of obtaining an education. Much has been achieved over the past 25 years, and numerous success stories began at the Penthakata School. This should be duly celebrated. The anniversary celebrations were held during the annual visit of the Usthi team in November. The school welcomed us with colourful flags and was resplendent in its fresh coat of paint. The school was unusually quiet, but there was all the more bustle in the back of the schoolyard. A stage had been set up and chairs set out, lighting installed, and carpets rolled out. The children were rehearsing one last time and costumes had been laid out ready.

The anniversary celebration itself was a wonderful display of colours and sounds. Parents, pupils, the local press, government officials and other interested parties all crowded in; soon, all chairs were occupied. The children delighted us with traditional and modern dances and the teachers gave a rendition of a song specially composed for the anniversary. However, one highlight for us was the speeches of former pupils at the end of the celebration. They talked eloquently and captivatingly about their careers and why the Penthakata school had been the indispensable foundation for their personal success. It was a crowning and touching conclusion to a colourful and successful anniversary celebration. We brought the words of the former pupils back to Switzerland because they are the perfect driving force for our future work. Access to education has empowered many to lead a self-determined and successful life. As many children as possible should receive the same chances. We shall do all in our power to continue this work.







## **HEALTH**

In the tribal areas of the Indian state of Odisha, people live close to nature and far away from urban infrastructures. Usthi's health projects focus on the Scheduled Tribes of Odisha who are severely discriminated against and marginalised. In order to assure medical care for these people too, Usthi has built up a comprehensive health care system that currently covers an area the size of the Canton of Zurich.

### TRIBAL HEALTH CENTRE

The Tribal Heath Centre in Somagiri ensures primary medical care for the inhabitants of the surrounding 133 villages. The hospital offers out-patient and in-patient treatment. For major operations, the Usthi off-road ambulance arranges transport over the rough terrain into town. In order to counteract high levels of infant and maternal mortality, Usthi has extended the Tribal Health Centre to include a maternity department. Since 2016, the Tribal Health Centre has been recognized as part of the state-run health system. As a result, about 30% of the operating costs in 2017 were borne by the state health system.

### **HEALTH NETWORK**

Forty-four female health workers, all from the region and trained by Usthi in the Tribal Health Centre, form the locally-based health care network. Their work on the spot creates trust amongst the indigenous peoples, who often have great mistrust of medical treatment and would otherwise be afraid of going to the Tribal Health Centre. As a result, in recent years the number of patients treated at the Tribal Health Centre has risen steadily. The involvement of local women also strengthens their status in the villages and their financial independence.

### **HEALTH AND EDUCATION PROJECT**

Support for young children in the tribal region is directed at preschool children and facilitates the ideal development of their motor and cognitive abilities. In eight day-centres based in remote villages, between 30 and 35 children find a safe space to play and learn. Local women take care of the children during the day, lightening the load on their parents. The people of the Somagiri region live from agriculture and education is not considered a high priority. The support programme for young children creates initial contact with education and facilitates their enrolment in school.



## **PREVENTION** OF CHILD TRAFFICKING



Asia has seen an increase in human trafficking for several years. India too has not been spared from this problem and is represented in the upper echelons of the sad statistics on child trafficking. An estimated 100'000 children are forced to work each year in India and another 80'000 disappear without a trace. Hyderabad is considered one of the centres of human trafficking. It was obvious to Usthi that action here was urgent. Street children are therefore offered

protection in Usthi children's homes. Victims of abuse find refuge in women's shelters. The prevention campaign should also protect against further victims. In total in 2017, Usthi reached over 18'000 people through its action against human trafficking.

### **CHILDREN'S HOMES**

Every year, thousands of children flee from domestic abuse on to the streets. Life on the streets seems at first an adventure to the children but is fraught with danger. The children are defenceless against the vagaries of society. Nine children disappear in India every hour without trace. Many of them are picked up by traffickers and sold as cheap labour to factories. With its children's homes, Usthi has created a safe space for these children. In small family groups, they are tended to, cared for and attend school. In 2017, Usthi gave 50 children a safe home in three family communities.



### **WOMEN'S SHELTERS**

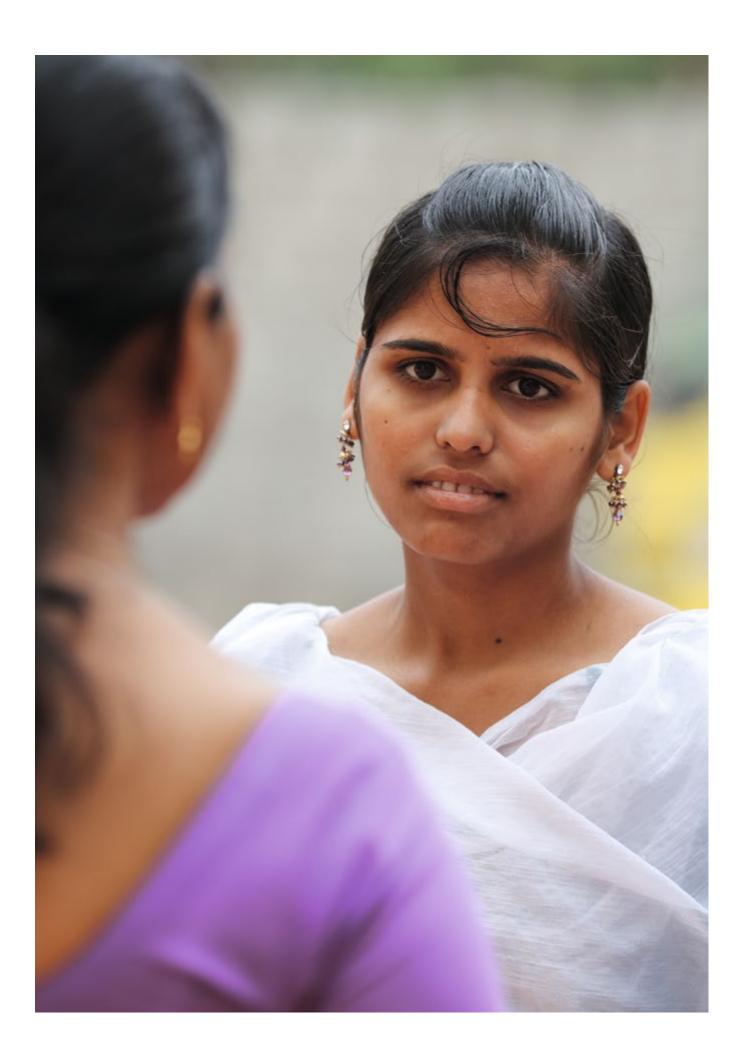
Girls and young women in India are particularly badly impacted by trafficking and sexual abuse. They are often regarded as worthless by society and because of the necessity for a dowry, they are a huge financial burden for families. Usthi has created women's shelters where these victims of abuse can find a safe haven. Here they receive protection, psychological support and the chance for a new beginning. By attending employable skills training

courses, they can take the leap back into everyday life, within eight to 12 months, and find independence. In 2017, due to high demand, Usthi increased space in women's shelters from 20 to 30 places.

### **PREVENTION CAMPAIGN**

In order to avoid further victims, Usthi carries out an extensive annual prevention campaign in the greater Hyderabad area. Over 18'000 families are warned about the dangers: how traffickers operate, what

tricks they use and how families can protect their children. Many families, affected by poverty, naively hand their children over to strangers who promise a better future for them. Many such children disappear without a trace and become victims of abuse. Over the years, Usthi together with other organisations and self-help groups, has formed a large network in the Hyderabad metropolitan area which coordinates activities and takes immediate action in suspicious cases.



# NEW PROJECT TO **COMBAT SEXUAL** EXPLOITATION

In early 2017, Usthi embarked on a new project with an existing project partner in Hyderabad to protect girls and young women from sexual exploitation and trafficking. A women's shelter for 10 victims of temple slavery (girls and young women), opened its doors in February 2017. The victims are called Joginis, or Devadasis, young Indian girls who are consecrated to a divinity and, thereafter, are forced to a life within the temple. This practice is several hundred years old and by no means limited to India. However, in India it has undergone an extremely worrying development. Forced into temple life and lifelong service of the deity, girls are forbidden to marry or attend school. Most affected are families of the lowest castes or Dalits, who are socially and economically marginalised. Because of the necessity for a dowry, girls often pose an intolerable financial burden on the family. Many families give up their children, believing that they can change the fate of their family for the better. To put the deity Yellamma in a gracious mood with such an offering, is believed to bring happiness, fertility and prosperity. As the temple's possession, the girls have no control over their own lives. They are systematically exploited, abused and raped. Traffickers are also at work here. Many of the girls are sold from the temples as sex slaves into brothels or private households. Despite the state ban on this practice since the 1980s, it is currently estimated that there are more than a quarter of a million temple slave girls. Thousands of girls are still consecrated to the goddess Yellamma every year.

Since early 2017, girls and young women who have fallen victim to temple slavery, have found a refuge with Usthi. Together with a local network, the girls are located and freed. With Usthi they receive psychological support and attend an employable skills training course. Thereafter, the girls can find their way back into everyday life and live an independent life, in freedom.

# JUBILEE: 40 YEARS OF USTHI

40 years ago, Edeltrud and Kurt Bürki plucked up their courage and with a simple street kitchen, took a first step to improve the lives of children in the streets of Kolkata. On their first visit to India, they had been struck by the prevailing poverty and the many children who roamed the streets. They saw it as their duty to show social responsibility and to protect vulnerable children. What began as a simple soup kitchen in the 1970s became a successful foundation

over the past 40 years, with more than 400 local employees and more than 2'500 children annually benefitting from support. This persistence and the continuous commitment to children and adolescents should be celebrated.

Much had already been prepared in advance to provide an unforgettable anniversary year. In December 2016, we had travelled to India together with a three-man team and filmed the documentary "40 years of Usthi" in the

project locations. We decided to revive the Usthi Festival in Switzerland after a four-year break and use it as an opportunity to present the movie premiere. We were heady with anticipation: Would it rain? How would the film be received by the audience? Then on the evening of the 23rd September, all worries were swept away. After morning rain, we were blessed with a beautiful, warm autumn evening. Crowds of people arrived and the enthusiasm for the film was over-



whelming. We could not have wished for a better start to the 40-year celebrations. Then it got even better! The official Usthi 40th anniversary took place a month after the Usthi Festival. Thanks to the generosity of a private donor, we were quickly able to plan the anniversary. At first, we could hardly believe it, because no less than the Zurich Chamber Orchestra and the violinist Leia Zhu were to play for Usthi at Rapperswil Castle. Thanks to additional contributions from the city of Rapperswil-Jona and numerous regional companies, all costs for the concert and reception were fully covered.

The anniversary celebration was galloping towards us and apprehension increased by the hour. It is not every day that Usthi organises such a top-class event. Then the big day arrived and it was never to be forgotten. A beautiful concert, hundreds of people who showed their solidarity with Usthi and shared an unforgettable evening with us. These are moments that give Usthi strength to persevere, even in difficult situations. A thought back to the solidarity, shown on these two occasions, and we can push on with our work; for, with such a large family behind us, anything is possible.

The path that Usthi has taken over the past 40 years has certainly not been easy. Many challenges have had to be overcome, as have the occasional hurdles, put in Usthi's way by the Indian bureaucracy. Despite many stumbling blocks, Usthi has been able to hold its own and, thanks to our many loyal supporters and energetic project partners, can look ahead towards the next 40 years with confidence.











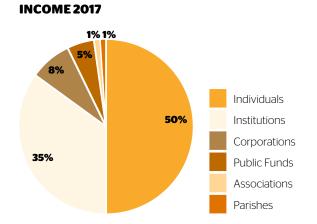
## **FINANCES**

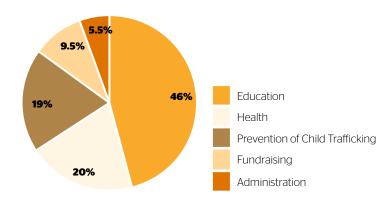
In 2017, Usthi's total expenditure on direct project work in India was CHF 655'112. Over the same period, project partners created local campaigns, enabling them to contribute 17% to the total cost of the twelve projects.

Administration costs continued to be kept low and, at 5.5%, are about the same as last year. Fundraising costs increased temporarily in 2017 from 6% (2016) to 9.5% due to production of the film. Despite this marginal increase in administration and fundraising costs, Usthi remains very efficient in its use of resources. With a total administrative and fundraising expenditure of 15%, Usthi is still far below the industry average of 21%.

In the anniversary year, total revenue increased by 7% from CHF 761'574 (2016) to CHF 814'884. Usthi finances itself exclusively through private and public donations. The share of private donors increased by 13% compared with 2016 and these individual donors contributed a total of CHF 405'844 to Usthi's work. Other foundations contributed a total of CHF 284'966 to Usthi, which corresponds to 35% of the total revenue. Looking back on a successful financial year, Usthi closes the year with a surplus of CHF 37'945 reducing the balance sheet loss in 2017 to CHF 58'865.

The complete audit report (only in German) is publicly available on the Usthi website under Link www.usthi.ch/en/report-2017 It can also be ordered free of charge at the Usthi office.





**EXPENDITURE 2017** 

### **FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2017**

Assets	2017	2016
	CHF	CHF
Liquid Assets	546'201.89	508'397.23
Accruals and Deferrals	9'224.50	5'842.30
Current Assets	555'426.39	514'239.53
Rent Deposit	4'210.40	4'210.00
IT-Accessories	1.00	1.00
Fixed Assets	4'211.40	4'211.00
	559'637.79	518'450.53

Liabilites	2017	2016
	CHF	CHF
Debt	15'286.46	6'732.90
Project Fund Thaddeus School	15'286.46	6'732.90
Project Fund Hospital Renovation	51'834.00	43'588.72
Fund Assets	20'673.49	34'230.00
Foundation Asset	72'507.49	77'818.72
Accumulated Loss	530'708.55	530'708.55
Organisation Assets	-58'864.71	-96'809.64
Organisationskapital	471'843.84	433'898.91
	559'637.79	518'450.53

### **OPERATING STATEMENT 2017**

	2017	2016
	CHF	CHF
Non-specific Donations	481'577.07	506'746.17
Earmarked Donations	333'083.50	254'713.80
Sundry Operation Income	223.00	115.00
Fundraising Income	814'883.57	761'574.97
Project Expenditure	-655'111.83	-718'507.28
Administration Expenditure	-46'493.43	-46'158.58
Fundraising Expenditure	-77'681.78	-45'636.74
Operating Result	35'596.53	-48'727.63
Financial Income	3'496.48	69.03
Financial Expenditure	-6'459.31	-1'604.81
Annual Result Gross	32'633.70	-50'263.41
Project Fund Deposit	-333'083.50	-254'713.80
Project Fund Extraction	338'394.73	290'213.80
Liquidation Social Fund	0.00	30'000.00
Accumulated Profits / Loss Changes	37'944.93	-15'236.59
Annual Result Net	0.00	0.00

### **TRANSPARENCY**

Usthi is a politically and religiously independent, non-profit making organisation. It is under the supervision of the Swiss Confederation and is tax-exempt. Usthi has been awarded the ZEWO (Swiss Charity Certification Organisation) seal of approval since 2013. The ZEWO seal stands for transparency and responsible handling of donations. In 2017, Usthi successfully underwent regular ZEWO recertification process. It was particularly praised for its administrative and fundraising efficiency. It is important for Usthi to be seen to be trustworthy and transparent and for funds to flow as fully as possible, directly into projects.

### **SOCIAL SUSTAINABILITY**

From the very beginning, sustainability has been an essential part of our work. We sponsor and train only local workers and then create fair working conditions. Utilising available local resources, Usthi strengthens local know-how and entrepreneurship. Apart from emergency aid, all our projects are campaigns over several years. With these programmes, Usthi assumes

long-term responsibility for the education and health of more than 2'500 children and young people. Local financing is sought from the beginning and should be achieved in the long term. However, this goal proves to be a great challenge again and again and cannot be achieved in a short period of time. As long as local funding has not been fully obtained, Usthi bears the responsibility for its projects in India.

### **EFFICIENCY**

All programmes have proven to have a positive effect on the beneficiaries, employees and their environment. Set-up and implementation are conducted in close cooperation with local managers, since they are best acquainted with the language, culture and local context. Projects and target groups are reviewed at regular intervals. At the same time, quarterly checks are carried out to ensure that funds are utilised to have the greatest impact. Usthi carries out annual impact and quality control surveys directly at the project locations and is in constant contact with its project partners.

### **USTHI FOUNDATION**

In 2017, there were no significant changes in the Usthi team. The Board of Trustees remained unchanged, with a total of seven members and Simon Widmer as Chairman. Usthi commissioned temporary support from Bettina Badertscher

and Daniela Reinhard, who ensured that the 40th anniversary celebrations were a complete success. At the same time, more than 20 volunteers made indispensible contributions amounting to 865 working hours. The Executive Director Tanja Lirgg

was actively supported in Programme Management by the founder Kurt Bürki. At the end of 2017 Kurt Bürki announced his withdrawal from daily operations and took well-earned retirement. He continues to be a diligent advisor to the new Usthi team.



### **Board of Trustees**

### Auditors

#### **Usthi Switzerland**

### **REFLECTIONS FROM THE FOUNDER**

It is our custom to celebrate special anniversaries befittingly. Usthi has become "40 years young" and certainly falls into the category of "respectable persistence". Yes, we celebrated this and also accepted pats on the back. Forty years of unconditional commitment to social justice and lower levels of discrimination is not to be taken for granted and is, itself, worthy of mention. However, looking closely at the current world situation, I am not sure that there is much to celebrate.

- The world is made up of a variety of ethnicities and cultures. Respect and tolerance are needed to ensure a peaceful co-
- 60% of global wealth is concentrated in the hands of 6% of the world's population. This needs to be tackled urgently.
- 263 million children are currently without access to education. It is high time that more is done. Political efforts to eliminate this deplorable state of affairs have had only minor impact and changed little. All this clearly shows that Usthi is needed more than ever today.

It is part of our social responsibility to eliminate this imbalance. The "drop in the ocean" argument is just an excuse. If I encounter an injustice and do nothing about it, I become complicit in it. For forty years, Usthi has been fighting injustice and discrimination. Even though I no longer carry any operational responsibility within the organisation, Usthi is well prepared to face coming challenges. A young and competent team will lead the foundation into the future - a fact which I can look on with contentment. I should like to thank you for helping us to bear this social responsibility.

Thank you too for your loyalty to Usthi and kindest regards

Kurt Bürki







## **OUTLOOK AND THANKS**

### **OUTLOOK 2018**

After an eventful and successful anniversary year, Usthi is looking forward, with optimism and confidence, to the challenges of 2018. The year has already begun auspiciously with the expansion of existing projects. The project launched in 2017 against temple slavery will have the number of available places doubled from April 2018. In addition to the existing 90 children in the Back-to-School project in Hyderabad, another 50 children will be able to join the group. All in all, Usthi will make it possible for 140 children to attend school through sponsor-

ships. The highly successful employable skills training courses will be expanded so that many more young people will be able to make the leap into working life. More places will be created in existing courses, so that, in 2018, Usthi will be able to offer space for over 1'200 young people in their employable skills training courses.

The implementation of our projects is only possible through your support. 40 years of Usthi means 40 years of loyalty from our donors. THANK YOU!

### **OUR THANKS TO:**

- ... all private donors, who have been the basis for our work since the beginning.
- ... all companies, parishes, foundations and associations which support Usthi and make our work in India possible.
- ... Thadde Getzmann and his friends and family for the continuing support of the Thaddeus School.
- ... the Usthi family in Berlin, who have been backing our work for many years.
- ... the Swissair Staff Foundation for Children in Need, which made the construction of the Penthakata school possible and has supported its operation for 25 years.
- ... the Plato Foundation for the long-term sponsorship of our Tribal Health Centre, Somagiri.
- ... the Swiss Canton of St. Gallen for their generous support of our project against child trafficking.
- ... Tourasia Roemer AG for sponsoring our flights to India.
- ... the donor who made the Usthi 40th Anniversary Concert possible.

- ... all the Rapperswil-Jona companies, who sponsored the reception at the 40th Anniversary Concert.
- ... the Zurich Chamber Orchestra and Leia Zhu for a wonderful concert and an unforgettable evening.
- ... AXXARIS AG, René Graber, Naomi und Daniel Kempter for their enthusiasm in our projects, their motivated work and the resulting Usthi film.
- ... Fritz and Liselotte Murer from Rüsselhof in Jona for the use of the location and their help at the Usthi Festival.
- ... all volunteers who, time and again, so actively provide support to make our Usthi events possible.
- ... our project partners and employees in India, who do an incredible job every day.
- ... all those who have supported Usthi in one way or another without them our work would not be possible.

Thank you for the confidence you have placed in us - and here's to at least another 40 years of Usthi!



### DROP BY DROP, A RIVER IS FORMED



Bank Linth Untere Bahnhofstrasse 11 8640 Rapperswil-Jona Bank Account No. 30-38170-0/BLZ 8731 IBAN CH97 0873 1001 2943 5201 1

Postbank Account No. 85-148330-7 IBAN CH22 0900 0000 8514 8330 7 Usthi Foundation Wattstrasse 3 8050 Zurich +41 55 511 21 25

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