

aktuell

THOMAS ENGEL-FOUNDATION



Dear friends and supporters of the THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation,

The year 2017 was very eventful and busy for the foundation; however, it was worthwhile. Despite scarce financial means and difficulties on the ground, we managed to continue with our work for our projects. We are getting closer to reaching our goal of working more efficiently and have more sustainability.

We thank you, our friends and supporters of the *THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation*, for your various means of support. Without your support, we could have only done a small portion of the extensive work that we do now. Please continue to trust and support us. Every donated Euro helps very needy children and young adults.

During this time of reflection, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Best regards

Ernst Engel
Chairman of the Board

Bettina Haubner
Deputy Chairman of the Board

Silvie Schäfer
Assistant to the Board

Jaime Garcia
Project Coordinator

The Board Members of the Booster Clubs

Freunde der THOMAS ENGEL-Stiftung Fulda e. V. und Nastätten e. V.

Internal Information:

We introduce to you our new Logo; it just fits better.

In the past months and years, the *THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation* has expanded its activities and we, as well as, other partnerships, feel that the new Logo is a better fit for the work we do for the many needy children in different countries.

We hope that you see as we do, that our activities are well represented in our new logo.

More information on this topic can be found on page 2.



New partnership in Swaziland

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www.thomasengel-stiftung.org

THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation's new logo



Rightly so, a lot of people associated our previous logo with vacations and a travel agency, which are rather enjoyable aspects of life. But what the employees of the *THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation* and our partner organizations are mostly confronted with is misery and hopelessness.

The new logo represents 5 people who hold hands. That could mean children playing in a circle, like we often see on site. It could also mean 5 people that work for our foundation and booster clubs and it could also symbolize the *THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation* and all the different organizations that we cooperate with to help ease poverty and to give preventive basic medical services to save lives. The new logo fits perfectly with our foundation's slogan „**United help for Children**“. The globe symbolizes that the *THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation* works internationally, at the moment in Africa (*Swaziland, Tanzania*) and in South America (*Ecuador*). Most of the support we receive comes from Germany, but we also receive donations from Austria, Switzerland, Great Britain, Spain, France, Luxembourg, Slovakia, USA, Canada and South Africa.

We hope that you, our dear supporters will like our new logo.

New partnership in Swaziland

Since 2009, we have been continuously helping 3000 children living in this small kingdom in southern Africa. In the beginning, we helped AIDS orphans with a warm meal and daily care that was provided by female volunteers (*Caregivers*) from the local villages. Later on, we provided ambulatory basic medical services along with HIV testing, not only for children, but we also provided that service to adults. We also helped with; food, warm clothing and blankets, doubled the number of tanks for collecting rain water for most of the 100 *Neighbourhood Carepoints (NCPs)*. We also paid for the qualification training for the *Caregivers* so that they could teach preschool.

The income-generating projects were mostly financed by the Rotary International Clubs where the Rotary Club in Mbabane (*the capital of Swaziland*) played a prominent role. These projects are supposed to help the volunteers that work in the NCPs to come up with ideas to help with their income under the motto, "*Helping people help themselves*". All those projects had to be organized from our office in Nhlanguano, which was not as originally intended. The lack of qualifications and the required work for these projects just overwhelmed the employees. Reports, receipts and supporting documents were not submitted to us, or were submitted only after being constantly reminded by us. For the past two years we have dealt with a food crisis in Swaziland and have come to the realization that we cannot manage all of that work from Germany, especially when we are lacking a competent local staff. Due to our responsibility to our donors, we had to find a new solution.

We have found a partner, a very respected NGO (*Non-Governmental Organization*) **Young Heroes**, an organization that works professionally and fulfills our requirements. So far, we are very pleased with the cooperation and hope that it benefits the needy children in the long term.

Young Heroes was established in 2006 by NERCHA (*National Emergency Council on HIV and Aids*). Approximately 125,000 Swazi children which represents about 10% of the entire population, have lost at least one parent because of this epidemic. Most of them fight for daily survival. About 15,000 households in the



Khulekani Magongo/Director Young Heroes (left) and Ernst Engel (right)

country have a child as head of household who have to take care of their younger siblings. These children are "Young Heroes". "Heroes" are also the people that support these "Young Heroes", the local volunteers and the people that organize donations.

We will have an independent program with the name of **Strong Heroes** to execute our projects in Swaziland with **Young Heroes** as the umbrella organization.

The *THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation* has to thank Ton Vriend for the serendipitous encounter with Young Heroes; he recommended this organization to us. Ton is a member of the Rotary Club Mbabane/Swaziland and helps us year after year with our projects in Swaziland. Ton Vriend has Dutch roots and he along with his wife Gill, have lived in Swaziland for the last 40 years where he is well known and has a large network.

Vocational training for 25 needy young adults in Swaziland

Unemployment in Swaziland is very high, especially in the rural regions. Young adults without a secondary education have very little chance to find work or take part in a skills training course. The government has recognized this problem and has established *Swaziland Skills Centers (SCC)*. There are four such centers in the entire country. The courses are 1 year long and male and female young adults can gain theoretical and practical knowledge in various occupations. These centers are mostly financed with donations.

The *THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation* cooperates with the *Nhlanguano Industrial Skills Training Centre (NISTC)*. The center offers an education in agriculture, plumbing, electrical work, automotive technology and carpentry.

The Rotary Club Woerthsee in Germany has provided the *THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation* the funds for 25 needy young adults to attend classes at this center. The costs for this project are approximately 6,100 Euros which also provide the work/safety clothing, transportation costs and a little pocket money.



Here are 3 examples of selected trainees and their familiar situations:

Sizwe Mashaba (photo left) is 23 years old and is one of 15 children. His parents are old and unemployed. He decided to learn plumbing and hopes that after graduation he can support his family.

Xolile Mkhali (photo right) is 22 years old and grew up with 3 other siblings and an unemployed mother. She wants to become an electrician.



Sanele Ntshakala (photo above) is also 22 years old and he wants to learn carpentry. His mother is unemployed and he wants to help his mother and the rest of his family that lives in severe poverty.

These 3 young adults, as well as, their 22 colleagues hope that this training will help them find a job in the future; the chances are very good. However, the outlook for jobs in Swaziland is not as good as in the neighboring country of South Africa. As a result, many male young adults leave Swaziland to look for a job in South Africa in order to support their families.

Flowers Children's Centre – New project in Tanzania

Recently the *THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation* started a new project in Tanzania; it came about through the commitment of Victoria Link. She is a 30-year-old social worker from Germany who visited Tanzania for the first time in October 2016. She decided to volunteer at an orphanage. Before her trip, she collected donations which she wanted to use for a meaningful cause. An acquaintance told her about her project; an orphanage where

nothing existed, not even toilets. A few days later, she accompanied her to the *Flowers Children's Center (FCC)* to learn about the work that was done there; she was immediately overcome with feelings.

"The children came running to me, hugged me, the director also greeted me immediately. I knew then that the money I collected would be put to good use. It was clear to me that this school did not lack good will; it lacked money. After only 2 weeks, the structure of two new classrooms were built and 2 weeks later the first children were able to attend classes there. I knew at that point in time, that this would not be the last time that I would visit the Flowers Children's Center", as per Victoria Link.



She immediately started a website and reported about the *Flowers Children's Centre* in the newspaper. A good friend of hers told her about the *THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation* and we decided to support this project.



It was very important for director Dennis Palla to serve the children one warm meal while they are attending school and a kitchen was built on the grounds of the *Flowers Children's Centre*.

"During a meeting with the parents, the poverty level in which the children live became very clear to me. Many parents told of their daily struggle to provide their children with enough food. I could sense the desperation of the parents and family members in not being able to provide the children with food and how thankful they were to have found a place where their children not only received a free pre-school education, but also a free warm meal a day", reports Victoria Link.

Because of the dramatic stories of the parents and family members the school director decided that in the future in addition of lunch, a breakfast would be served as well. This started in April of this year.

Another unforgettable event for Victoria happened when a child hurt an ear while playing. The ear required stiches, but the parents could not afford a doctor's visit. At that moment, she realized that she was visiting a Third World Country. She asked the director to give the mother some money from the donations so she could visit a doctor. The ear was already almost healed before she left for Germany.

This month Victoria Link will travel for the fourth time to Tanzania, this time for 2 months and she will use unpaid vacation for her trip.

Meanwhile 90 children receive meals and a pre-school education at the *Flowers Children's Center*. A hostel was rented nearby where volunteers from all different countries can sleep and eat for little money. In turn, they have to help the teachers, play with the children, help in the kitchen and visit the children and families at their homes. For example, after their formal education, young adults from various countries, can become socially engaged and learn here a lesson for the rest of their lives.

Another vision, but maybe a soon to be reality, is the building of a Primary School. The school will charge fees to the parents that can afford it, but it will be free of charge for children from the *Flowers Children's Center*. This could help the center to generate income and reduce their dependency on donations, a great example of "Helping children to help themselves".

The four pre-school teachers receive a monthly salary of 45.00 Euros and the cooks receive 30.00 Euros. Typical salaries are twice as much. The *Flowers Children's Center* cannot afford to make payments at those levels at the moment. At the present time, the director of the school receives his monthly salary of 110.00 Euros from the government.

News from the Booster Clubs and the next events

The number of the members is great and it continues to rise:

Booster Club in Fulda
= 51 members

Booster Club in Nastaetten
= 61 members

Both clubs are very active in trying to generate income for the foundation. Aside from the memberships, they generate money through fund raising events.

Both benefit concerts in March called "ovationen 2017" were successful as reported in the previous years; they were the highlight of the year. Other events were successful as well and received a positive response.

In Nastaetten they organized an "open garden event", a rally with the Porsche Club Mittelrhein e.V. and a festival called "Live-Cooking".

Once again, the members of the Booster club in Fulda organized "Erlebnis Afrika" (Experience Africa) with African food and live African music, as well as, a yard sale.

Event dates

02.+03.12.2017 – Info- and food booth at the Christmas market in Nastaetten.

24./25.02.2018 – The Booster Club in Nastaetten invites you to a Winter hike.

BENEFIT CONCERTS

ovationen 2018
Beliebte Melodien von Klassik bis Pop

16.+17.03.2018 – Benefit concerts "ovationen 2018" in Fulda and Nastaetten. In 2017 Echo prize winner Yury Revich impressed the audience. In "ovationen 2018" the young, award winning members of the band "Stilbruch", "LJO Brass" band, Japanese Pianist "Kenichiro Kojima" and Guitarist "Florian Brettschneider" will perform.

09.06.2018 – Open-Air-Event with Sven Garrecht & Band at the Limeskastell Pohl (*part of the UNESCO World Heritage*).

Juni 2018 – "Experience Africa" at "antonijs-Netzwerk Mensch" in Fulda.



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