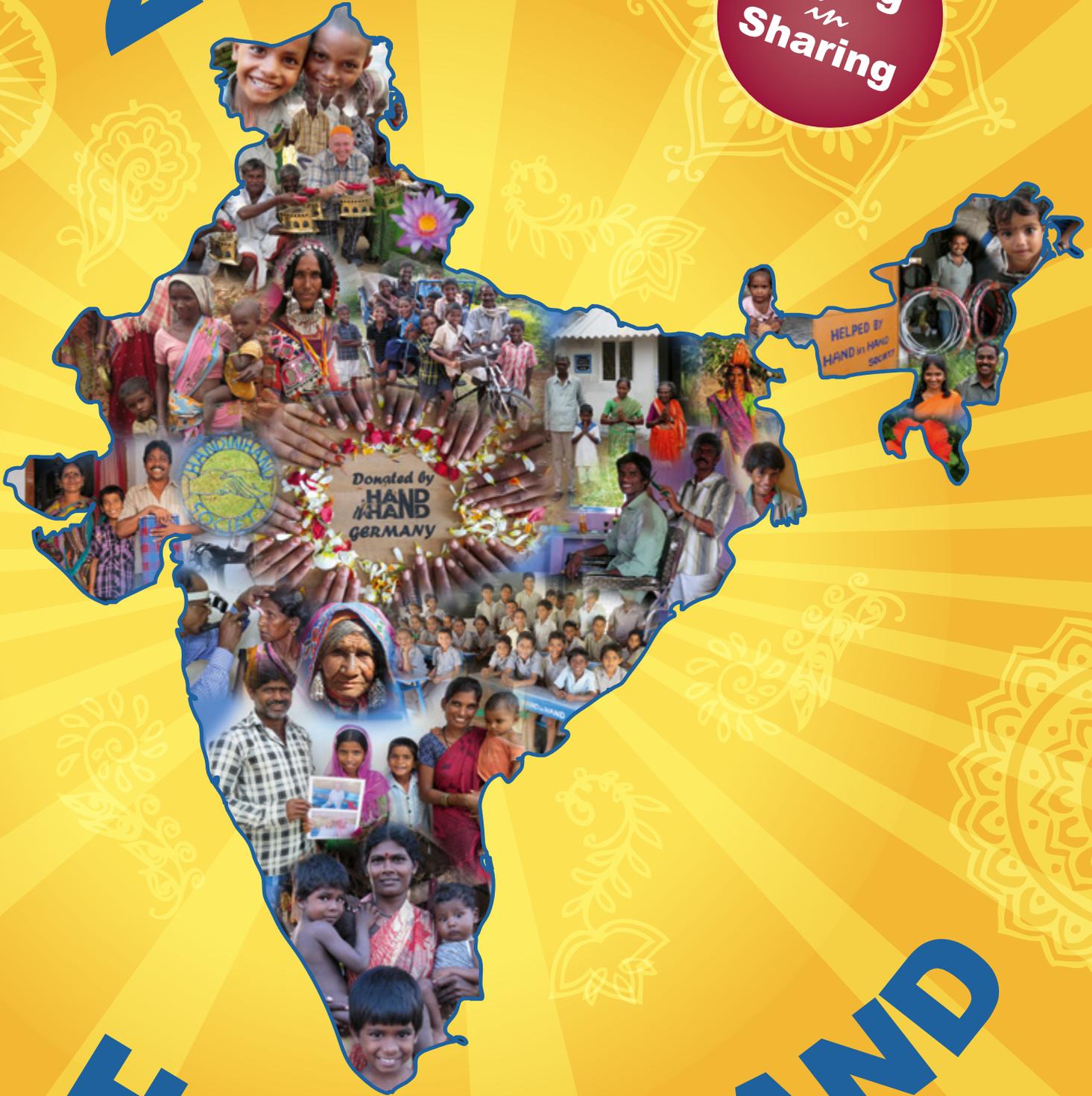


25 Years

Living
in
Sharing



HAND *in* HAND

How it all started...

Interview with Elmar Jung, the founder of HAND↔HAND

How did you come to found HAND↔HAND?

It was in 1985: with my Indian student friend Joseph, I visited this great country for a Taizé World Youth Meeting in Madras - it is about 12 times bigger than Germany. Since then, India has not let me go. If someone had asked me before that time what I had to do with India, I would have pulled up my shoulder and replied: "Nothing!".

Brothers of Taizé asked me if I wanted to attend the meeting and I said yes. In India, I was one of about 800 Europeans in the midst of 20.000 Indians. Actually, I was a little afraid of this country, because a few months before, two of my friends came back from a stay in India with a life-threatening illness. That put me off going there. But then I dared...

Whenever I came back from India, friends and acquaintances asked me about this country and the people, and I could tell a lot. This often gave rise to the questions: "Can't we do anything together?" and "How can we help?" My answer was very simple: "Living by sharing!" **HAND↔HAND** was born.

With thirty like-minded people we founded the relief organisation **HAND↔HAND** e.V. on 31.10.1992. To this day, **HAND↔HAND** wants to share life with the people of India in a clear "option for the poor" - regardless of religion, caste or race - because they live on the same earth as all of us.

Why did you stand up for India in particular?

Already during my first visit India became my second home: the simplicity of the people, the radiance of their eyes and hearts, the incredible ability to share with others even in extreme poverty, the so high importance of the family, the cordial openness and hospitality have sunk deeply into my heart.

During further, longer stays I got to know the situation of many local people better and better. This has made me grow in the mission to contribute to sharing the goods of this earth more justly among all people. For it cannot be fair that 15% of the rich nations of mankind have 85% of the goods of the earth, while the remaining 85% of the poor of the earth have to share the 15% of the goods of the earth. This injustice is and remains a sting in my flesh. So the motto of our relief organization grew more and more in my thoughts: "Life by sharing", because I experienced this willingness to share as very impressive, especially among the poor in India.

What was your personal motivation to help in India?

I emphasize it emphatically: **HAND↔HAND** is not a missionary work, it is not about winning people for the Christian faith. But my very personal motivation for founding **HAND↔HAND** was my Christian faith and above all the implementation of the Gospel.

In my time as a school pastor, young people often asked me what the Gospel has to do with our lives. I usually answered: the Gospel wants to be "done" in one's own life. Only then is it really a "Good News". Jesus' message should be reflected in the actions of Christians. The most visible characteristic of Jesus' life and actions was his unrestricted solidarity with the outcasts, pushed to the edge of society, the scum of the people - there was primarily his place. This message of Jesus was a challenge for me. I finally wanted to start doing it and not just preaching it. I am convinced that any credible action is better than any sophisticated sermon.

How does HAND↔HAND work in India?

HAND↔HAND invites many people in India to become a tangible sign of hope for the future in a spirit of sharing. We implement this in three principles:

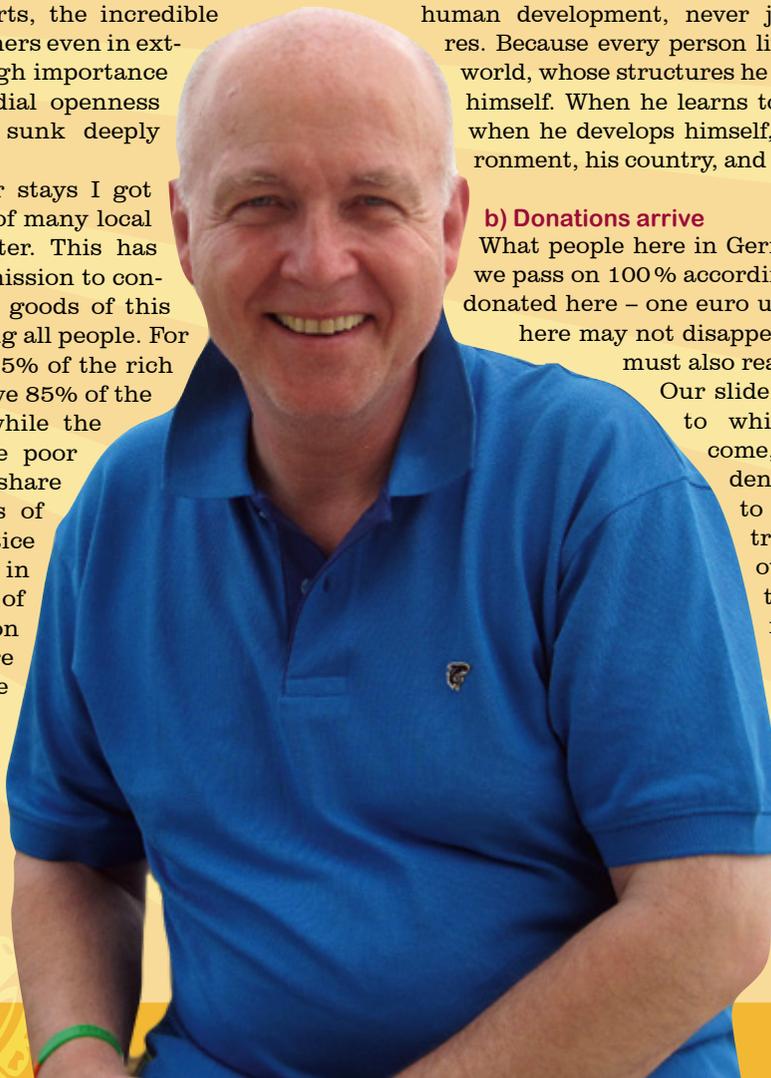
a) Helping people to help themselves

The idea of helping so always plays a role, so that people there can help themselves - or as the saying goes so well: "Give a fish to a hungry person and he will take place for a day. Teach him to fish and he will never hunger again." We do not want people to get into a false addiction to us. I believe that development cooperation must always be human development, never just a change in structures. Because every person lives locally in his very own world, whose structures he knows and can change best himself. When he learns to discover his own talents, when he develops himself, he also develops his environment, his country, and thus also the world.

b) Donations arrive

What people here in Germany are willing to share, we pass on 100% according to the motto: "One euro donated here - one euro used there". Funds donated here may not disappear in anonymous pots, but must also reach where they are needed.

Our slide shows and travel reports, to which many people always come, bear witness to this. Incidentally, it is important to me to emphasize that postage, travel, administrative and other costs are borne by the volunteers themselves from the outset.



» Continuation of interview with Elmar Jung

c) Trust and Connection to India

The trusting relationship with the people in India and the friendly solidarity with them are important to us. Let it be transparent with whom we share. Bridges are built from person to person. It is true: the most impressive thing is that we know about someone who lives far away from us, but who is close to us because we know his face and his circumstances. Someone who shares with another is all the better to share when he feels: on the other side is a person's hand, which I am allowed to take amicably. In other words, hand in hand.

Which projects has HAND \leftrightarrow HAND supported in the 25 years?

We provide friends, acquaintances, school classes, parishes, etc. with smaller and larger opportunities to help people in India whose situation we know personally and who have to live below the poverty line. We have already supported well over 900 different projects. We help in the following five major areas:

1 Family and Home

We want to provide security by building houses for families in inhumane conditions. We know from direct contact with poor families who have no roof over their heads or whose mud huts regularly collapse in the rainy season. They live in the slums of the big cities, on leprosy stations and in villages in the countryside. If they were given bricks and building materials, they could build a good house. Anyone who knows the importance of the family in India can appreciate the value of one's own four walls for Indians.

2 Health and Hygiene

The aim is to preserve and improve lives, to alleviate pain, to get people out of garbage and waste.

We support outcasts on two leprosy stations, pay the costs for urgently needed operations for those who have been disabled since birth or sudden illness and who have no chance of help due to their social situation. These include polio, blindness, deaf-mutenedness, leprosy and TB. Rarely can poor people in India afford to buy necessary medicine. We'll help you do that. Since no human being can live without water, we help those in particular need through targeted well construction. This is how we help to create a decent life.

3 School and Education

Poverty cannot be tackled by stuffing only hungry mouths. We help young people in particular to help themselves later on. Through schooling and professional training, we help individual young people from slums, leprosy stations and poor farming villages and in our **HAND \leftrightarrow HAND** orphanage to live in human dignity through the development of their natural talent. Today we see good seeds among young people who will shape life in India tomorrow.

4 Agriculture and Crafts

We help to prepare the ground, make land usable for self-sufficiency. We encourage people to develop and use their own talents. The figures speak for themselves: 54% of India's land area can be cultivated. More than 65% of the population works in agriculture. Well over 80 million Indians are unemployed. In rural areas, individual poor families can learn to tackle their own food supply themselves. This promotes independence and reduces rural exodus. For example, we buy a family a cow or a small flock of sheep. Many times we have provided rickshaws to secure an income for family fathers. Small grocery or hairdresser shops on the roadside, tailoring shops, bicycle workshops help to use one's own talents. Young single women and widows learn tailoring, sewing and weaving and sell their handicrafts on the market. This is how we help to get things moving so that what can grow continues to grow.

5 Naked survival

We provide emergency aid on the spot for the poorest of the poor. Officially 38% of Indians live below the poverty line and a further 20%. Because most of these people fall

by the wayside, we are committed to them. However, help for self-help can only be given to a poor person if he has enough strength to help himself. People lying on the streets, digging in the rubbish, street children who try to survive through daily begging can be motivated to get out of the vicious circle of ever deeper sinking by targeted one-time support. We provide several hundred widows and widowers with 10 kilos of rice a month so that they can have an easier twilight years and gain courage.

What are your wishes for the future?

What has been set in motion over the past 25 years is truly tremendous. No one would have thought this, I least of all. But I have become aware of one thing: it is not possible without the participation and personal concern of each individual. Only those who are affected by the fate of others, only those who open their

hearts to the reality of their fellow human beings - no matter where they live, only they will set themselves in motion and get involved. This is the case all over the world.

Our first thanks therefore go to the donors who trust us. Anyone who makes a donation makes this affectedness clear to the outside world. And so a movement has emerged with **HAND \leftrightarrow HAND** that wants to make a difference, namely: to make life for others possible by sharing one's life. **HAND \leftrightarrow HAND**, the little child, has grown up. It should continue to develop well.

India – a comparison between 1985 and 2017



Theme	1985	2017
Population	780 millions	1.35 Milliarden
Population density per km ²	269 inhabitants	452 inhabitants
Population in cities	24,6%	33,5%
Birthrate	34,5%	18,6%
Child mortality rate	8,2%	4,3%
Malnutrition rate	279 millions	186 millions
Alphabetical rate of the population	42,3%	73,9%
Children and youth between 1-15 years	38,7%	27,4%
Corruption Perceptions	19%	42%

Facts and figures of India

- 36% of the population live among the poverty line.
- India is the seventh biggest country in the world.
- India is the biggest democracy in the world.
- 52,3% of the arable area is used for agriculture.
- India has 360 airports.
- The average live expectancy is 68 years.
- There are 13,5% unemployed teenagers between 15-24 years.
- In India are spoken 28 main languages and 1.000 dialects.
- Religions: 81,4% Hindus, 13,2% Muslims, 2,6% Christians, 1,6% Sikhs, 0,8% Buddhists, 0,4% Jains.

25 years – A statistic without boundaries



85 

irons were bought for washing families

120 

bikes support moving

145 

rickshaws secure the income of family fathers

500 

houses were rehabilitated and renewed

264 

study fees were payed

740 

houses were built

5.100 

school years were financed for godchilids

63 

fountains and water sources had been dug

360 

eye surgeries were carried out

with 
755.000 €

schools and children's homes were financed

2.600 

school kids were served lunch for a whole year

over 900 

different projects were supported

4.050 

old people were supplied with food for a whole year

502 

persons were financed by a shop or a craft

55 

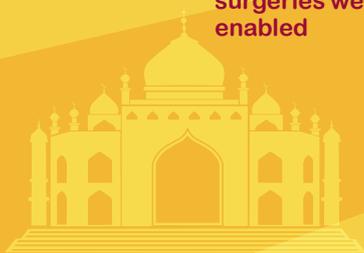
surgeries were enabled

46 

sewing machines for young women were purchased

57 

fisher families got new boats and nets after a tsunami



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BIC: GENODE33HAN

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Finally more than
2.500.000 €

did HiH use in India to help people who are living in distress in the last 25 years...



HAND in HAND

Der Reichtum der Armen (1990)

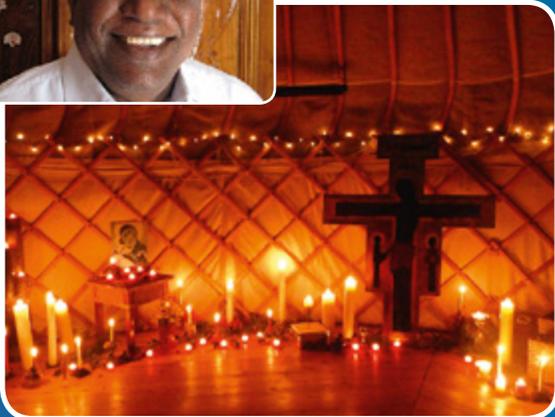
28. Dezember 1987

In the evening at 19:30 on the train to Muniguda, Elmar Jung meets Krishna, a completely neglected polio sick teenager, who is completely on his own, who can only walk like a crab on hands and feet and has been begging himself money for life by sweeping the train compartments for eleven years. In a "spiritual apoption" Elmar Jung takes care of him.

Krishna begins a new life, is operated, learns the upright walk and a profession as a tailor. He calls himself Elmarkrishna.



1985



Elmar Jung for the first time in India for the Taizé World Youth Meeting in Madras. There he meets the school director J.J. Berthew, who has been a hand-in-hand coordinator at the southern tip of India ever since and into old age.

Trotzdem - Leben im Extrem ... ein Leben lang ... (1998)

1987

18. Oktober

The cabaret artist Stephan Wald with his "Hungergala" in the Stadthalle Langen in favour of Brunnen in Barwaha, calling for help from Bishop Abraham.

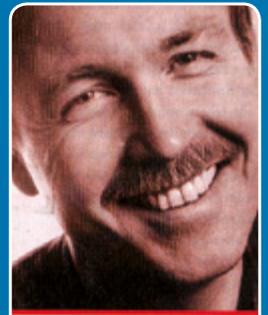


Elmar Jung by chance meets the young student Jayababu, who asks for financial support for his engineering studies. After his graduation, the young Indian has put all his life force into the service of HiH since 1996 and becomes our best coordinator in India.

Daheim in zwei Welten (1996)

1990

first sponsorships for school children in Bhagawanpura, in the following years still in six other places.



Elmar Jung, 45, Pfarrer:

„Wenn Sie mich früher gefragt hätten, ob ich mal so etwas mache, hätte ich mir an den Kopf gegriffen und gesagt: Wie käm' ich dazu?“

31. Oktober

Foundation of HANDin-HAND e.V. in Darmstadt 1st board: Elmar Jung, Birgitta Zörner, Bernhard Haus, Gisela Svcina.

1989

20. September

Stephan Wald with "ÖKO-Sat-Programm" again in Langen this time for the dying street boy Durgesh from Indore.



Aus den Wurzeln leben (2001)

Alle Wege führen zum Menschen (2017)

25 years – Growing from

1995

29. Oktober

Choir and Orchestra Jubilate Deo receives the Culture Award of the City of Langen: JD has been singing for people in need since 1984 – 150 appearances so far – 80.000 DM in donations – 225 hours of singing in front of 86.000 people.



1997

Move from HiH to Ober-Roden, Elmar Jung leaves school and becomes parish priest of St. Nazarius.

Stefan Sgoll becomes the new treasurer. He replaces Bernhard Haus.

1999

A slum school on the outskirts of Bangalore is built by HiH. Fr. Jesudass as the leader has been firmly connected with us ever since.



2001

7. Februar

Earthquake in India in the state of Gujarat. A delegation of Indian employees will be on site one month later with Elmar Jung.

Claudia van der Beets becomes the new secretary.



2nd "Cycling for India" around Ober-Roden in favour of the new vocational training centre in Gudur: 260 cyclists cycle 42.368 DM.



26. Oktober

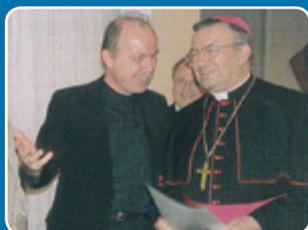
In Madras a large HAND-in-HAND house with several guest rooms, meditation room and carpenter's workshop is built for the India-wide organization of our association. Three employees help on site.



1996

18. Oktober

1st place in the diocese of Mainz: Prize for Justice and Peace, awarded by Bishop Karl Lehmann.



1998

1st "Cycling for India" on the car-free B3 between Darmstadt and Bensheim in favour of the slum school in Bangalore: 45 cyclists cycle 9.500 DM.

Veronka Seidel becomes the new secretary. She replaces Gisela Svcina.

2000

3rd "Cycling for India" around Ober-Roden for the further expansion of the vocational training centre in Gudur: 173 cyclists cycle 27.212 DM.



Heinz Nothstein becomes the new treasurer. He was replacing Stefan Sgoll.

10 years HAND-in-HAND with anniversary reception in Ober-Roden.

1993



First encounter with the Indian balashow Reddy at Easter in Taizé. Already in December Elmar Jung visits him in his village in India. A large land can be bought for an agricultural cooperative of HiH.

2002

Manchmal leben wir schon... (1994)

the root to the blossom

2004



Dissolution of the choir and orchestra Jubilate Deo, which sang more than DM 120.000 in donations for India in 250 concerts.

10. Oktober

Inauguration of the HAND_{in}HAND orphanage PREM VISWASAM (Love and Trust) in Bobbili on the east coast of India.



26. Dezember

Tsunami disaster, which is also severely affecting South-East India.

2008

16. Oktober

Sponsor run for India, inspired by Angelika Billing from the kindergarten St. Gallus in Urberach for the kindergarten in Sutharkeda.



Birgitta Zörner retires as 2nd Chairwoman. She is appointed honorary member; Claudia van der Beets becomes her successor; Christine Ullmann becomes secretary. Markus Bleck becomes an associate and responsible for the club newspaper "HAND_{in}HAND-gemacht". Later Bianca Gallian becomes secretary and faithful translator.



2006

Many initiatives of groups, schools and associations enable the purchase of boats, fishing nets and house repairs after the tsunami.



4. Oktober

First Eye-Camp of HAND_{in}HAND in Bobbili: many people come to the eye examination to clarify whether they can see again through an operation. In the meantime, more than 300 people have undergone surgery at six such eye camps.



2005

16. April

Sponsor run for the tsunami victims in India, initiated by Angelika Billing from the St. Gallus Kindergarten in Urberach.

Sterne erleuchten die Dunkelheit (2014)

Hoffnungslichter im Dunkeln (2016)

Wenn die wir zur F (2018)

Leben wie Gott in Indien - Innensichten von einer anderen Welt (1993)

Spuren, die bleiben (2010)

Zukunft (2009)

Menschen wie Du und Ich (1995)

Die ein

Herzens-Sache: Liebe und Vertrauen (2015)

2010

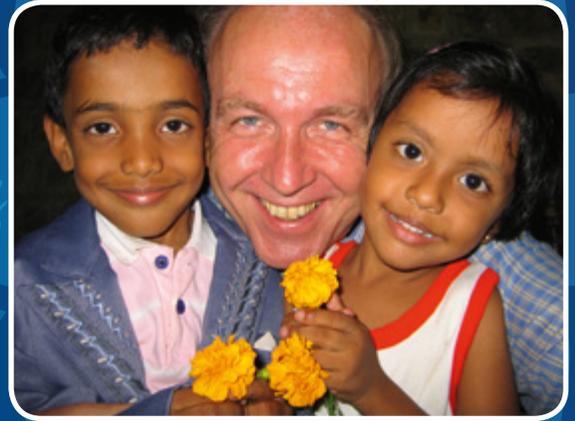


Thomas Schnitter works as a volunteer for six months at three locations in India: Gudoor, Bobbili, Virapandianpatnam. Then he takes over the layout of our club newspaper.

Angelika Billing becomes secretary.



2018



22. April 2018

Anniversary celebration "25 years HAND_{in}HAND". The "little child" has grown.

2017

New advertising flyer thanks to Bettina Knell. Bernd Beetz becomes new treasurer of HAND_{in}HAND



4. April

Anniversary of the death of the long-time treasurer Heinz Nothstein. Hans Derichs is gratefully taking up his duties on a provisional basis.



2016

Angelika Ehresmann-Schrod succeeds Markus Bleck.



2013

20 years HAND_{in}HAND



Die neuen Samariter



Den Spatz in der Hand oder die Taube auf dem Dach? (2011)

Mitte der Nacht ist der Anfang des neuen Tages (1992)

Hoffnung inmitten von Dunkelheit (2002)

Dein Angesicht will ich suchen (1991)