



A drop in the ocean of poverty

The St. Josef School in Calcutta
presents itself





Education is the safest and shortest way out of poverty

OUR PROJECT

The St. Josef School is located in Howrah-Pilkhana, one of the biggest slums of Calcutta. There are thousands of people living in huts or in completely dilapidated and semi-illegally built houses. A slum hut measures about eight to twelve square meters and accommodates six to ten people.

In many cases, there is only one toilet and one tap for more than 100 people. The monsoon, which lasts from mid-June to mid-September, brings defecation, urine, dead animals and rats through the open sewers inside the wretched huts and entrance areas of illegal skyscrapers. The children of our school either live in slum huts made of clay, sheet metal, debris and different types of waste or in one of those completely dilapidated skyscrapers.

OUR SCHOOL

We are pleased to have the opportunity to provide children with a basic level of education throughout pre-school, elementary and middle school up to class seven. After middle school, we try to send the children to secondary schools. With the help of the supporters of our school we finance the school fees and books among other things. In India, school usually costs money. Hence, for the poorest of the poor the access to education and a dignified life remains spoilt. Without education they will not have any other alternative but a life full of oppression and exploitation. Our school however, is free of charge.

We provide our students with the necessary teaching materials such as books, stationery etc. In addition, all students and if necessary their families, receive basic medical care. The father of a poor family earns around 20 to 25 euros a month. This does not even cover the price of the daily bread for the family. At the moment, one kilogram of rice costs 40 to 50 cents, a liter of milk 30 cents and a kilo of meat 2 to 4 euros.

THE SEWING SCHOOL

Another part of our project is a sewing school where young girls between 14 and 19 are trained to be tailors. So far, we have been able to hand over more than 600 locally recognized tailor certificates.

An empty stomach has no ears

SUPPLYING

Hungry children cannot concentrate and study effectively. This is why they receive a warm, wholesome and nutritious meal from Monday to Friday. At the moment we provide 162 families with weekly food rations – ten families more than last year. 800 people benefit from this supply. Every Tuesday they get a food basket with 3 to 5 kilograms of rice, approximately one kilogram dall (lentils), three to five eggs, one to two kilograms of potatoes and sometimes cooking oil and laundry soap. For this family support, we need more than 22 tons of rice, two tons of dall, four tons of potatoes, 32,000 eggs, about 1,000 kilograms laundry soap and more than 100 liters of oil each year. With only 10 euros per month and family we can provide these supplies. The children who attend our school are mainly members of these families.

YOUR HELP

Of course it requires financial support to provide this small service to the 205 children of our school. However, we can make a big difference with small resources. For the school education including food and medical care of one child, we only need 20 euros a month. We are aware that we are only a small drop in the ocean of poverty. Nevertheless, we do not grow tired of standing up for those children and their families marked by suffering and misery.

I want to mention that we primarily follow the mission to provide education for children. However, every day it is getting clearer that we cannot isolate this topic from other major life issues. A child does not benefit from the education we provide if it has nothing to eat – sooner or later it will become sick. Education is also meaningless if a child turns blind due to an eye disease or dies because of tuberculosis. There are more and more tasks we have to undertake in order to help the children in the long term. These various additional tasks are not included in our annual expense planning. We can only do all this because of individual donations often given especially for medical aid.

Visit www.calcuta-schule.de for more information.



MARCUS POHL

Initiator of St. Josef School in Calcutta
My name is Marcus Pohl, born in 1972, happily married and father of five children. We live in Orsingen near Constance. I am a social worker and a nurse by profession. Since 2000, I have been working in the healthcare sector in Switzerland. The service for the poorest of the poor is a concern of mine since I worked as a volunteer with Mother Teresa in Calcutta (between 1995 and 1997).

This is why I am even more grateful that thanks to your help and with this small but meaningful private aid project, we can contribute to a more human future. Mother Teresa once said: „We ourselves feel that what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.“ If this drop of love and hope did not exist, these children and the people marked by misery and disease would truly miss it.

The project, which I co-founded with the Indian school principal Veronica Jose in 1996, would not be possible without the great support from my wife and family and, of course, from you.

The St. Josef School has been existing as a private aid project for 20 years now. Many friends have trusted me and the board of the school in Calcutta. Over many years it has grown to what it is now and I would like to say thank you sincerely to everyone.

The donor has no administrative expenses to bear. All costs such as flights, the printing of the annual reports as well as telephone and postal charges are borne privately by my family.

YOUR DONATIONS

All those who need a donation receipt in Germany should donate to the following bank account. For additional information, please read the information dating from August 2014 in the section “News” on the website www.calcutta-schule.de.

BANK ACCOUNT

Kath. Kirchengemeinde Sparkasse Bodensee
Reference: Schule Kalkutta
IBAN: DE53 6905 0001 0000 0926 84

Please use the following bank account if you do not need a German donation receipt:

BANK ACCOUNT IN GERMANY

Marcus Pohl
Reference: Schule
IBAN: DE19 6905 0001 0000 4598 59
SWIFT BIC: SOLADES1KNZ

BANK ACCOUNT IN SWITZERLAND

Förderverein St. Josef-Schule Calcutta
Schaffhauser Kantonalbank
Account number: 820811-2101
IBAN: CH55 0078 2008 2081 1210 1
BC 782 / BIC SHKBCH2S

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