

SWAN Nepal partners with SWAN Austria

SWAN - Nepal has been lucky to partner with like minded individuals and organizations across the world and reach out to many children and women of rural Nepal. Amongst many of them, we have a group of friends in Austria who have been helping us assist mostly the needy people of the country through their continuous effort, commitment and massive fundraising campaign since 2014. So far, they have supported Nepali women with **off seasonal vegetable farming** which have helped better their livelihoods. They have also opened a children's library in the Dalit (marginalized community) which gives access to people of this community to learn. In addition to that, they have aided in the construction of a **Kindergarten** namely, Jyoti Bal Bikas Kendra on the outskirts of villages in Baglung district. Alongside all these, they have also supported education kits, day meal, teacher support and scholarship opportunities for 10 needy children.

To add to everything they are already doing, they also continually support us in our social cause and as a part of that, they established **SWAN Österreich** in Austria to support Nepali people in 2016. We are beyond grateful to have had the support of these amazing people and highly inspired by their passion that has helped us impact the lives of over 500 **children and women** of Baglung.

Here are a few interview questions asked to the board of SWAN Österreich to help us understand better, their purpose and calling for the Nepali people.



Team of SWAN Österreich in Narayansthan, Baglung

1. How did you happen to come to Nepal and what inspires you to help the Nepali people?

- It all started with a trekking holiday. Arnold and Gerhard wanted to do the Annapurna Trek (about 15 years ago). However, you may call it – fate? Fortune? Destiny? – they stayed in a hotel in Kathmandu where they meet Mr. Shyam Basnet who has been involved as Treasurer in SWAN Nepal (NGO). They became friends quickly and get informed about the NGO and its work. When they came back some years later, Shyam already organized everything, took them to Narayansthan (one of the project sites) and so our friendship started. Some years later also Betty and Jochen came with Arnold, and so on...

2. What do you love the most about Nepali people?

- Their kindness. We were always welcomed warmly and the people were always friendly towards us. They shared everything they had with us and never asked any service in return.

3. What pushed you to establish "SWAN Österreich" in Austria?

- It was after the big earthquake. We wanted to help more and needed to collect more funds. It was necessary to put everything on the next level and to have a better structure. We also had to show our donors that we work professionally and that 100% of their funds are used to help the Nepali people.

4. Could you tell us about your board and its active members? What is your vision and mission as an organization?

- 4 of us have been involved as an active member; Chairman: Arnold Hörmann, Delegate: Bettina Freynhofer, Secretary: Jochen Luftensteiner, Treasurer: Gerhard Hörmann.

Our mission is to support SWAN Nepal and to make Austrian people aware of the situation in Nepal.

5. We see your efforts like fundraising campaign and others. How hard should one work to make such events successful?

- So far it's not hard work – we love what we do. I think that's what people in Austria feel – we really want to help. We don't push anybody to give some funds. We present our projects and invite people to join us.



Fundraising campaign in Naarn, Austria

6. You guys visit Nepal to monitor your projects at least once a year. How does it feel when you see the impact made with the funding of SWAN Österreich in person?

- There are no words to describe this. We are just grateful and happy to see our projects and motivated to continue our journey with SWAN Nepal...

7. What will be that one project in Nepal that has made you really happy and why?

- The goat raising project makes us really happy. It's so simple and it works. Nearly no risk for the donors, but a big opportunity for the women involved.

8. Are you happy with your partnership with SWAN Nepal? Any remarks?

- It's wonderful working with SWAN Nepal – we see all your wonderful ideas and projects – this is really inspiring.



Mr. Arnold Hörmann with the school children in Binamare, Baglung

9. Do you have any message to the potential donors/individuals who want to join SWAN and help Nepali people?

- Just do it!!!! SWAN Nepal does a great job, picks wonderful projects and really does everything to "**help people help themselves**".