

## **Pestalozzi Children's Foundation**

Switzerland / Trogen

Intercultural Exchange

### **SCHOOL PROJECTS AND POWER\_UP RADIO**

Project report 2006

This review summarises the main events of the project year 2006 to which the Anne Frank-Fonds contributed CHF 1'500.- The review is based on the more substantial annual report compiled by the supervisors of the Intercultural Exchange programme. We hope that we herewith comply with your expectations towards transparency and information; should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact us directly.

#### **School- and Radio-projects**

The Pestalozzi Children's Foundation enables Swiss school classes to meet and experience foreign cultures in the Children's Village. Today, society and especially the schools face the challenge of dealing with the cultural diversity that has become part of our life. Often, this still leads to conflicts. Here the Pestalozzi Children's Foundation wishes to help and to make a contribution to peaceful intercultural co-existence through their experience and commitment. Over the last few years, numerous school classes have taken advantage of the learning opportunity and participated in one of the school project weeks organised in the Children's Village, in order to learn more about other cultures but also to become more familiar with their own cultural background through play and sports. The main aim is to learn about, and train the skill of, intercultural communication. The children practise skills of non-violent conflict management and thus become accustomed to the concepts of reconciliation and conflict resolution. In the process, they learn how to deal with cultural difference and to break down prejudice.

In the Children's Village, school classes have the chance of meeting exchange groups from other countries. The children and adolescents experience such encounters with their peers from other cultures as an enrichment to their lives. One of the many possibilities offered during a project week is the use of the Village's broadcasting station power\_up radio, where the participants are given the opportunity to produce their own radio play or programme on issues such as religion or racism.

The frequency with which the children and adolescents make use of this opportunity shows that power\_up radio is one of the most favourite projects the Children's Village has to offer. It provides them with a modern and attractive medium for voicing their concerns and addressing issues that are of interest to them; this makes them feel heard and taken seriously. Since 2006 there also exists a mobile broadcasting station (Radiomobil), which, on request, travels to schools in the German-speaking part of Switzerland and where school children are given the chance, for example in the school yard, to develop and produce a programme on an intercultural topic.

### **Project organisation**

The school- and radio-projects are planned and implemented jointly with schools from the German-speaking part of Switzerland. Trained and experienced staff members of the Pestalozzi Children's Foundation are responsible for developing and mediating the contents of the project programmes. Teachers and parents accompanying the school classes supervise the children and adolescents in their day-to-day life, that is, they are responsible for the household routine and organise past-time activities. Whenever possible, the management sees to it that during their stay in the Children's Village Swiss children are joined by a short-term exchange group from a foreign country in order for them to experience what intercultural exchange means and what chances it offers.

### **Aims achieved in 2006**

- In 2006, 522 boys and girls from 21 schools in Switzerland, accompanied by a total of 71 teachers, participated either in a school project week or in single project days. Four project days were carried out at Swiss schools.
- 865 Swiss and foreign children and adolescents (participants in a short-term project) made use of the power\_up radio and the mobile broadcasting station (Radiomobil). 38 units (project weeks or –days) were spent working in the Children's Village's power\_up radio station.
- The mobile broadcasting station began operating on 28 March 2006. Six multi-day projects as well as one major event (Anti-racism Day) were carried out at a number of Swiss schools.

- The initial phase of the five-day anti-racism course for different age-levels has been completed; it offers course units within the Intercultural Exchange programme. Work on conceptualising a course for inter-religious competence training has begun.
- Concepts for the new courses starting in 2007 have been developed for teaching staff of Swiss schools. The courses include an interactive introduction to intercultural education and a module on the life and work of Pestalozzi and his philosophy that forms the basis of the Pestalozzi Children's Foundation. In addition, intercultural exchange with groups from abroad on the adult level (teachers and group supervisors) is to be intensified.

**Commentary.**

Europe is "shrinking", its countries are moving closer together which means that intercultural competence is becoming a "must" for all young people. Teaching this competence is real peace-work.

Mediating and training intercultural communication competence is the task of the Intercultural Exchange programme. Its courses target children and adolescents between 10 and 18 from Eastern Europe and Switzerland. The educational method applied is the autonomous, participative, emancipating method. In 2006, the Intercultural Exchange programme focused on expanding the contents and upgrading the quality of the courses offered, and on intensifying the advanced training of its staff members. Topics of the advanced training sessions included: methods of evaluation and post-processing, children's rights as well as a number of pedagogical and didactical issues.

*Translation of: "Schulprojekte und Power-Up Radio, Projektbericht 2006; Stiftung Kinderdorf Pestalozzi, Schweiz, Trogen"*