

Profile of the Charitable Louis Leitz Foundation

The *Louis Leitz Foundation* was established in November 2001 by the former family associates of the *Louis Leitz KG* (limited partnership) after selling the Stuttgart based family business. The manufacturer of the well-known LEITZ lever arch files had been active in the office supplies industry for over 125 years.

By setting up a Foundation, the donors wanted to share their conviction that in order to live peacefully together irrespective of origin, skin colour, sexual orientation, religion and age we all need to be able to develop and maintain a dignified self-sufficient existence. The integration of the individual into meaningful work by means of education and vocational training is therefore a vital task and responsibility of society. www.LLstiftung.de

The purpose of the Charitable Foundation is to help young people and adults who are physically, emotionally or economically disadvantaged to obtain access to education, vocational training and employment in order to improve their personal and social prospects. The Foundation therefore chose for its motto:

Providing a future through education | vocational training | employment

The *Louis Leitz Stiftung* is a grant-giving, charitable foundation supporting and encouraging **vocational training with model characteristics**. Ideally the projects can be replicated and multiplied, and are innovative and sustainable. At present, the following projects are being sponsored on a medium-term basis (for up to 5 years) for socially disadvantaged, mostly young people:

- **Stuttgart (D): LESEBRÜCKE “Reading Bridge” in Turkish** is involved with 16 mostly communal kindergardens by liaising with voluntary mother-tongue readers from the *Leseohren e.V.* association (400 German language readers in Kindergardens and Primary Schools). They help to develop particularly language, reading and cognitive skills of migrant children (over 50% of the Stuttgart children have a migrant background). www.leseohren-aufgeklappt.de
- **Stuttgart (D): OPEN_MUSIC Improvisation Workshop**; creative lessons with music, visual arts, dance, and theatre are part of the school curriculum offered at two Comprehensive Schools for disadvantaged grade-7 students (and their class teachers). An annual theatre performance brings together 120 pupils of different school types. www.open-music.eu
- **Stuttgart – Bad Cannstatt (D): TANDiEM Integration Co.** provides disabled young persons with certified training and employment for up to two years in the kitchen, the laundry, the senior- and nursing home or as janitors of the *ANNA HAAG Multi-Generations House*. The *LLstiftung* co-finances the in-house *TANDiEM Council and Employment Agency* which looks for employment in the regular labour market, and accompanies their former employees for up to two years. www.tandiem.de
- **Leonberg (D): SEEHAUS follow-up care** allows young ex-prisoners on licence to engage with education and work on a voluntary basis in a highly structured family, school and community environment. Once released into the outside world, the young people are supported and counselled by local mentors during their vocational training – thus helping them towards an autonomous life for themselves. www.prisma-jugendhilfe.de
- **Kassel (D):** The *LLstiftung* sponsored the start-up **SELF Kassel e.V.** and continues to provide funding for its development. This highly successful association – with a participative concept - encourages and helps High School students with a migrant background. Often the students arrive as minors and live as of 18 years old alone - or their families are unable to give them enough support to finish school. www.self-kassel.de

- **Bosnia-Herzegovine (BiH): MEDICA ZENICA Vocational Training Center** for war, domestic and other violence-traumatised women and their children in Zenica and several rural locations. At the *MEDICA Shelter House* (therapy and counselling) they enrol in certified 6 month long courses in tailoring / upholstery and in hairdressing. Newly gained confidence and empowerment generate small incomes and some economic independence. www.medicamondiale.de
- **Bosnia-Herzegovine (BiH): WINGS OF HOPE Reconciliation through vocational training** for unemployed school leavers. Young people up to the age of 30 receive training – and later employment – in associated enterprises all over BiH. Cooperation with professional schools and a range of organisations as well as with state agencies. www.wings-of-hope.de
- **Burkina Faso (BF): ANAS Training Center**, created in 2009, unemployed young men and women attend a two-year Dual School- and Training programme in servicing and mending water pipes and pumps. In cooperation with *Swisscontact Foundation* and starter capital from the *German Development Office (BMZ – Ministry for Cooperation in Developing Countries)*. www.swisscontact.org
- **Nepal (NEP): SHANGRI-LA Vocational Training Center** of the *SIS International School* near Kathmandu. Orphans and children of low social casts receive certified vocational training in several trades, parallel to finishing school, thus getting a chance for a self-sufficient professional life. www.waisenkind.de
- **West Nepal (NEP): SHANGRI-LA Outreach Rural Development** was established in the poorest mountain regions of Nepal with the teachers and students of *Karnali Technical School* who helped to re-establish an infrastructure and basic skills in health, agricultural and technical fields. A micro-credit programme with small loans similar to the *Grameen Bank* creates some income. Both Nepal projects have been conceived and are being further developed and monitored by *GOVINDA e.V.* in Germany. www.waisenkind.de

In 2003 the *Louis Leitz Foundation* established the *Stiftungskreis "Chancen für Bildung und Arbeit"* – the **Foundations Network „Opportunities through Education and Employment“** – with 10 fellow foundations in Stuttgart. They cooperate in the field of **Education and Vocational Training** for socially disadvantaged young people. From 2006 to 2011 the network supported an innovative **PEER Mentoring Project** for grade-9 students with a migrant background at two Stuttgart schools, to help them finding employment as apprentice or to motivate for further education; this model has since been widened to 10 Comprehensive Schools. www.freunde-schaffen-erfolg.de With the financial help of the *Foundations Network* the **OPEN MUSIC Artistic Improvisation Workshop** was set up in 2010 at two other Stuttgart Comprehensive Schools attended by disadvantaged youth. www.open-music.eu Other cooperative projects especially for migrant children and parents at Stuttgart Primary Schools are planned in 2012.

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