

Call to strengthen teacher training worldwide

Berlin 26.10.2012/KS. The future of Waldorf education will play a major role in many countries. Since many years, the Friends of Waldorf Education promote the training of Waldorf teachers and educators abroad. With the call for donations in winter 2012 to benefit teacher training, the Friends of Waldorf Education send an important signal for the continuation of teacher training in many parts of the world, like in Cape Town, Nairobi or in Chengdu.

Given the rapid growth of Waldorf education in many parts of the world, it becomes an increasingly difficult challenge to ensure the quality of the daily practical work in Waldorf kindergartens and schools. In some countries in South America, Africa and Asia, sometimes even in Europe, teachers obtain only a short introductory course in Waldorf education - and that is often all they work with. As a result, despite their commitment, many teachers are struggling due to methodological weaknesses and lack of knowledge about Steiner education. On top of that, the requirements for an education that can prepare the children of today for the world of tomorrow are constantly growing. Only through extensive training, consolidation of content and development of new subjects will it be possible to ensure the sustainable growth of Waldorf education.

It has proven very valuable, to have experienced mentors accompany the individual teachers in the classroom giving them practical advice. This individual training is often more effective for new teachers than simply visiting workshops, which is of course also very important, especially for the purpose of networking. Once the teachers have built a network with colleagues, they might assist each other independently.

“We are aware that it is much easier to give money for a school building, because doing so will create something lasting. Giving money to people always includes the risk that individual’s may later on stop being involved with Waldorf education. But it is the people that turn a school into a Waldorf school, and that will only happen if they develop their knowledge and skills themselves.” - Nana Göbel, Executive Board Member, Friends of Waldorf Education.

Worldwide, there are currently 1,023 Waldorf schools and 2,000 Waldorf kindergartens. A development that is remarkable.

Freunde der Erziehungskunst Rudolf Steiners e.V.

The Friends of Waldorf Education support more than 600 Waldorf schools, kindergartens, curative education facilities and social projects worldwide in financial and legal matters. The Friends furthermore organize the WOW-Day campaign and promote educational sponsorships, emergency education and community services. Donations are directly forwarded at 100 percent to the facilities abroad. The association itself is not financed by a percentage of incoming donations, but through sustaining members and donations specifically intended for administrative efforts.

Press contact

Katharina Stemmann | Public Relations
Ph+49 (0)30 617026 35 | k.stemmann@freunde-waldorf.de