

Meeting of the enhanced board of
Kindern helfen - TLC Deutschland e.V.

Minutes of meeting on 26.1.2011 in Willich, Bogenstr. 10

Start: 14.30 h

End: 22.15 h

Participants board:

- Thomas Lauff
- Christina Wallrabenstein
- Sonja Brückner
- Guido Haubrichs
- Holger Kahl

Participants consultants and guests:

- Phillipa (Pippa) Jarvis
- Norbert Weinhold
- Ursula Kamper

1. News about TLC

Pippa explains the present situation at TLC. At the moment many children (43 in total in the nursery), partly with special needs are at TLC. These children suffer from illnesses, such as HIV and other life-threatening/very serious diseases, which makes European adoption impossible for these children. TLC is working on establishing a co-operation with an American agency which only takes care of special need children's adoption. Should the co-operation be established this would enable TLC to provide an interim home to many new special need children.

Present jurisdiction in RSA regarding adoption within the country and abroad makes it additionally difficult to place children in new forever families. At the moment, children stay on average at least six months longer in homes before they are allowed to be placed in new families. Thereby costs increase, because there is also clothing needed for older children and expenses for food and non-food articles (medication, nappies) rise, and of course more volunteers are needed to care for the older children's emotional & physical development. TLC, however, targets a rapid placement, i.e. children should be quickly placed in their new families, so that in the end about 100 children per year will find their new home.

The financial situation of TLC is sufficiently known; due to the recession and the strong South African currency donations received by TLC have decreased. South African government is still refusing to grant TLC the financial means they deserve by law – in the meantime claims of payment date back to 2006. TLC is still fighting for this money, has, however, to be careful as the responsible authorities also decide about permissions to place South African children for local and international adoption.

Burglary has decreased at TLC, since building of the new wall and employment of two guard for the premises (costs: € 1,200 per month)

TLC at present is in need of the following (new) acquisitions resp. innovations/alterations:

- space requirements: they need more space
- additional medical insurance for the children (Thea's present insurance policy has reached its limits, i.e. no further children can be integrated into that policy); estimated costs: € 15,000 per year.
- financial support for school fees, school uniforms, stationary etc.

- medium term employment of an own social worker; this one could prepare placement of the children, e.g. ensure there is no biological family that can care for the respective child, placement of the respective ads in local media (newspapers, broadcast etc.); this would facilitate/speed up the adoption procedure: estimated costs: 8,000 Rand per months
- new organisation of nursery regarding space and staff, so that the groups are mixed with respect to their age, so that the children's development can be better stimulated.
- Reception of more experienced, possibly older volunteers for child care, volunteers with special knowledge; this would possibly want for better accommodation
- Appointment of a local coordinator for the volunteers (= Sue) to chose the volunteers and a local contact person for volunteers (=Ann)
- Volunteers are in the meantime also made familiar with the environment (in order to see more than the well-protected mother ship TLC); excursions into the townships are organized to demonstrate to the volunteers where TLC children come from, why their need is so great and why it is so important to find new families for them.

The following measures have been taken to solve some of the problems without external help:

- the TLC premisses are farmed, TLC is becoming self-sufficient:
Lay hens and meat hens have been purchased, by now egg production has become really successful,
approx. 200 local trees (a donation) have been planted, providing shade and at the same time preventing soil erosion during the rainy season.
It is planned to purchase 2 ostriches that should be held in an exterior place exposed to the surrounding area which has often been subject to burglary; target: secure the area, as ostriches are feared fighters in RSA and can also be used for meat production, as ostrich meat is fancy food.
Vegetable garden with lettuce, beans and pepper
- for 6 months a professional fundraiser has been working for TLC, further 6 months are planned (working at the public profile, big spender, the company Ricoh, could already be won), and has won a US charity organisation that is authorized to issue receipts for donations there, as partner.

Further plans:

- own milk production (more about this after the goatmilk fair in February)
- another 2 vegetable gardens that can be plante as of September
- as soon as financially possible (planned for 2011) seminars for further education should be attended, in particular certificate courses, coaching/counselling, retreats and personal time
- small part, approx. 10%, of own egg production should be given for free to the people living in the surrounding chatter camps to stimulate loyalty and solidarity.
- own organic food shall, as soon as a surplus is grown, be sold on local markets to consumers (Ricoh also supports that idea)
- Training and jobs also for the children/young adults growing up at TLC in self-sufficient workshops, as these children/young adults are rather technical and mechanical skills; setting up of an own garage is planned which should be an income source as well as a place to train the children/young adults
- long term also children/young adults from the surrounding area could be trained/employed
- setting up of an own bakery
- building financial resources on RSA accounts for future critical situations, so that if necessary there can be a quick reaction if money is needed; it does not make much sense to have money resources in Europe, as in case of need transfer to RSA will take some days while TLC doesn't have anything to eat or there is no electricity or water supply. If there are enough resources locally available further resources can be build up in other countries to even minimize risk in the far future.

Great Plans:

Instead of an extensive and also costly new building to solve the space problems now purchase of an adjoining farm with already existing buildings. There are some suitable ones, among them one which is particularly interesting, as there farming is already practised, which means that the soil doesn't need any special treatment to make it suitable for agricultural use. Also there is a large house and an own car mechanic shop which at present is used for repairs of larger trucks. There is also an own water and electricity supply and a protective wall which can be adapted/enhanced. There is only one side that needs a new wall to be built. Expenses for the purchase are estimated to amount to € 600,00.-. That farm is actually first choice as it is definitely suitable to realize future plans. The owners should be contacted as soon as possible to check their willingness to sell. The owners of the other adjoining premises are not known yet. The buildings are let at the moment; a befriended estate agent will get some information about these and start negotiations.

2. Pippa's Presentation of the Organisation etc., Improved Fundraising

- TLC RSA wants to try to also win the interest of smaller sponsors, because it always causes big financial problems when a big sponsor stops sponsoring. In addition to the present main sponsor further ones should be acquired, so that there will be at least 3 main sponsors to split the risk and minimize it.
- European TLC organisations should inform TLC RSA, what can/must be done from their side to win sponsors
- there should be built up financial reserves directly on RSA accounts to ensure quick reaction in case of shortages

3. Pippa's Membership, Board, if applicable a new kind of member and board member (without voting rights).

Pippa's membership in the German organisation is legally not accepted, as otherwise there will be a personnel mingling of supporting organization and international adoption organization.

A network consisting of a board member each of all organisations (RSA, Germany, Denmark, NL, Austria) is planned to make exchange of information among the organisations and whenever needed a quick reaction of arising problems/needs at TLC more efficient.

4. Financial Report/Survey

Since May 2010 a total of about € 40,000.- , all donations, could be transferred to RSA.

Income generated by „Adopt a cot“ is low

Income generated by the activity „TLC-Christmas Calendar-Countdown“ amounted to approx. 1.500 € to 2.000 €

Detailed financial information to be supplied by Guido

5. TLC World, Internet, Co-operation on a European / worldwide level, Song etc. Countdown to Christmas

a. Song

Background information on the creation of the song are given.

TLC NL is working on an international version.

Design, text, content and language version of the song are controversially discussed, it is decided that – if approved by Volker – the German stanz ais taken out and solely the part sung by the female voice should be published.

A video clip accompanying the song should be produced. Florins (adoptive parents from Cologne, former producers at the radio station RTL, in the meantime owners of a production company themselves) have already volunteered for that purpose, but without obligation. Due to time considerations this is however not likely to happen. Norbert (Thomas's neighbor) resp. his daughter will take care of the production now.

b. new image video for TLC

TLC RSA plans a video each for volunteers, future parents and donors/sponsors to be produced in different languages (German, Dutch, English, Danish). Uschi Kamper volunteers for the German part. Pippa is going to provide the story board with the main messages/content for the image film and the song video clip (see under a).

c. TLC World, Internet, co-operation on a European / worldwide level

The possibility of implementing a common „umbrella“ organisation is discussed. Reason for this is the situation of TLC Austria, which is quite close to winding up after the organisation's chairwoman has to leave the organization because of her own plans for adoption. In this case the possibility arises to integrate this organisation into the German organisation or an umbrella organisation, as far as legally acceptable. A common organization/umbrella organization would also offer the possibility of quicker communication channels, of help. Another alternative would be a media network of the representatives of the respective boards of all TLC organisations, e.g. in a common Yahoo usergroup or something similar.

TLC RSA is working on a new logo which should/could be used commonly by all TLC organisations.

The idea of a common web presence of all TLC organizations is discussed (one-voice aspect). Examples of different companies are discussed (Uschi explains the possibility of a common umbrella homepage by the example of www.ericsson.com). Pippa shows all participants the website www.littleeden.org.za, which is Thea's favourite. Pippa wants to try to get some support by Ricoh RSA at least for the homepage design/layout. TLC Germany will work on the technical set-up of this common website. It should in any case still be possible to direct German donors directly to the German homepage www.tlc-deutschland.de from which it should be possible to enter the common umbrella homepage, as otherwise it is feared to lose the trust of the German donors. Further technical details are discussed.

TLC RSA asks to transfer the German financial reports also to RSA. TLC RSA is supported by KPMG free of charge, KPMG audits TLC RSA, TLC RSA is authorised to publish these on RSA homepage. TLC RSA will ask KPMG to also audit TLC Germany free of charge with the possibility to also publish that, if applicable, on the German homepage.

Uschi suggests to publish the various jarvis blogs on the German homepage and translate them **[Uschi's comment: that's not what I actually meant, I was thinking of a summary of the blogs' content which should be provided by TLC RSA and could be rewritten by me]**, as the information and news provided by them are often brand-new and up to date whereas TLC RSA homepage at present is not really presenting any current events or news. Also some of the children's fates told in the Christmas Countdown could be used for the German homepage **[Uschi's comment: that's not what I actually meant, I was thinking of publishing a selection of representative fates/children on the umbrella homepage, e.g. under "About TLC – Babies/Children" with an introduction like: Please meet some**

of the children that have spent some time of their little lives at TLC or still live there ...].

6. Printed matters, Flyer, Christmas Cards, Calendar

There should be a business card for TLC Germany, as that can be given to people who show interest in TLC and is handier than a flyer, that is distributed as a rule nowadays.

Christmas cards have been successful and shall be produced again in 2011. TLC RSA could possibly provide pictures painted by the children (typical Christmas motives, such as a Christmas bowl or star) or quotes of the older children (in the sense of "What do I think about Christmas?")

Donors, in particular the smaller ones, should get a thank you letter once a year, saying thank you for their donation and a little inlay with information given by Thea/Pippa. This also can work as a reminder not to forget about TLC and maybe make another donation. However, it is sometimes difficult to find out the donors' addresses.

7. Adoption of TLC children, Europe, Germany

At the moment TLC RSA absolutely cannot figure out the practical realisation of the presently existing new laws for adoptions. The procedure regarding how new/old social workers can obtain the licence to place children into new families according to the new law is absolutely not clear. TLC RSA is making efforts to obtain an own licence so that the often slow and time consuming cooperation with an authorized placement agent could be avoided. But at present they have no idea to realize that plan. Help a Child, Germany also does not seem to be more successful though they still wish to handle adoptions from RSA in the context of the Hague Agreement

8. Volunteers

Follow-up contacts for German volunteers should be improved, in particular the contact to other former volunteers shall be expanded, as those often initiate considerable support programs and donation activities for TLC after their return from their volunteer work.

Pippa will provide TLC Germany with Names/Addresses of German volunteers. Uschi will try to establish contact with the German volunteers at TLC RSA via Skype and write little articles about volunteer work on site, the respective situation at TLC etc. to be published on the German homepage *[Uschi's comment: I didn't only mean the German ones, but all volunteers and the little reports could be used for the umbrella resp. core homepage and of course be translated into other languages as well]*. Maybe there could be conversations with TLC by Skype at regular intervals at fixed times which can be made between changing volunteers and Uschi. Also little reports by Pippa as well as pieces of information would be helpful. *[Uschi's comment: Just copy-paste all interesting information you mention in all of your blogs into one word document and send it on a monthly basis to me; I can then figure out, which information should be used for keeping the news on the TLC-world homepage up to date or communicated in a newsletter to be sent to donors/sponsors on a quarterly basis.]*

9. Meeting 2011 und others

Registration forms for the family get-together scheduled for May will be published on the homepage in due time.

Annual General Meeting is scheduled for the morning at around 9.30 h.

Pippa will also be participating

10. Others

EHK should be informed about the new plans (purchase of a premisses instead of a new extension building) in May together with Pippa. Andreas Schönemann from TeraTech <http://www.ferratech-ngo.de/> has already informed that the regulations regarding support by BMZ do not accept the purchase of premisses as mainly the booking value of a project is sponsored. As TerraTech is financed by subsidies and does not invest own means into projects they cannot support with the purchase of the premisses. TerraTech will of course be able to be a partner in possible future projects.

Düsseldorf, 30.01.2011

Sonja Brückner

Approved, 30.01.2011

Thomas Lauff