International Geneva Directory of Swiss Global Health Actors

Pende Foundation | PENDE

https://www.pendefoundation.com/social

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BACKGROUND AND MISSION

Pende Foundation supports non-profit organisations and individuals who initiate and promote projects with altruistic goals. Whether in the fields of education, culture, humanitarian aid, spirituality or ecology, the underlying motivation remains the same: to benefit the lives of others. Pende Foundation was established by Andreas Reinhart together with Mary O'Beirne in 2006 to support projects that were beyond the scope of the Volkart Foundation. From the beginning it has had its own independent structure, organisation and location. The current and past projects supported by Pende Foundation are divided into social, cultural, spiritual and ecological categories.

AREAS OF INTEREST

- End of life care
- Sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Mobile healthcare facilities
- Mentally disabled children

HEALTH-RELATED ACTIVITIES

In the US and India the Pende Foundation has established Upaya Zen Center to foster the integration of Buddhist practice and engaged service. The many programmes include the Upaya Prison Project, Being with Dying and GRACE, contemplative end-of-life care programmes and Nomads Clinics in Nepal where over 1000 patients receive medical assistance. Each year a team of Western volunteers make a month-long journey into the most remote regions of the Himalayas and Tibetan Plateau to provide medical and humanitarian aid. They are accompanied by Nepalese doctors, dentists and health practitioners. They train local healthcare providers to meet some of the healthcare needs of those living in these isolated mountain communities. And thanks to the initiative of Roshi Joan Halifax, founder of Upaya Zen Center, a project was created to fund two Rohingya refugee camps providing material support, sanitation, and skills training. In addition to that, the funding to Karuna Shechen projects let the NGO develop activities ranging from clinics in the remote highlands of Tibet to medical outreach programs in the slums of Kathmandu. It has also been working in India to develop a supplementary education for circa 160 underprivileged boys and girls, providing a computer course and training in personal hygiene and children's rights.

Funding was also provided to Mentaid. It is a NGO located in Kolkata, a non-profit, educational, vocational and cultural institution for mentally challenged children and adults. It

is exclusively organised by the parents of handicapped children. These services are also available to children from economically deprived families, about 50% of the total number of students. Mentaid is now building new facilities in order to provide more comprehensive services for children with autism, cerebral palsy, mental retardation and multiple disabilities and their families. Pende also funded Borderfree Association, which was created for the purpose of protecting the lives, health and dignity of refugees in Europe. Borderfree Association conducts a wide variety of projects including schooling, sports activities, safe spaces for women, catering for special needs, health and hygiene, and a mobile dental clinic. While Liberazione e Speranza is an NGO in Italy where it is estimated that more than 30'000 women are living in sexual slavery, they receive legal assistance and protection, language instruction and education for a profession, medical assistance, interim housing, work opportunities etc.

GOVERNANCE AND STAFF

The foundation is governed by a board of two members, Andreas Reinhart (founder and president) and Eros Bergonzoli. In addition to that, the organization structure is completed by Mary O'Beirne, project director, and Claudia Muschietti, administration.

FUNDING SOURCES AND BUDGET

The asset of the foundation is conferred and managed by members.

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