



## 10 Years THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation

### Dear friends and supporters of THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation,

last year THOMAS ENGEL-foundation celebrated its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday. We didn't celebrate the jubilee in any special way. Nevertheless, in the newsletter of November 2019 we have dedicated a chronicle to it. We hope that – after reading – you will be even more determined to support the effective and precious work of the foundation.

We would like to say a big THANK YOU to everybody who supported us in which way ever. Without this

support a success story – as we can definitely call the 10 years of THOMAS ENGEL-foundation – wouldn't have been possible. A donation, for instance, makes an important financial contribution to any help project for people in need, above all for children. Moreover, it motivates our staff working on a voluntary basis for the foundation.

Kind regards

**Ernst Engel**  
*Executive Director*

**Bettina Haubner and Jaime Garcia**  
*Deputy Executive Directors*

**Members of the executive board of both boosterclubs**  
*Freunde der THOMAS ENGEL-Stiftung Fulda e. V. und Nastätten e. V.*



Ernst Engel



Bettina Haubner



Jaime Garcia



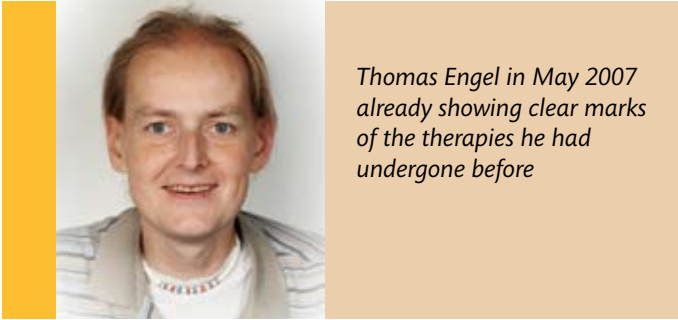
[www.thomasengel-stiftung.org](http://www.thomasengel-stiftung.org)

# 10 Years THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation (2009-2019)

10 years of reliable, professional help for thousands of needy children in Africa and South America

## 2008

**Thomas Engel**, after whom the foundation was named, died on May 25<sup>th</sup> 2008 at the age of 36 after having struggled against cancer for years.



## 2009

**Ingrid and Ernst Engel**, Thomas' parents, founded THOMAS ENGEL-foundation initially as foundation trust based on a capital of € 100.000.

The purpose of the foundation is to support children and young people in need by providing them with basic medical supply, health care, education and culture. If possible, the principle "to help people help themselves" is applied and the foundation focuses above all on countries of the Third World as it is called.

## 2010

Supporting efforts in *Swaziland* and *Ecuador* already started in 2009 continue.

In **Swaziland**, the small kingdom in the south of Africa, we supported the organisation *Hand in Hand Wiesbaden* and *Hand in Hand Swaziland*, trying to establish a mobile medical service to provide basic supply for thousands of children at pre-school age living in remote villages. The AIDS infection rate being higher than anywhere else in the world and the expectancy of life being very low together with severe poverty is the reason why our help has become so necessary and precious. Until today an increasing number of children is vaccinated and treated with vermifugation and vitamin drugs. And even in case of severe diseases and injuries we have helped and continue to do so. Nowadays more than two third of the population lives on less than one US-Dollar per day.

The first aid project in **Ecuador** was the supply of the kindergarten *Unión y Progreso* in the community of *Enrique Gallo*, consisting of a large bamboo cabin with beds, mattresses, tables, chairs, kitchenware and educationally precious toys. Moreover, we supported therapies and further aid projects for a couple of disabled children we met in cabins close to the kindergarten.

## 2011

The share capital of the foundation was successively increased to 340,000 €.

The first charity concerts with the slogan "spring awakening" organized by THOMAS ENGEL-foundation took place in Fulda and Nastätten. This tradition is maintained until today. However, the concerts received the registered trademark "**ovationen**" some years ago.



Every year young musicians awarded numerous prizes represent a varied, entertaining programme of popular melodies ranging from classical to pop music.

In addition to the aid efforts in *Swaziland* and *Ecuador* the support of projects in *Tanzania* and *Uganda* started.

In **Tanzania** we helped the *St. Anne's Hospital* donating them money to buy an infusion device urgently required. Back then the staff in the hospital had to work under conditions we can hardly imagine above all in terms of hygiene. *Marcel Lind*, a medical student from Fulda, who was working there, reported about chicken underneath the beds, ants at the walls, mildewy ceiling etc. As there was a lack of narcotics, surgeries were partly carried out with the patients being awake.



Clean water deriving from surface water or rain water by a special filter system partly financed by THOMAS ENGEL-foundation

By maintaining a partnership with the club "Wasser für Menschen e.V." THOMAS ENGEL-foundation supported a project in **Uganda** providing them once a very effective initial funding for the establishment of the production plant for water filters. They are made from special clay and are covered by a very thin silver coating. Thus, contaminated surface and rain water can be turned into clean drinking water. Diseases are prevented and precious fuels can be used differently as there is no need to boil the water beforehand. Another advantage is that more jobs can be created as the manufacturing of filters must go on. The project *Oru Water* is still being run with success and shall be expanded in future times.

## 2012

The slogan of the foundation “**Helping people in the Third World to help themselves**” was replaced by “**united help for children**”. The term “Third World” had actually never been in accordance with the philosophy of the foundation and therefore a change had been required urgently. The new slogan intends to make people aware of the fact that WE can only achieve something by working TOGETHER. WE refers to the volunteers of the foundation, the booster clubs, further supporters and not to mention the numerous other organizations supporting our work.

In **Ecuador** a modern and solid building was established for the kindergarten *Unión y Progreso* using money from the federal mineral oil company. Thus, the ancient cottage made from bamboo was no longer needed. **Jaime Garcia**, representative of THOMAS ENGEL-foundation in Ecuador, had supported the issue. The mineral oil company is the biggest employer in this region.

The cottages of the primary school *Las Minas* in the immediate vicinity were replaced by solid building as well. We supported the project buying solid tables and chairs manufactured by a local carpenter.



New furniture for school *Las Minas*

Moreover, in 2012 we started to support *Melvin Jones School*, a facility caring for children and young people with a disability. Still today the facility depends on our support.

In **Swaziland** we assumed the financial and organizational responsibility for the project *MobiDiK*, the mobile medical service already mentioned, caring for children, young people and nowadays even for adults. For this reason we were glad to have found *Dr. Magdalene Budach*, a physician from Frankfurt, who was willing to travel to *Swaziland* on her own expense and on a regular basis in order to look after the project and to make it advance. *Mrs Budach* established the contact with *Ärzte ohne Grenzen (Doctors Without Borders)* and in the framework of another partnership the testing of children and adults on HIV and tuberculosis.

## 2013



The transformation of THOMAS ENGEL-foundation from a foundation trust to a foundation with legal capacity was completed. Back then we had considered this step reasonable. And yet, from today's point of view and against the background of the persistent low interest level this was a wrong decision as we are not authorized to use the capital of the foundation. It is only the profit resulting from

this capital we can use to serve the purpose of the foundation. It is obvious that these profits are hardly worth mentioning. It is up to legislature to do something about that.

As a foundation is not allowed to have members, two booster clubs – one in *Fulda* and one in *Nastätten* – were founded. They are called **Freunde der THOMAS ENGEL-Stiftung Fulda e. V.** and **Freunde der THOMAS ENGEL-Stiftung Nastätten e. V.** Together they have about 130 members nowadays. The purpose of the booster clubs is to support the foundation making up ideas how to win donations. These clubs are almost indispensable for the foundation as otherwise it couldn't organize any charity events. *Freunde der THOMAS ENGEL-Stiftung* are considered a big gain for the foundation and contribute to its value.

The support of the aid projects continued without any changes and was even increased. Back then a great example of our slogan “**Help people to help themselves**” was contributed by *Melvin Jones school* in **Ecuador**. We had paid for the manufacturing costs for a calendar containing pictures made by disabled children and young people. These calendars were sold in Ecuador during the pre-Christmas period. The earnings amounted to USD 10,000 whereas the manufacturing costs were only USD 3,000.

## 2014



A sad year: *Ingrid Engel*, one of the founders of THOMAS ENGEL-foundation, died on July 26<sup>th</sup> 2014 after having struggled in vain against cancer as did her son *Thomas*.

The various aid projects were continued. For the first time the total amount of donations amounted to € 100,000. The biggest project in 2014 remained the *Mobile Clinic* in **Swaziland** as it had also been in the previous years.

Towards the end of the year we were confronted with the situation to be forced to assume the exclusively financial and organizational responsibility for *Hand in Hand Swaziland*. If we hadn't accepted this challenge, the support of more than 3,000 children, among them many half-orphans and complete orphans, would have come to an end.

## 2015

Having assumed the extended responsibility for *Hand in Hand Swaziland*, we faced a big challenge. Good to have strong and reliable partners next to you in hard times like this.

Now we didn't only have to take care of the *Mobile Clinic* but also of about 100 NCPs (= *Neighbourhood Carepoints*) respectively the maintenance of these primitive kind of day-care centers. Moreover, we had to care for pre-school education and income generating measures for the caregivers working on a voluntary basis for about 3,000 children. We also had to make sure that the children were provided with food. Until today the club “*Hunde helfen Kindern*” provides for financial means to build small solid houses comprising two rooms for very poor families living in damaged or ruinous cottages in the rural area close to the NCPs.



Typical cottage of a family where either both parents or one parent have died

After a careful inventory of all activities of *Hand in Hand Swaziland* we quickly realized that we had been able to increase the efficiency and quality of the different supporting measures without investing more money.



Picture above: mobile medical supply  
Picture below: one of about 100 NCPs

*Rotary Club Sankt Goarshausen-Loreyley* donated an ambulance being supported by the partner club in *Martin/Slovakia* and *Rotary International* as well as *Rotary Club Mbabane/Swaziland*.



Handover of another vehicle for mobile medical support

In the course of the year each of almost 100 NCPs was provided with a tank comprising 5000 litres and determined to collect rain-

water. The federal ministry for economic growth and collaboration assumed 75 % of the costs amounting to a total of 50,000 €.

Moreover, in 2015 the campaign “winter clothes” was launched as even in southern Africa temperatures can be extremely low above all in May, June and July.



Warm clothes to keep warm in the cold months of winter

## 2016

“Hunger in **Swasiland**” was one of the headlines in the newsletter of *THOMAS ENGEL-foundation* back then. A severe drought of unexpected extent made the already tense supply situation of that year even worse. Ten of thousands cattle died, the crop for corn, the main nutrition, couldn't be delivered, the fields remained fallow grounds, watering places and rivers had dried up.

Just in this situation the *World Food Programme (WFP)* of the *United Nations* finished the supply of the NCPs and thus the supply with staple foods of thousands of children. We repeatedly turned to the office of the *WFP* in *Swaziland*, but weren't able to achieve much at the beginning. For this reason we, that is to say *Möwenweg foundation*, *Lichterloh foundation*, the *Rotary Club Wörthsee* and *THOMAS ENGEL-foundation* offered help distributing corn-meal, rice, beans, oil, salt, sugar and instant soup. Thus the children's provision with food could be secured to a certain extent. Other efforts such as a basic primary health care service had to be neglected for financial reasons. And yet the pre-school education in the NCPs was continued as they were the places to go to get something to eat. Even new cottages could be handed over to families in need.

In **Ecuador** we continued to support *Melvin Jones School*, a facility for disabled people, requiring our help more than ever before. The country faced an extreme depression caused not only by the mismanagement of the socialists but also by the cheap oil prices. *Ecuador* is a comparatively big exporter of oil. The main buyer is *China* to which the country is deeply indebted.

In 2016 we started the partnership with *Helping Kids in Ecuador (HKIE)*, a small American charity organisation. *HKIE* organizes surgeries of physically disabled children and young people. Local physicians help to correct malformations of the lips, jaw and palatine region. For a surgery like this, they charge *HKIE* about 400 USD instead of USD 3,000 which is actually the standard fee. Until today *THOMAS ENGEL-foundation* continues to support *HKIE*.

## 2017

The logo of THOMAS ENGEL-foundation was changed. The new logo is a little bit abstract. And yet the slogan of the foundation "united help for children" is clearly visible. The fact that the foundation operates internationally is symbolized by the stylized globe as well.



In **Swaziland** we had found a new partner called *Young Heroes* enjoying great reputation. We had to finish the collaboration with *Hand in Hand Swaziland (HiH SZ)* since they didn't manage to realise our ideas of professional and effective development aid. Moreover, after we had made much effort to find out more about HiH, we established that the organisation had already been deeply in debt before we assumed responsibility for them. For this reason the break up was inevitable. Under the umbrella of *Young Heroes* the aid project with the new name *Litsemba* could be continued to the full extent. Four ambitious and loyal staff members of the previous partner were taken over and provided for a smooth transition.



Partnership with Young Heroes set out in writing

*Flowers Children's Centre* is the name of the new aid project in **Tanzania** having joined our foundation. This centre is a caring facility for about 90 pre-school children in need. They are provided with breakfast and a warm meal there and can participate in pre-school education as well as further individual assistance programmes. **Victoria Link** from Fulda is in charge of this project.



The Flowers Children's Centre takes care of about 90 children

## 2018

The king ordered to change the name **Swaziland** into **eSwatini**. *eSwatini* means "Land of the Swasis". The partnership with *Young Heroes* was consolidated.



LITSEMBA team

In **Tanzania** the *Flowers Children's Centre* was expanded as a hostel was opened there. Trainees from Europe, for instance, can show social commitment taking care of the children there. They only have to pay for accommodation and meals. Nowadays the *Flowers* enjoys increasing popularity. All people involved benefit from this offer.

Since 2018 the project group *howareyou*, working in **Uganda** and having been founded by the sisters **Sophia** and **Charlotte Campbell**, has been part of THOMAS ENGEL-foundation. This project also focuses on providing different aids above all education for children and young people in need.

In **Ecuador** the support of the *Melvin Jones facility*, taking care of disabled people, was continued. The same applied to the support of *Helping Kids in Ecuador*.



Salads cultivated by the Melvin Jones to provide for a better diet

## 2019

*Kindernothilfe*, the famous organization for children's rights with its headquarters in Duisburg, has been supporting children in difficult conditions in 33 countries of Asia, Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe for 60 years.



After careful evaluation they decided to join the aid project *Litsemba* in *eSwatini* together with THOMAS ENGEL-foundation and *Möwenweg foundation*. This provides an extended basis for *LITSEMBA*. Moreover, the additional support makes it possible to expand the project. We are really looking forward to this new partnership.



At least as far as one's subjective impression is concerned, the economic crisis in **Ecuador**, having been lasting for years, has even got worse. The high number of refugees from Venezuela is blamed for this situation, too. For this reason people are in urgent need of our donations as well as of our local staff. We can work more intensively in *Ecuador* since **Jaime Garcia** being in charge of the projects there has been living in Ecuador for some months. Together with his wife **Edith** he is going to establish the third booster club of THOMAS ENGEL-foundation in *Salinas*. We hope that we will be able to report about the constituent meeting of **Friends of THOMAS ENGEL-foundation Salinas/Ecuador** in 2020.

In **Tanzania** the *Flowers Hostel* has already been accommodation for 10 volunteers from Germany and Switzerland – a pleasant development. However, we are worrying about modified requirements of the local authorities. What is particularly challenging is a new directive stating that a “pre-school” like the *Flowers* also needs to include a “primary school” and vice versa. At present time it is only possible to maintain the facility exclusively as a kindergarten or to add a primary school. Adding a primary school probably seems to be the preferred solution. We are currently checking out the necessity and feasibility.

This year's highlight was the construction of a solid house in **Uganda** for a poor family comprising nine members.



Big progress might also be the fusion of *howareyou* with the project group *Balandiza Kimeze*. Both now form the community-based organization “*Howareyou-Balandiza Kimeze*.”

## 10 years THOMAS ENGEL-Foundation

*“The establishment and further development of a foundation as well as its maintenance requires much more work than I had actually imagined. However, the last ten years were also very fulfilling and instructive”, that is what Ernst Engel, one of the founders and executive director of THOMAS ENGEL-foundation says. “There had also been times where I would have been willing to give up if I hadn't had my “combatants”. In this context I have to mention Bettina Haubner, Deputy Executive Director of the foundation, first. Nowadays THOMAS ENGEL education is of such a vital importance which rejects destructive thoughts like this. We achieved many objects in the course of these 10 years: The different projects were supported by donations of more than 1 million Euros. As we dealt with the money in a careful and effective way, we managed to help many people in need.*

## NEUES AUS DEN FÖRDERVEREINEN

### Termine Förderverein Fulda

**14.03.2020** „ovationen 2020“ im Fürstensaal des Stadtschlosses Fulda

### Termine Förderverein Nastätten

**08.11.2019** Benefizkonzert mit der Bigband der **Realschule plus Lahnstein**

**30.11. und 01.12.2019** Weihnachtsstraße in Nastätten

**13.03.2020** „ovationen 2020“ im Bürgerhaus Nastätten



### CONTACT

THOMAS ENGEL-foundation

#### Executive Director

**Ernst Engel**  
Sonnenstraße 4  
36041 Fulda  
Phone: 06 61-9 01 53 38  
Fax: 06 61-9 01 53 42  
Mobil: 0171-8 16 87 56  
E-Mail: ernst.engel@thomasengel-stiftung.org

#### Deputy Executive Directors

**Bettina Haubner**  
Auf dem Daubus 26  
56357 Lierschied  
Phone: 067 71-59 98 68  
E-Mail: bettina.haubner@thomasengel-stiftung.org

**Jaime Garcia**  
Malecón de Chipipe,  
Edf. El Veleró Azul, 1 B  
Salinas, Provincia Santa Elena  
Ecuador  
Phone: +593-96 82 63 448  
E-Mail: brook1904@icloud.com



[www.thomasengel-stiftung.org](http://www.thomasengel-stiftung.org)

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Your donation is tax deductible and will be used 100 % for our aid projects.

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*Gender reference: For reasons of readability, we used a gender-specific differentiation that is neutral. Corresponding terms apply in principle to all genders.*