

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 their 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.

Through the Foundation they set up, the donors are committed to sharing their conviction: in order to live peacefully together, irrespective of origin, skin colour, religion and age, individuals need to be able to develop and maintain a dignified, self-sufficient existence. Education and vocational training are vital in order to develop personal perspectives, generate income and find one's place in society (www.LL-Stiftung.de).

The purpose of the charitable Louis Leitz 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 as its motto:

Providing a Better Future through Education | Vocational Training | Employment

The Louis Leitz Stiftung is a grant-giving, charitable foundation supporting and encouraging **vocational training with model characteristics**. At present, the following projects are being sponsored on a medium-term basis (for up to 6 years) for socially disadvantaged, mostly young, people:

Projects in Germany:

- **Chancenwerk Learning Cascades** are being introduced to four pilot schools in Stuttgart: Young students lacking a supportive learning environment receive homework assistance and help with their studies from older pupils. Thereby, the mentors develop social competencies and a sense of responsibility. In turn, the mentors themselves are coached by graduate students in subjects where they encounter learning difficulties (www.chancenwerk.de).
- **REFUGEES volunteer groups** at the many shelters in Stuttgart welcome refugees and assist them with their integration into the German society. The Community Foundation of the City of Stuttgart initiated a project providing coordination and qualification for these groups. A sociologist with practical experience has been appointed by the communal Social Services establishing an internet platform for easy access to necessary information and build-up of existing and new training programs for volunteer networks. This post is being financed for three years by six foundations.¹ (www.buergerstiftung-stuttgart.de/jugendamt).
- The **EMERGENCY RECEPTION CENTRE for unaccompanied minor refugees** of the Stuttgart Youth Welfare Office works in cooperation with students of social work. They provide immediate daily life skills oriented schooling to new arrivals as part of their practical studies. A part-time teacher for German as a foreign language trains the students and other staff in language and everyday life teaching. A Handbook with suitable training materials will be the result of the three-year support (www.stuttgart.de/fluechtlinge).
- The **Yes I CAN! Mentoring program** of the KinderHelden gGmbH (ChildrenHeroes nonprofit organization) supports children at nine primary schools in Stuttgart. Senior high school and college students as well as young professionals help their mentees with their school work and spend quality time with them for exploring and widening their social environment (www.kinderhelden.info).
- The **ANNA HAAG Multi-Generation House** in Stuttgart – Bad Cannstatt gathers three distinct areas of activities under its roof. A nursing home, a nursery school (Kindergarten), as well as vocational training (house-keeping, laundry services, cooking, janitor, mechanic) for young people with learning difficulties. The LL-Foundation co-finances the newly created position of a

¹ Bürgerstiftung Stuttgart, Berthold Leibinger Stiftung, Gips-Schüle-Stiftung, Heidehof Stiftung, Louis Leitz Stiftung, Robert Bosch Stiftung

social worker, the so-called CRISIS COACH, who provides support to young graduates with special needs during the difficult transition from school to apprenticeship and throughout their training (www.annahaaghaus.de).

Projects in Southeastern Europe and in Africa:

- **PROGRES – Vocational Orientation** at comprehensive and technical secondary schools in **Bosnia-Herzegovina** aims at fostering cooperation between schools and local businesses. The LL-Foundation co-finances this innovative, expanding approach in 9 regions. Thanks to the continuation of predecessor project “Ethnic Reconciliation through Vocational Training” for up to 80 unemployed young adults receive training and employment in enterprises all over the country. Cooperation and round tables have been established with chambers of trade, social- and employment agencies, as well as the National Education Agency, and representatives of local enterprises. (www.wings-of-hope.de – www.progres-bh.ba)
- **AGRO-FORESTRY in Vocational Schools** is a pilot project in **Western Uganda**, which aims at mitigating deforestation and its severe ecological, sociological and economic consequence. A new curriculum is being developed, which will result in demonstration gardens being established where students can study mixed cultivations and practice the necessary techniques. The close-to-nature restoration of barren land will help to ensure sustainable livelihoods for the farmers and possibly also create income-generating opportunities. (www.fairventures.org).
- **KOPEME Cultivation of Moringa and Artemisia Annuua** in Togo resulted from a “mission investment” of the LL-Foundation in the African Social Business Plus e.G., which in turn provides funding for the KOPEME GROUP & Social Business SARL in Togo. Half of the annual return is re-invested in this medicinal plant project, which aims at improving the nutritional status of the Kopeme microcredit users and generating income opportunities for the local population (www.kopme.org and www.justcapital.org/portfolio/african-social-business).

MEDICA ZENICA Vocational Training Center in Bosnia-Herzegovina is a long-standing cooperation financed through the endowment funds “Eastern Europe”. The Center counsels and provides therapy to women and their children, who are traumatized by war, domestic and other sexualized violence at the MEDICA Shelter-House. They follow certified 6-months apprenticeship courses in tailoring and upholstery, or hair-dressing and manicure. Empowerment and skill development workshops enable them to generate income by setting up home businesses or being recruited by local firms. The tailoring-upholstery apprenticeship and the empowerment trainings are continuously being expanded into different villages, where women have little or no opportunities for personal, social or economic development (www.medicamondiale.de – www.medicazenica.org).

EduGlobe in Uganda is being supported by the endowment fund “Third World” in 2017. A Munich-based student initiative implements this project, which involves secondary school students into their own school enterprise producing exercise books and the like. Thereby, the students acquire practical life skills. The surplus is sold on the local market and proceeds of the sales help to lower school fees.

The “**Stiftungskreis Chancen für Bildung und Arbeit**” is a working group of Stuttgart-based foundations dedicated to “Opening Avenues for Education and Employment”. It was initiated in 2004 and coordinated by the LL-Foundation as a platform for exchange of experiences and for cooperation in the field of education, training and integration of young people from socially disadvantaged or migrant families. **PEER Mentoring at Comprehensive School** (“Freunde schaffen Erfolg”), as well as **OPEN_MUSIC Artistic Improvisation Workshops** were such school-programs for youth with migrant background. As of February 2016, the Vector Foundation has taken over the coordination and supporting functions (www.vector-stiftung.de/svg_mitgliedschaften_de.html)

For further information, please visit www.LL-Stiftung.de.

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