

# Enfants des Etoiles

Une école pour enfants  
avec autisme & trisomie 21

à Varanasi (Inde)

OU

Taaro ke Bacche

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## Newsletter - November 2018

### News from the Association in Geneva

After Marie-Françoise's return to Geneva in mid-April 2018, the **association's Annual General Meeting** took place on 3 May 2018. At this meeting the name of the Swiss association was modified to give it the French name "Enfants des Etoiles or Taaro ke Bacche" ("Taaro ke Bacche" meaning "Children of the Stars" in Hindi). We also have a website for the Swiss association. The new address is: [www.enfantsdesetoiles.org](http://www.enfantsdesetoiles.org).



During the summer, Marie-Françoise was keen to maintain contacts with our donors and to continue fundraising in the following Geneva municipalities: Russin, Lancy, Meyrin, Onex, Confignon and Choulex. To date, the municipality of Choulex has donated CHF 2000; we are still waiting for replies from the other municipalities. We thank all our generous donors, both private and public.

Our project is growing, and in terms of financial and human resources we are facing new challenges.

**We are looking for people who would like to get involved in the committee of the Swiss association or to collaborate in any other way.**

This year, instead of a charity concert or meal, Enfants des Etoiles took part in the event called "The Meal - a Meal for our Future" that took place in Geneva on 22 September 2018. The event brought together 35 people who participated in supporting "Children of the Stars" while having a good time in a friendly atmosphere. We also had a booth that gave us visibility, the possibility of becoming better known and meeting people interested in the association.

Many thanks also to all those who helped set up this event.





*Evènement « The Meal » à Genève, 22 septembre 2018*

## Life at the school in Varanasi



*Marie-Françoise's return celebrated by Angel*

Marie-Françoise arrived in Varanasi on 17 October 2018. She was very happy to find the children and educational staff doing well on the one hand, and the maintenance conditions at the school under control on the other.

However, she found that traffic conditions were terrible - badly damaged roads, and traffic that has become more intense because of the appalling laissez-faire attitude on the part of the government... This situation strongly affects the length of time it takes to transport our children.

This year, we have welcomed **Arush**, a new child who is severely autistic. He will join the group of seven older children.

The group of our four small children for early care will continue two days a week. We will extend the number of days as soon as possible, but this requires more specialised staff and for the mothers to come regularly. As we already mentioned in the previous newsletter, for this group we hired a driver who owns his vehicle.



*Bani loves bubbles !*



On April 2, 2018, the **World Autism Awareness Day** took place on Assi Ghat in Varanasi, and it was a great success. This year our school took the initiative of organising this event. We made contacts with other centres specialising in multiple disabilities so as to pool our efforts in

organising this event together with five other groups. Taaro ke Bacche was responsible for coordination with the others. Furthermore, thanks to this joint effort, Marie-Françoise has been able to gain a better understanding of the places where children and young people with disabilities live.



At the beginning of next year in March 2019, before the World Autism Awareness Day, we plan to organise a cultural event in the city of Varanasi with an exhibition of masterpieces by our young artists.

A few more pictures of our life in Varanasi



*Celebration of Diwali, Festival of lights*



*Moment of complicity between Manu & his educator Mukesh*



*Writing ritual to start the session*



*Vishal and Fanny*

**Our websites:**

[www.enfantsdesetoiles.org](http://www.enfantsdesetoiles.org) \* [www.taarokebacche.com](http://www.taarokebacche.com)