

RSB
STIFTUNG

RENÉ & SUSANNE
BRAGINSKY
STIFTUNG
ZÜRICH

REPORT 2017

ACTION!

We have intentionally defined our family foundation's objective in broad terms. It is therefore hardly surprising that we receive an endless stream of requests over the course of a year. Our administrative office reviews every application in detail. One of our particular concerns is supporting projects or initiatives that are sustainable and likely to achieve the maximum possible impact.

In the end, many good ideas are turned down after internal discussions by the Foundation Board. This is not just due to the Foundation's limited financial means. A far more important aspect in our decision process is whether we believe an initiative can realistically be implemented in the near term and has a high likelihood of success. Unfortunately, my thirty-plus years of foundation work have taught me that social, cultural or academic projects often remain good intentions and are never actually implemented. Over the years, our Foundation has developed quite a keen sense of whether an idea will actually succeed.

We obviously also have some firm, pre-defined decision criteria. For instance, many applications include very ambitious financial fundraising targets which we believe are not likely to be achieved. If we consider such a project worthy of our support, our Foundation will pledge a specific sum, but we will honour this promise once the remaining funding has been secured. Unfortunately, that is often the last we hear from some applicants.

Moreover, we receive increasing requests related to building projects. We can only consider supporting such projects if the relevant governmental planning permissions have already been granted, i. e. the project has been approved by the authorities. This is precisely the procedure we followed for our own project, the construction of the Grütli gymnasium for the NOAM school and the Zurich Enge quarter. The required funding was not released until the construction permits had been granted by the local authorities in Zurich. We recently celebrated

the topping-out ceremony and expect the gym to open at the end of the year.

The question whether an idea will succeed is, however, not just a matter of money and official approval. It is first and foremost up to the people committed to making it a reality. That is why I am keen to emphasize that I am frequently impressed by how much passion and personal commitment are poured into these initiatives. I admire people who not only have good ideas, but also implement them with persistence, diligence and vision. My family and I consider it a real privilege to work with such people.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage anyone who wants to make a meaningful contribution to continue aiming high, define visions and translate them into action. If our Foundation can play some part in achieving those goals, then all the better.



René Braginsky
President of the Foundation Board

PERFORMANCE REPORT 2016

The Foundation Board held three meetings in 2016. The focus of these meetings was the review of the many requests that were submitted to our Foundation during the year. The Board also addressed statutory business (annual financial statements, annual report, audit report, votes).

The Foundation Board granted a total of around CHF 3.4 million (previous year: CHF 3.6 million) for specific projects. The amount was distributed across the Foundation's three key focal points.

In the year under review, we provided the area of "Social Affairs" with funding totalling CHF 441,000. Among others, the Sheba Medical Center Tel Hashomer and the Swiss Association of Welfare Organisations received donations.

The area of "Education and Science" received CHF 1,810,000 in total in 2016. ETH Zurich was once again

the focus of this support. In autumn 2011, we decided to enable ETH Zurich to create a new Chair in the field of medical technology, for which we would provide funds amounting to CHF 10 million over the subsequent years. The Chair is administered by ETH in combination with the University of Zurich and the University Hospital of Zurich. In addition to this, we also made major contributions to support academic research at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and to other projects at the University of Zurich.

"Other" activities accounted for CHF 1,140,000, including our ongoing collaboration with Keren Hayesod. This foundation in Israel has undertaken successful, practical education and integration work with Jewish immigrants for many years. We also supported the Zurich Opera House, the Schauspielhaus Zürich and the Foundation against Racism and Anti-Semitism.

The Foundation Board is also tasked with measuring

the success of its charitable contributions. We therefore regularly assessed both the extent and impact of our work (effectiveness) and the economical use of funds (efficiency). Finally, we also devoted considerable attention to various financial issues, including investment policies, which are regularly reviewed and adjusted if necessary. We also monitored the activities of the administrative office.

Despite challenging financial markets, our Foundation is in a stable financial position. As of 31 December 2016, our capital amounted to CHF 50 million. We apply Swiss GAAP FER 21 accounting standards, developed specifically for non-profit organisations, to our annual financial statements.

Our Foundation will maintain its current level of donations, i. e. between CHF 3 million and CHF 4.5 million a year, even if this means diminishing its assets over the long term.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to all those who support us in this work. Special mention should be made here of the Foundation Board members and especially Eduard M. Rosenstein, who expertly manages our Foundation with tremendous commitment.

Susanne Braginsky

Member of the Foundation Board



Under construction: the new NOAM gymnasium nestled between the Gabler and the NOAM school buildings.

FACTS AND GOALS

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The René & Susanne Braginsky Foundation was founded in early 1986 in Zurich and celebrated its 30th anniversary at the end of 2015. Operating on an exclusively non-profit basis, our Foundation supports and promotes projects and institutions where public sector services are insufficient or simply non-existent. Our contributions seek to empower people to support themselves and we prefer to work alongside established organisations; we only provide individual donations in a few exceptional cases. Our Foundation's geographic focus is on Switzerland (with an emphasis on the Zurich region) and Israel. We assist both Jewish and non Jewish initiatives and institutions.

GOALS

Our Foundation deliberately has a very broad range of charitable aims:

- To care for the elderly, handicapped, infirm or needy
- To supervise and promote the training of children and young people
- To support healthcare establishments
- To encourage leisure activities for children and young people

- To support religious institutions
- To promote social, scientific and cultural projects

These objectives enable us to set priorities in social affairs and healthcare as well as in promoting culture and science.

FINANCIALS

In keeping with the encouraging growth of our organisation's capital over the last few decades, we are in a position to make contributions in the range of CHF 3 million and CHF 5 million each year.

	2016 CHF	2015 CHF
Contributions	3 400 000	3 600 000
Capital	50 200 000	52 800 000

FOUNDATION BOARD

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Dr. h. c. René Braginsky

Businessman, Honorary Councilor of the ETH
Zurich, President

Susanne Braginsky

Vice-president

David Braginsky

Lawyer and investor

Prof. em. Dr. med. Felix Gutzwiller

Specialist in preventative medicine and Former
Member of the Council of States

Eric Stupp

Attorney, partner at Bär & Karrer

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

René und Susanne Braginsky-Stiftung

Grütlistrasse 68
CH-8002 Zurich

MANAGING DIRECTOR

Eduard M. Rosenstein

Telephone: +41 44 289 66 33
Fax: +41 44 289 66 34
E-Mail: info@braginskystiftung.ch
Website: www.braginskystiftung.ch

AUDITOR

MOORE STEPHENS EXPERT (ZURICH) AG
Glattbrugg / Zurich
