

Excerpts from the German dolphin aid NEWS

SUMMARY - DOLPHIN AID NEWS - EDITION 02/2005

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### **10<sup>th</sup> anniversary dolphin aid e.V.**

This quarters special edition honors the 10th year anniversary of dolphin aid and is reflecting a great deal on little Timmy Kuhnert, who at the age of two tragically drowned in a pool at his baby sister's baptism. It describes in touching ways Timmy' s journey from being in a waking coma for quite some time, his astonishing awaking due to his first trip (one of many many more to follow) to the dolphins in Florida. His mother Mrs. Kirsten Kuhnert remembers June 18th, 10 years ago - the day of Timmy's accident. A lot of good things, not only for Timmy, have happened since that day. His mother, not only did not accept her sons misfortune, but also wanted to help other special kids as well as there parents to a better way of life. Thus she founded 10 years ago the organization dolphin aid. By the end of June this year alone dolphin aid has helped 144 children to seek help in various dolphin therapy centers like Key Largo, Curacao or Mundomar. The first therapy center was found in Florida under Mr. David Nathanson, another one followed in April of 2004 in Curacao. Due to very high demand and long waiting periods resulting from this additional therapy centers are being planned. Also planned is a therapy center in Germany. Maybe still this year, however, latest next year. Without dolphins, but based on dolphin therapy with the aid of other animals. It shall help and support before or after the therapy.

This very special edition is not only reflecting on the progress of dolphin aid but also on some of the very special people helping along the way. There are far too many to be named but while we remember all of them we are only able to list a few:

Mr. Peter-Torsten Schulz, the founder of the dolphin aid Logo, who now lives in the Netherlands as well as in Germany where he maintains his studio.

"Irena & die Regenbogenkinder (the Rainbow-kids) have supported dolphin aid throughout the years through their music. Their songs are bringing across a special message, music for the whole family. Their new CD is called "for the children of this world" and is donated to various charitable organizations all over the world. There are two Cd's especially donated to dolphin aid "every day a little miracle" and "angel of the oceans".

## **Nomi Baumgartl – her new book Mumo**

Nomi Baumgartl, a photographer and author of MUMO, the heartwarming story of an elephant reflects on her very own tragic car accident and her very special experience with dolphins.

## **Actions and Events**

But this issue also reflects on our donors such as the German company GEHA (German Hardcopy). For each recycled ink cartridge each customer receives bonus points, which can be redeemed in order to donate them to dolphin aid. Thus not only by buying GEHA products dolphin aid is supported financially but more and more people also learn about the organization and its line of work.

The fire department of Haseluenne has raised 2.500 Euro for dolphin aid during their event "family summer party" last August. The event was held at their municipal pool. Beach volleyball, diving, ping pong, feather ball, water ball, a huge water slide, swim competitions, a little shop and lots of cakes and refreshments made everybody, participating in this party, happy.

Enza Pizza, owner of a salon in Langenfeld created a very special day for David. Once a month for three hours she opens her salon on her day off. Together with her employees she offers very reasonable prices for hair cuts. The money earned is donated in full for little David.

During the opening of the gulf fair 2005 a check in the amount of 2.000,-- Euro was handed to dolphin aid.

## **Aktion 2000 – Transfer service for "our" families**

Aktion 2000 is based in Bremen. The organization was found in 1998 and has helped quite a few projects since then. Every Euro went and is still going first of all to children. Aktion 2000 supports dolphin aid since all these years. For our special anniversary they came up with a most generous idea: The organization has two Ford SUV's including respective drivers. Interested parents may request a transfer service from any destination to any airport absolutely free of charge for them.

## **Stephan Medem – the first father seeking help for his son**

Stephan Medem the first father seeking help for his little boy Jason who suffers from Down Syndrome is also mentioned explicitly. He used to be a professional tennis player, lives in Bamberg/Germany and now owns a tennis camp. He also is the author of the book "playGIRL", published this May.

A very special interview is given by Mrs. Diane Sandelin from Dolphin Human Therapy lovingly called by everyone Dee Dee. She is the program director of DHT.

### **"Dolphin ´s Night 2005"**

dolphin aid would like to remind you that this years special Gala "Dolphin's Night 2005" will be held on October 29th.

### **News from Curacao**

Marco Kuerschner, Chief Therapist of the Curacao Dolphin Therapy Center and responsible for the schooling and training of new therapists, certified Mr. Gerwin Bijker and Matthias Krieger as therapists. Following extensive experience as volunteers the new therapists had to participate in four months of intensive training followed by a practical, oral and written examination.

dolphin aid News is also reflecting on Mr. Rollo Gebhard, who with his organization for the salvation of dolphins, has dedicated himself to this task. dolphin aid and his organization are working closely together in helping these wonderful animals that can not raise their voices for themselves and might also be in need at times. Only healthy and happy dolphins like to work voluntarily with the children and thus providing that the children eventually feel better themselves.

### **"Our" heroes: Today – Lukas and Jonas**

One article, subtitled "our heroes", is donated to little Lukas. Lukas is autistic. Nowadays he is attending school, exceeding his classmates in mathematics, understanding and writing English. He is even reading Tolkiens: Lord of the rings.....

Another story tells us about Little Jonas and his experience with the dolphins. Jonas made great progress in respect to walking. After only one week of therapy he was able to walk with a little help a distance of 200 meters. Two weeks into therapy Jonas parents set at the hotel pool. Jonas mother was telling that she had a dream about Jonas being able to walk by himself. At this very moment Jonas stood up, counted till three and made the very first steps without assistance of his entire life. Needless to say that his parents overcome with joy and beyond belief started to cry. Even after returning to Germany Jonas progress did not stop. He is still able to walk up to 5 steps by himself, he is more focused, his language is clearer and he is very good in expressing his wishes and desires. The muscles in his stomach and back are far better developed. Therefore his walk is not as shaky as before. In general he is also more aware of his surroundings and has developed a new confidence about himself.