In Europe we have more than 650 Waldorf schools and 63 of them have participated in WOW-day three times or more.

That means that there is a great potential for doing a lot more for children in need of schooling, better nutrition, social security and care.

The small amount of money that we have been able to send to the children in Freedom Foundation in India has changed their lives. Three years ago they had no hope for the future. Now they are smiling, their eyes are shining, they go to school every day and get medicine regularly.

The school in Freetown, Sierra Leone is growing and has now more than 200 pupils.

The social centre in Bogotá, Colombia, is working with more than 200 children in kindergarten and afternoon care.

The 20 Chechen children in Kaunas, Lithuania, are living in the house we bought for them, going to school and feeling secure.

We have been able to support the Educare centre in Cape Town, South-Africa where they continue to educate kindergarten teachers and help several kindergartens and Samata has been able to continue the educational programme for tribal people in Andhra Pradesh, India with a little help from WOW-day.

A few Waldorf pupils in Europe have been able to do all this. When we see these results, we understand that it is not so difficult to change something for the better, to “make poverty history”. It only takes a little time from all of us. That can change the world.
**WOW-day organization**

WOW-day is organized as a cooperative venture between the European Council for Steiner Waldorf Education (ECSWE) and Freunde der Erziehungskunst Rudolf Steiners.

ECSWE meets three times a year and has representatives from 22 European countries representing more than 650 Steiner-Waldorf schools. At these meetings and between times WOW-day is planned and coordinated by an ECSWE working group consisting of:

Meri Ami-Kautu, Finland; Astrid Bjønness, Norway; Christopher Clouder, UK; Jeppe Flummer, Denmark; Helmut von Loebell, Austria/Colombia.

To choose the projects we use the expertise of the staff of the Freunde Erziehungskunst, and all the money that is raised is directly transferred through their accounts and international contacts. We would also be very interested in hearing about your experiences and projects for WOW day so we can post them on our webpages [www.ecswe.net](http://www.ecswe.net) and [www.freunde-waldorf.de](http://www.freunde-waldorf.de) to encourage and inspire others.

Please note! Without the exact details of your address we are unable to thank you, or pass on any further information. Please note down your school, address and class where relevant on all transactions.

Donations:

Please mark your donations as follows:

- WOW (for general donations)
- WOW Sierra Leone
- WOW India
- WOW Chechnya
- WOW South-Africa
- WOW Nepal
- WOW Peru

Freunde der Erziehungskunst is a registered charity in Germany. ECSWE is a registered charity in Brussels.

Letters can be sent to:

**WOW-day working group**

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Halfdan Wilhelmsens Allé 1a
N - 3110 TONSBERG
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Tel: +47 33 31 71 39

Mail: astridbjonness@combitel.no

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**The Netherlands**

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Tel: +31(0)343514392
Fax: +31(0)343514984
info@internationalhulpfonds.nl
www.internationalhulpfonds.nl
Bank 212195050/Postbank 3892918

**UK**

Cheques to:
SWSF,
46 Grange Road
Stotbridge
W. Midlands
DY9 7LH

**USA**

Cheque to
The Rudolf Steiner Foundation
Presidio, Building 1002 B
San Fransisco, CA 94129-0915
Purpose: “WOW-day”
Freunde der Erziehungskunst

**Norway**

Steinerskolen i Vestfold
Furumoveien,
3142 Vestskogen
vestfold@steinerskolen.no
www.vestfold.steinerskolen.no
Bankkonto: 7176.05.47330
### WOW-day results 1994–2008:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Sum</th>
<th>Nr. of Schools</th>
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<tr>
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<td>24,906 €</td>
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<td>1995/96</td>
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<td>38,182 €</td>
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<td>46,435 €</td>
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<td>77,373 €</td>
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<td>2005/06</td>
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<td>2006/07</td>
<td>74,270 €</td>
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<td>2007/08</td>
<td>90,099 €</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,186,893 €</strong></td>
<td><strong>227 Schools</strong></td>
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### Name of Participating schools:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Name of school</th>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Name of school</th>
<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Freie Waldorfschule am Bodensee</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Freie Waldorfschule Saarbrücken</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<td>13</td>
<td>Rudolf Steinerskolen i Vestfold</td>
<td>Norway</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Fräi-öffentlich-Waldorfschoul Letzebuerg</td>
<td>Luxemburg</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>Rudolf Steiner-Skolen i Århus</td>
<td>Denmark</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Rudolf Steiner School of South Devon</td>
<td>England</td>
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<td>6</td>
<td>Elmfield School</td>
<td>England</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Finland</td>
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<td>5</td>
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<td>Rudolf-Steiner-Schule Grübenzell</td>
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<td>Hibernia School, Antwerpen</td>
<td>Belgium</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Steinerskolen i Indre Østfold</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>York Steiner School</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Söderköpings Waldorfskola</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Michael Hall School</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Helsingin Rudolf Steiner-koulu</td>
<td>Finland</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Freie Waldorfschule Saar Pfalz</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Rudolf Steiner Schule Salzburg</td>
<td>Austria</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Waldorfska Sola Ljubljana</td>
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<td>Sweden</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Freie Waldorfschule Augsburg</td>
<td>Germany</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>Steinerskolen i Asker</td>
<td>Norway</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In addition 14 schools have participated 4 times and 18 schools have participated 3 times.
For two years now 13 war-affected children from Chechnya have been living in a house outside of Kaunas, Lithuania together with their “mother” Hadizat and “father” Malik. There they are safe, they go to school and kindergarten and live a normal life.

Hadizat and Malik have 7 more children in an apartment in the centre of Kaunas and 18 are still in Grozny, so Hadizat travels between the two cities all the time.

The house outside of Kaunas was bought with a donation of WOW-day money and a loan from a Finnish woman. Now we have to pay her back within the next months. Many people have given donations for this house, so we just have to find 30,000 € to be able to secure the house for the future. Then all the children will be able to have a safe place to live, go to school and build a future for themselves.

After their experience with war and death in Chechnya it is very important that they can live a normal life, not be afraid and stay together as a family.

We know that the war in Chechnya is over, but when I am writing this, we hear about new atrocities in the Caucasus, this time between Russia and Georgia. The situation in the area is very tense and people are running away.

By helping the children from Grozny to have this house in Kaunas we help a small people from Caucasus to feel that they have friends in the world.

WOW-day has worked for this project for three years, we have been able to send them 1000 € per month for their running costs and we will continue with this as long as it is necessary, until most of the children are grown up.

The internationally famous Norwegian journalist and writer Åsne Seierstad published a book in 2007 called “The Angel of Grozny”. This angel is Hadizat. In the book, which is translated into many languages, you can read about this extraordinary woman and her life in Grozny and about the situation in Chechnya.
Colombia

When WOW-day started 15 years ago this project in Bogotá, Colombia was our first project. It has developed a lot through the years, but it still needs our attention as the situation of the country is still very problematic.

12% of Colombian children between 0 to 4 years and 22.6% between 5 and 9 years suffer from chronic malnutrition, which means that their size does not correspond to their age.

The consequences are: difficulty to grow, develop, physical delay in the development of vital organs, apathy, irritability, fear, shyness, isolation, a reduction of intellectual ability and learning problems.

Corporación Educativa y Social Waldorf is a social centre in Sierra Morena, the poorest part of Bogotá. Since 2004 we have had a kindergarten in the centre with about 60 children who are taken care of from 8.00 to 16.00. They get breakfast, lunch and refreshments. So far 146 children have been through this kindergarten.

For the older children the Corporación has found schooling for them. To keep them in school they are helped in the afternoon by the people in the centre. There are five different activities for them: Plastic Arts, Music, Fabric and Colour, Letters and Numbers and Scenic art.

About 200 children from 98 families come to the centre for these activities.

Teachers from the Waldorf School in Salzburg have been active in this work, and pupils from both Salzburg and Norway have visited the project.

We find it very important to continue supporting this work in a country which has had a hidden civil war for more than 40 years. To keep the social centre going support is needed for many years still.

More information: www.waldorfces.org/ceswaldorf/
Freedom Foundation (DIYA) is a home for HIV+ orphaned children in Secunderabad. The last year there has been 27 children in the centre, and 20 of them have gone to school. Two more will start school this year.

WOW-day has been able to send money to the centre the last three years. This has made it possible to send children to school and give them medical treatment and extra curricular activities like dance and yoga. The place has been renovated, but the challenge is now to have a new building. The children are growing up and are in need of separate rooms. The oldest is now 15 years old.

Here is the story of one of the children: Chandana is the only child of her parents. When she was 4 years her parents died of AIDS. Her uncle wanted to take her into his house, but his wife was afraid of having a HIV+ child in their family, so she was sent to an orphanage. Here she was made to work like a slave. Her uncle then approached Freedom Foundation and they rescued her. Since then she has been with DIYA of Freedom Foundation.

Chandana had all the dreams of a child, like going to school and having friends, but these were distant dreams. Chandana is now a blossoming and responsible teenager. She is going to a Standard English medium school doing her 9th grade and doing very well.

Chandana’s CD4 dropped to 199 in May 2006, which is an indicator of advancing HIV infection, and so she had to start on ARV treatment. She is doing well now and her general condition is very good. Her present CD4 is gone beyond 1394 in November 2007, which is a breakthrough showing the success of the care and support she has received. She is also a very good dancer – “healing through dance therapy”, is one of the extra curricular activities being facilitated for the children at DIYA.
“Shanti Sewa Griha” was founded in Kathmandu, Nepal in 1992. Seven employees started their work in the leprosy station with its 34 patients.

It all started about 20 years before that when the former Waldorf mother Marianne Grosspietsch went to Nepal to meet with her godchild in a leprosy ghetto. She was so overwhelmed with the misery she saw that she arranged for 31 children to be adopted to Germany. Some years later she went back and saw that the conditions were no better for the leprosy patients. She tried to do something to improve things for the patients, but the Nepalese operators refused to cooperate in favour of the patients. Then she started her own leprosy station in 1989 which became the foundation “Shanty” in 1992.

Shanty has grown all through the years and is now a big institution with hospital, workshops, school and ecological agriculture.

Shanti is located next to the largest Hindu sanctuary of Nepal, the temple of Pashupatinath in Kathmandu on the Bagmati river. It is no longer reserved for leprous patients only, but open for all ill people in need of urgent care who do not find help anywhere else. They are treated free of charge – the nursing station comprises 44 beds.

About 9 kilometres away, in Budhanilkantha, they have bought land and set up a second station where there are workshops, a school, ecological agriculture and a number of self-built houses giving shelter for 197 people.

More than 1100 people are taken care of in Shanti. The cost is very high, so they have to raise 25,000 € every month.

WOW-day will help Shanti with their school so that the children of the leprosy patients can have an education and in that way make a future for themselves.

For more information: www.shanti-leprahilfe.de
For 16 year Lourdes Jibaja was a teacher in the Waldorf school in Lima. At the end of 2004 she gave up her secure, well-paid job to follow her strong impulse to make Waldorf education accessible for poor people.

In the town Pisac in the Andes she found a small school for orphans where the children have to work during the day and have lessons in the evening.

In Peru there is not much money for the small town schools, so the building is in a very bad state. The windows are broken, the school grounds is a construction site and a garbage heap. There is only one, really dirty toilet without a flushing system and the walls in urgent need of a coat of paint. The roof is leaking.

They have made a carpentry workshop and they have put up a small garden house and volunteers have laid out a garden.

The project is called “Estrella de Sur” and is in need of donations to rebuild the roof. An even greater need is a warm evening meal for the children after the working and school day. Other things needed are wax crayons, water colours, children’s clothes and shoes. But much more important than all the money and donations needed is that the children have the feeling that there are people interested in them and caring for them as well as looking for the means to see to their basic needs.

“Estrella de Sur” is a new project for WOW-day, and we hope to be able to assist them in helping these poor children.
Sierra Leone

The Goderich Waldorf School, located in the Goderich Village district of Freetown, was founded in 2001 by the charity Action for Child Protection (ACP).

This was in the final days of a bloody 10 year civil war (which ended in 2002) which left many thousands of traumatized children displaced. Many had been kidnapped and forced to become child soldiers, some never to be reunited with their families, if their families survived.

The children now served by the school are either orphaned or fostered. Abu Mansaray, the school’s social worker and games teacher, spends a lot of time searching for lost children in the streets and tries to reunite them with their families.

Mr. Shannoh Kandoh (a social worker, lecturer at Freetown university and Director of the school) felt that Waldorf Education was the best hope to “heal hearts” in Sierra Leone.

Thanks to WOW-day actions in several schools it has been possible to support the running cost with more than 900 € per month and to buy a land where the plan is to build a permanent building for the school in the future.

A teacher from the Ringwood Waldorf School in England has visited Goderich several times and reported:

“During my recent visit, the wife of the Deputy President of Liberia phoned to ask Shannoh’s advice about setting up a Waldorf School in Liberia. She had already funded a state-of-the-art school for war-affected children, but it had failed. She is now looking towards Waldorf Education to heal hearts in the way that the grandest buildings cannot.”

There are now more than 200 pupils in the Goderich School. They have had to move several times and they are in need of their own building to be able to keep up the work. With the help of WOW-day we will be able to help them raise the money for this building so that these war-affected and ex-combatant children, who are among the poorest in the world, can have an education and later on get the work needed to live a normal life.

For more information: www.goderichwaldorf.org
The Centre for Creative Education in Cape Town, South-Africa started in 1993. Each year graduates leave the centre, qualification in hand, intent on making a difference in their local community.

The women who participate in the Centre for Creative Education early childhood development training are typical already working in an Educare centre. Every day they are caring for and helping shape the lives of the South-African children, aged six months to six years. So when they come to the classroom, they bring a wealth of experience to bear on some of the more abstract concepts of the programme. Understanding ourselves as human beings is taught alongside learning to tell stories, providing good nutrition and creating a safe and wholesome physical space.

WOW-day funding has primarily made it possible to provide quality Waldorf education to 98 women working in the poorest areas in South-Africa. The training emphasizes the importance of nurturing the child as an individual. This may seem logical to many, but when you yourself have come from a system that believed white people were superior your own self-esteem is damaged. There was no free childhood in that certain areas like beaches and parks were reserved just for whites. This has lead to many social issues such as a history of inferior education, humiliation, fear of being individual etc. Through working with the arts the students relax, find their own confidence and are astounded by their abilities.

The WOW-day money enables them to provide the students with art and craft material and to print manuals which have been translated into Xhosa. They have also been able to employ two fieldworkers whose main job is to circulate amongst the kindergartens.

The Educare centre writes: “Thank you to all those within the WOW initiative who have made it possible for us to continue this essential work.

WOW-day will continue to help this centre develop.
News from former WOW-day projects

The blind and sight-impaired children of ART-studio in St. Petersburg are doing very well!

With the help of schools in Norway and one foundation they were able to travel to Norway with their four teachers and four children. They gave Eurythmy performances in five different places and showed us a very moving artistic performance through their improvisation to music.

They have participated in several national conferences doing master classes and the children have won prizes in different festivals for modern dance and theatre.

They are very satisfied with the premises they have obtained in the centre of St. Petersburg and send their warmest greetings to everybody who has helped them.

Below: The young artists from ART-Studio practicing outdoors during their visit to Norway

PLEASE SUPPORT WOW-DAY 2008-2009!