

## pro filia Annual Report 2019

### 1. Introduction

In 2019, pro filia could establish an additional help offer - a home for single pregnant girls/women and their infants. Most of the girls admitted were victims of human trafficking, rape or domestic violence.

During the visit of one of our projects end of 2018 in one of our shelter homes we encountered a 15 year old girl pregnant after a rape who did not know how her life would go on. Together with our partner organisation in Nepal we decided to establish an offer of assistance as quickly as possible for this vulnerable yet so neglected group of persons. In May, the first pregnant woman, a 16 year old, could be admitted to the home in Kathmandu. In the course of the year 2019 the number increased to 10 mothers and 11 babies. The home is described in more detail under point 4.



**Mother and baby in the new home in Kathmandu**

The number of our aid projects in Nepal has been increasing continuously during the last 11 years. There is so much useful and valuable work to do in Nepal, however the funds necessary for this need be raised – with a great variety of voluntary activities. But we are very happy with what we have reached so far and our heartfelt thanks go out to all those who have supported us on our way.

### 2. The issue of human trafficking

In many areas of Nepal, girls have been considered to be virtually useless for centuries. They cost money, parents must pay a dowry for the usually very early (forced) marriage and from then on, daughters work in their husbands' household caring for his parents and not for their own ones. Very often girls are victims of domestic violence and rape.

And Nepalese girls are enslaved in large numbers: each year approximately 12,000 – 15,000 of them are being sold to Indian brothels or to the Emirates where they are sexually exploited. Very often they are no older than 12 – 16 years. The vast majority does not survive this – girls die from the effects of violence and diseases like AIDS, Hepatitis, etc.! Due to their often fair skin tone, Nepalese women are deemed to be particularly beautiful in India. Furthermore, India - where baby girls are frequently aborted or killed immediately after birth - experiences an increasing lack of women.

Some girls can be released from brothels – e.g. by a rescue network in India built up by our Nepalese partner organization MAITI! pro filia is supporting these girls whose parents often do not take them back. And pro filia also contributes to preventing many girls from being sold in the first place! Projects in Nepal financed by pro filia give almost 1,500-2,000 girls per year the chance to lead a self-determined, humane life.

### **3. Collaboration with MAITI Nepal**

Our principal contact in Nepal still is Maiti – a NGO founded in 1993 with the goal to take care of girls that could be freed from brothels or are in danger to be sold to brothels. We are in constant e-mail contact with the Maiti associates planning together the measures to be taken and changes to be made. By Feb 15 of each year we are provided with a detailed report of each project and overview of the previous year's finances. During our regular field visits we are accompanied by a MAITI associates answering our questions and translating from English to Nepalese and vice versa. This facilitates detailed conversation with Maiti associates as well as with the rescued girls.



**MAITI premises in Kathmandu**

A newly added cooperation partner is the NGO INF (International Nepal Fellowship) – a funding organisation that has been providing hospital care in Nepal since the 1950s. In the past year we could conclude an agreement with the INF managing director that some rescued young women would be

given the opportunity to join a training programme as nursing auxiliaries in one of their hospitals in Pokhara, starting most probably in the spring of 2020.

#### 4. The pro filia projects in Nepal

##### Project 1: Awareness campaigns and establishment of aid networks

The aims of this project are

- To inform about the looming dangers of enslavement in seemingly attractive job offers or promises of marriage
- To improve the reintegration of surviving girls that are hitherto widely met with hostility
- To establish an aid network for girls.

Related methods are, inter alia, round-table discussions in the villages on market days, street theater on the subject of sex trafficking, marches for women’s and girls’ rights, information for students and education of key persons like military and police.



Awareness campaigns



Training of policemen and policewomen



March against sex trafficking

The campaigns are performed also with the help of young women who – by now employed by MAITI – are themselves survivors of human trafficking or who could be saved from being enslaved at the last minute. The education campaigns also contribute to the creation of jobs for rescued young women.

**Results in 2019** in the catchment areas of Pashupatinagar and Itahari:

- With door-to-door information campaigns, informational events about sex trafficking (and ways to get help), a lot of persons could be reached on market days in many villages.
- Approximately 80 soldiers and policemen and –women were trained regarding the issue of sex trafficking and possibilities to help.
- 330 pupils and students as well as teachers were made aware of the issue of sex trafficking and informed about aid networks and possibilities to protect themselves.
- 140 key persons such as newly elected politicians, journalists and government representatives both male and female were trained regarding the issue of sex trafficking and possibilities to get help.
- On International Women’s Day, 435 women were informed about their rights.
- 130 participants of information campaigns taking place on 16 days were trained on the issue of violence against women and possibilities to get help.

**Project 2: Border guards**

Border guards in most cases are young women that could be rescued, subsequently received training by MAITI and are now employed directly at the bustling border crossings to India. Against the background of their own experiences made, they address apparently endangered girls directly, offering the transit home as immediate safe haven.

At the Indian border at Pashupatinagar alone, a total of 4,736 girls/young women were addressed in 2019 and approximately 71,500 cars, rickshaws etc. were stopped, checked and provided with information about the dangers of being enslaved.

Our by now 35 border guards work at 8 border crossings to India. Each one of them intercepts an average of 50 young girls a year directly at the Indian border transferring them e.g. to a MAITI shelter home. Therefore - due to the border guard jobs now financed by pro filia - an annual average of 1,750 girls can be rescued and are given the chance to lead a dignified life.



**Border guards interview young girls to be brought across the border into India**

During our project visits we are always full of admiration for the straightforward manner in which the border guards approach rickshaws and cars that appear suggestive of transporting an endangered girl. They do ask drivers to present the necessary documents and even insist that girls get out of the cars. At the same time they try to verify by phone the information they are given by the drivers. Border police is always within the range of vision – a difficult job in a noisy, dusty and bustling atmosphere.

In 2019 an additional observation post was installed at the motorway that leads from Duhlikhel in the East of Nepal to India. This is where Maiti-representatives and the highway patrol could

- check 8,520 cars
- offer advice to 588 girls informing them about help offers
- bring 40 girls back to their families
- admit 16 girls at Maiti facilities in Kathmandu
- find 14 out of 35 girls reported missing.

**Project 3: The Pashupatinagar Transit home**

Transit homes offer immediate help to endangered girls right at the border and also serve as first safe haven for girls that could be freed from Indian brothels. Also in cases of domestic violence or after being raped, girls and women can find support here.



The Pashupatinagar transit home



Photos of missing girls in the transit home

**Results 2019** for the Pashupatinagar transit home:

- The Pashupatinagar transit home offers shelter for 20 girls/young women at a time whose length of stay varies according to their individual requirements. Parents are contacted if the girls wish so. A family discussion is held to clarify if a girl can return home or is transferred e.g. to a rehabilitation home.
- In 2019, the transit home successfully intervened in the cases of a total of 327 girls/young women – the youngest of which 11 years of age – and prevented them from being sold.

- 250 of them could be brought back home right away.
- In 2019 the transit home carried out a search for 31 girls reported missing, 10 of which were found by MAITI and could be brought back home.
- The transit home also serves as primary and central contact in further cases of violence against women/young girls, e.g. domestic violence. During discussions with all parties involved, solutions are being sought - and found in many cases.

As we described in the last Annual Report, the fate of a 15 year old girl upset us very much during our visit in November 2018. She was pregnant after being raped and was living in a shelter home for the time being. At that point in time it was completely uncertain how her life would go on. Traumatized as she was and without help for single mothers her future looked bleak. How can a single mother support herself and an infant under these circumstances? Uneducated and unemployed she will very likely have to prostitute herself or is lured into seemingly attractive job offers in India – and then end up in a brothel. We knew immediately that we wanted to help. Together with our partner organization we established a mother-and-child care home in a scarcely used house on the MAITI premises that could be opened in May 2019. Please see project 5 for details.

#### **Project 4: The Itahari Rehabilitation home**

Saved girls that can't or do not want to return to their families, are fleeing from domestic violence, were raped or suffer from extreme poverty are transferred to a MAITI Rehabilitation home if they so wish. In these facilities they are helped to prepare for a self-determined life, they learn to read and write and participate in vocational trainings. Courses in modern agriculture, cooking, tailoring, hairdressing etc. are offered!



**The Itahari Rehabilitation home**



**Discussion group at the home during our last visit**

During our visits many girls in our care expressed worries about their future. Most of them would like to earn an income and build up a decent existence on their own. Therefore it is of great importance that pro filia does everything to provide further trainings, start-up financing for the creation of jobs and micro credits for building an own small business.



**Apprenticeship as a tailor**



**Diploma awarding**

**Group portrait at completion of training**

**Results in 2019:**

- In 2018, 36 saved girls/young women were taken care of in the rehabilitation home for 6 months each. They start learning how to read, write and calculate and are taken through professional trainings. They also receive a lot of information about their future daily life, such as HIV prevention, dangers of early marriage, contraception, women’s rights, support possibilities and protection against sex trafficking.
- 32 of the 36 girls/young women completed their professional training
- 3 of the young women were rape victims, 9 were victims of domestic violence
- 5 out of 26 girls reported missing could be found.
- Criminal actions such as rape, sex trafficking etc. are reported to the police.

**Project 5: Home for single mothers and their babies**

The mother-and-child care home admits single pregnant girls and women the most of which are victims of sex trafficking, rape or domestic violence. They can stay there for 12 – 18 months, are given medical and psychological care during the baby’s first year and – if they wish so – are offered

professional training or support in finding a job. The home started its work in April 2019 with 10 places each for mothers and babies.

There are practically no help offers for the target group of single mothers and their newborn babies in Nepal. Even if our home offers only 10 places at this point in time, this symbolizes how dearly this very vulnerable group of persons is in need of support! How can a single mother provide for herself and her infant after the birth? Traumatized after rape, often deserted by their families and without education or a job they often do not have other choices than begging or prostituting themselves – and the misery goes on from generation to generation! pro filia has committed itself to support as many single mothers and their babies as is financially possible – to stop this vicious circle and build a home for this group of persons.



**Mother-and-Baby Home in Kathmandu**



**The young women also give each other support**



**Baby massage in the garden**



**A mother taking her 14 year old daughter and her new grandchild back home      Nurse in the Mother and Baby Home**

For this purpose MAITI has provided us with a previously unused building on their Kathmandu premises and as of April 2019, the first 10 single pregnant girls/women and their newborn babies could be admitted! The youngest is 14 years old – pregnant after being raped by her uncle. Due to severe health complications, the young women as well as their babies require a high amount of medical care. One baby boy, for example, suffered from sepsis after an unassisted birth in a run-down room. Brought to MAITI and into our home by the police, he was transferred to the paediatric ICU in Kathmandu immediately as his life was at risk. The newborn survived – he and his mother are now living in our home.

Time and again the young mothers express their enormous gratitude for being able to live safely for a period of time, having regular meals, medical care and the opportunity to exchange with other women in the same situation. In a number of cases some of the young mothers with often incredible histories can not take care for their babies and are scared of being stigmatised as single mothers – a fear that does not appear all that unjustified in a place like Nepal. In these cases it takes much time to find a satisfying solution for mother and child – together and sometimes also separately. The goal always will be to give both mother and child a chance to lead a dignified life.

Some mothers know exactly what they are going to do after their stay at the home, others don't at all. Initially, after giving birth, most of them do not have the energy to think about their education – traumatised and alone as they are. In these cases we cautiously wait how the mothers develop during the first six months after giving birth while they hopefully recover increasingly. Fortunately our concept allows for a generous timescale.

Most of the young mothers wish to be able to return to their families. MAITI mediates in such cases and could persuade the family to take back her daughter and her baby... having been given the MAITI phone number for emergencies. MAITI, too frequently gets in contact with the girls' families after discharging them in order to keep informed about the living conditions of mother and child and to look for solutions in difficult situations.

### **Project 6: Educational offers**

By now pro filia is financing a range of training opportunities for girls and young women in danger or saved from danger. As described above, an annual average of 35 – 40 saved young girls and women are trained to be seamstresses, weavers, cooks, agriculturists, hairdressers, bag makers in the Itahari Rehabilitation Home.

In order to give even more girls and young women career perspectives in their own country thus immunizing them against the traffickers' seemingly attractive marriage promises and job offers in India, pro filia has developed additional educational offers. Moreover, not only trainings in classical female professions should be created but also more diverse career perspectives that offer more income and lead to an increased self-confidence.

#### **Projekt 6.1: PC training**

pro filia has been financing computer trainings since 2013 for an annual number of 40 girls. On the one hand the program is offered for preventive reasons: the training protects girls out of precarious family situations from being sold. On the other hands it offers the perspective of a self-determined life also to girls and young women that have been rescued. The equipment of the required computer training rooms and necessary repairs or the purchase of new computers are paid by pro filia. Additionally, weekend trainings are offered for young girls above the age of 10 to introduce them to the use of PC by means of a drawing program!



**The PC-training center in Pashupatinagar and its headmistress, Rewati**

Also in 2019, 37 women/young girls were trained on the PC. It was a very mixed group with young women from different castes, singles, married or divorced women, some of them with children. All had a very hard life, had suffered great poverty, massive violence or survived slavery or kidnapping.

Besides the PC training the participants were also educated about sex trafficking and ways to help in order to instruct other girls about these dangers back in their villages.

#### **Projekt 6.2: Mushroom farming**

21 girls/young women were trained to be mushroom farmers in 2019.



**Training as a mushroom farmer**

### **Project 6.5: Training in the health sector**

Many areas of Nepal suffer from a severe lack of medical care. It is in this sector that we see a professional future for young women. Not only would this work be highly recognized – the income would most probably guarantee to lead a dignified life.

For quite some time pro filia has been looking for suitable training opportunities in the health sector. 2019 saw the occasion to hold negotiations with the director of the INF (International Nepal Fellowship) – one of the oldest NGOs engaging in Nepal. The INF provides hospitals and is willing to train five rescued young women as nursing auxiliaries in their Pokhara hospital. The participants will also be accommodated on the hospital premises and will be professionally taken care of during their stay. It will be the task of INF to address rescued young women deemed to be suitable and interested in this offer. The Egon Schumacher foundation has transferred the funds for this initial training course to pro filia. It starts in 2020!

### **Project 7: The creation of jobs**

Upon completion of their trainings, young women regularly have to face problems to find an employment that subsequently guarantees a dignified standard of living. In order to find helpful solutions to this issue, a concept for the creation of jobs was developed together with MAITI. In addition to the support in finding jobs, trained young women are given the chance to earn an income sufficient for them to subsist with the help of start-up financing.

#### **Project 7.1: Typing offices**

During the meeting with MAITI end of 2013 it was decided to establish typing offices in 20 different locations in the Ilam (Pashupatinagar) district, staffed with at least two young women that have undergone PC training. Locations are chosen for these offices where a similar service is not yet on offer. Besides services like writing letters, copying, scanning and internet access, information is provided about human trafficking and protection options – with the intention to increase the number of people made aware of this issue and to make as many girls and young women insensitive to the human traffickers' seemingly enticing promises of marriage or tempting job offers, e.g. in India.

By now, 8 typing offices could be set up that are developing quite differently. Some offices have significantly extended their tasks as well as their staff, offering also PC training for young girls. Another office has become an outpost of the transit home. In a very poor district close to the Indian

border is haunted by a series of rapes. People are not able to pay for the PC services. The typing office has become a point of contact for rape victims. The office's two employees that are sending those victims to the transit home are being paid a small wage for this service by MAITI. Another typing office now holds various offers for women – besides PC work they do tailoring, offer cosmetic treatments and sell drugstore products in a small shop. Overall we were amazed about the many creative ideas the young women developed and were happy to see the variety of profitable activities in the shops. We were especially satisfied to see a number of typing offices offering PC training for young girls, thus passing on the knowledge and competencies.



**Typing office**

### **Project 7.2: Tailor shops**

From 2015 on, the installation of tailor shops each employing up to 6 young women had been planned together with MAITI. These tailor shops are located in very simple, small rooms to keep rental costs low. Pro filia took over start-up financing with the goal to have the tailor shops on a self sustaining basis within about a year's time. By now, tailor shops have been installed at 10 locations.

These shops, too, show quite a diverse development. Some of the women involved try to turn the little places into a boutique by offering further items like shoes and decoration objects. Others keep up their teams and do only tailoring barely getting by financially. A number of tailor shops have extended significantly.

Also in the tailor shops, early stages of snowball effect can be observed – further young girls and women undergo training and are thus given the chance to earn their keep. This is a development that most exactly meets our wishes and goals!

## **5. Projects scheduled for 2020**

We do everything to make sure that pro filia can keep up financing of the running projects in 2020:

- Awareness campaigns and the establishment/maintenance of aid networks in the Ilam/Pashupatinagar, Bhairahawa and Itahari districts
- The salaries for 35 border guards
- The Pashupatinagar Transit home at the Indian border near Darjeeling
- The Itahari Rehabilitation home

- The mother-and-child care home in Kathmandu
- The training offers, including additional trainings in the health care sector for the first time.
- Support in looking for a job or start-up financing for an independent small "business".

## 6. Cooperations

Besides the cooperation with MAITI Nepal and the INF, pro filia collaborated with the SI (Soroptimist International)-Club Münster-Mauritz also in 2019. The Soroptimists organized flea market stands for the benefit of pro filia in 2019. Their great support of the Soroptimists with the 2019 art auction also was most helpful! Working together is paralleled by regular cooperation meetings – three of them in 2019.

## 7. pro filia activities in 2019

In 2019 various activities contributed to create awareness about the issue of sex trafficking and helped gain new pro filia members and obtain donations for our projects:

### 7.1 pro filia activities in 2019

- **Doppelkopf nights** on March 8 and November 15 in the "Bunter Vogel". A total of more than 1,000 € could be raised during these fun games nights!



**Doppelkopf night in the "Bunter Vogel"**

- **Presentation of our work in Nepal on April 2, 2019 at the Rotary Club Münster 1648:** while preparing their charity gala on MV Günther, the members were briefed about the work of pro filia and decided to have their summer gala for the benefit of our association.



**Middle: Rotary president Stephan Kreuels**

- **The 5th art auction on April 4, 2019**

39 artists had their oeuvres auctioned in their own name and on their own account and made voluntary donations to pro filia.

Last year's auction was utterly successful: several hundreds of visitors viewed the artwork and purchased almost 85% of the works!



**Presentation of the artwork**  
(Photo by Chris Steinweg)



**Distribution of bidders' numbers**



**Auction room, FH Münster** (Photo by Chris Steinweg)



**Andrea Hansen auctioning**



**Auction Café**



**Cash desk and pick-up of the artworks**

It is very time consuming to conduct an art auction of this size! This could be achieved with the help of many sponsors (cf. Pt. 7.4) and volunteers – we would like to thank them with all of our hearts for their commitment.

- **Kreuzviertelfest Münster am on August 24/25, 2019:** Six new members could be gained at the information desk at the Kreuzviertelfest!

#### Kreuzviertelfest 2019: Stand construction



#### Information about human trafficking

- Pro filia's application for tax authority revenues out of criminal tax proceedings were found to be eligible: we were assigned 2.500 € in 2019!
- **Volksbank Münster** donated 4,500 € in 2019.
- The board members Ina Specht and Jan Sprünken produced a six minutes' video of the most recent visit in Nepal end of 2018 that can be clicked on the pro-filia homepage.

#### 7.2 Campaigns for the benefit of pro filia

- Numerous **Boule tournaments** organised by Konrad Averbeck raised about 2,080 €:



**Boule at the back of Muenster castle on June 26, 2019**

- **Ines Gummersbach's birthday:** she collected 600 € for pro filia.
- **Fahlbusch silver wedding jubilee:** approx. 2,300 € were donated to pro filia on this occasion.
- **Rotary Club Münster 1648 charity gala on July 14, 2019 on board the MV Günther:** That night 8,200 € could be collected on the benefit of pro filia and a number of new members could be gained!



**Rotary Club Münster 1648 Charity Night on July 14, 2019**  
 (left to right: Manfred Petermann, Andrea Benstein/both Rotary, Mechthild Spener/pro filia, Niels Lange/Rotary)

- **5th Yoga Summer**, organised by leben & reisen:  
 Yoga courses were held from mid-June through mid-September every Friday afternoon close to the Muenster Aa lake and the offer was highly frequented – sometimes more than 40 people participated! Each participant donated about 5 €, the revenue was passed on to pro filia entirely: Ilona Tertilt and Dagmar Merforth could finally hand over about 2,000 €! Both yoga instructors did their work free of charge!



**Yoga Summer 2019**



**Handover of the donations**

- Tina Reuther and Isabelle Feix yielded 5,000 € **selling books** and transferred the sum to pro filia.
- Also in 2019 the **Egon-Schumacher-Stiftung** donated 5,000 € to pro filia, used for healthcare training
- **Charity gala of Frauen u(U)nternehmen** on Nov. 22, 2019  
On the occasion of their 20th anniversary, the organisation Frauen u(U)nternehmen organised a Gala the revenue of which was donated to pro filia. At the start of the celebration, Mechthild Spener and Johanne Feldkamp had the occasion to present the work of pro filia. A sum of 6,000 € was donated!



**The host of the gala night - Andrea Hansen - questioning Mechthild Spener and Johanne Feldkamp about the work of pro filia**



The executive board of Frauen  
u(U)nternehmen with Peter Schnepfer/IHK and the two pro filia representatives

- **Music:** together with two syrian girls, Jürgen Sager organised musical performances on a regular basis. Again in 2019 the proceeds were donated to pro filia:



Jürgen Sager with Mirna und Natali

### 7.3 Campaigns scheduled for 2020

- Further presentations wherever possible
- Information booth at the Kreuzviertelfest on August 22 and 23 in Münster
- Two Doppelkopf nights, the first one on March 20, 2020 at 7 pm in the „Bunter Vogel“
- Participation in the Christmas fundraising campaign of the *Westfälische Nachrichten* (local newspaper)
- Charity breakfast of the Soroptimist Club Muenster Mauritz on Feb. 2, 2020, 09:30 am

### 7.4 Thanks to supporters and sponsors

pro filia can engage in its by now quite complex activities only with the aid of voluntary supporters and sponsors:

- Abc&D Design studio in Munich for visual communication (Graphic design pro filia-dissemination material, art auction catalog)
- Botz GmbH (administration cost)
- Stefani Büttel (English translation)
- Soroptimist Club Münster-Mauritz (donations and active support with the art auctions)
- Additional sponsors art auction: Münster university of applied sciences (staff support, location, technical equipment, security service), Andrea Hansen (auctioneer), Karin Triebold (legal support), Tecklenborg printing shop (print of exhibition catalog), Gauby-Skusa GmbH (insurance for the artwork), Vereinigte Volksbank Münster (special account, EC payment device), Schatzinsel Münster (Books), roestbar (coffee), Kemker market garden, Everswinkel-Alverskirchen (flowers), Kochkunst Münster (Tartes), Heri Koch (Music), Hendrik Thul (Video).

## **8. Condition of the pro filia association by the end of 2019**

### **8.1. Members**

By the end of 2019, pro filia is counting 228 members! The forthcoming general meeting with the election of the executive board will be held on March 13, 2020 at 7 pm at Marientalstraße 78 in Münster.

### **8.2. Financials**

The cash auditors Hajo Schoo and Heiderose Wandres reviewed and approved the 2018 financial statement in 2019. The members ratified the executive board's actions at the general meeting on May 17, 2019. Likewise, the Münster tax authorities have re-issued a notice of exemption on July 19, 2019.

pro filia transferred about 107,000 € to MAITI in 2019 – a record sum. More than 80.000 Euro were shifted into the year 2020 - thus safeguarding our next transfer to MAITI in April 2020. Expenses of about 3,300 € (Project visits, programming, graphics, PC and bank fees) were covered by contribution of the managing and executive board or by sponsoring. During the first 8 years of pro filia's existence, the necessary project visits were borne privately by 100%. In 2016 the board decided to support two representatives of executive board and management with a biannual subsidy of 1,000 € for project visits – also completely financed by executive board donations! All contributions and donations from outside the executive board are transferred to Nepal by 100% at all times.

The detailed accounting report for 2019, such as the reports for the years 2008 through 2018 as well as all donations received exceeding 1,000€ can be reviewed on our homepage on the right side listed under "voluntary commitment declaration".

### **8.3. Executive board**

A new pro filia executive board was elected for 2 years in 2018 with the following members: Ina Specht, Josef Humbert, Brigitte Wierling, Jan Sprünken, Bernd Brixius (treasurer) and Mechthild Spener (chairperson). Dr. Johanne Feldkamp remains in her position as CEO. The next election will be held at the forthcoming general meeting on March 13, 2020.

Dr. Johanne Feldkamp, pro filia CEO, was awarded the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany on December 4, 2019 for her volunteer work:



Mayor Markus Lewe presenting the Order of Merits

#### 8.4. Perspective

The greatest innovation in 2019 was the establishment of the Mother-and-Child home for single mothers. Our hope for 2020 is that we will not only keep up the current status – 10 places each for mothers and their babies – but that we will be able to extend this project. The location we found would allow for this. However to achieve this goal it is indispensable that we gain even more members, donors and active supporters to really be in a position to master the ever-growing tasks.

We also look forward to seeing the nursing auxiliary training develop after its start in Pokhara in 2020.

It remains our great goal to enable as many girls and women as possible to have an education, to earn their own money and lead a dignified life. Creating a “snowball effect” as seen in our tailor shops and typing offices gives us hope that this positive development may be sustainable. With access to education and the possibility to earn their own living, women will increasingly assert their righteous place in Nepalese society thus contributing to more stability.

Also in 2018, the pro filia members, cooperation partners and many donors have helped providing the support needed to reach this goal. Our heartfelt thanks go out to all of you!

February 2020  
Dr. Johanne Feldkamp  
CEO pro filia e.V.