



## Buddy Bear Mail 1 / 2017

### Buddy Bears help in Tanzania

2016 was the Year of the Bear – at least for the German Embassy in Dar es Salaam. It all began in January, when the embassy worked with a local gallery to launch a design competition for their 2m tall Buddy Bear. 14 Tanzanian artists designed Buddy Bear miniatures (size: 33cm each) to enter the competition. At the end, the jury selected the design of the female bear “Salama”, submitted by Sebastian Charles Mnjindo.

Subsequently, the new star of the local art scene painted the 2m tall sculpture with his interpretation of a Tanzanian woman between new departures and tradition. When the German Ambassador unveiled the she-bear during the celebrations marking the Day of German Unity, the sculpture was the real highlight of this event.



Now, the German Embassy had a large she-bear – but also 14 miniatures, all designed by renowned artists, including some “veterans” from the Tingatinga art scene. Very much in line with the Buddy Bear ethos, the embassy decided to sell the bears at an auction for a good cause. This auction took place in Dar es Salaam in January 2017 and was a great success: 5,500 USD were generated in aid of the Tanzania Albinism Society. Another strong sign of tolerance, in complete harmony with the Buddy Bear message!

Photos by Pavel Desort

#### Charity

So far, **€2,251,000** have been generated by Buddy Bear activities in aid of UNICEF and many local children’s relief organisations (reference date: April 2017).



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## Young refugees paint a Buddy Bear

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Education opens new horizons. Providing access to education and cultural culture is particularly suitable to create new opportunities for children and adolescents. The Federal Ministry of Education and Research subscribes to this approach: In 2015, a joint programme with education centres (*Volkshochschulen*), independent providers of education and cultural programmes and cultural affairs offices was developed further. This enables refugees who are unaccompanied minors in the Berlin district Steglitz-Zehlendorf to work through the ordeals and their experiences during their flight, to be creative and to really arrive in Germany and find peace.

Every day for six hours, the team of teachers at the talentCAMPus of the *Volkshochschule* works with young refugees in the age group 11 to 17. With compassionate care and patience, the instructors aim to build trust through conversations, joint meals, language courses and creative work. Working together is a way of taking the young people's minds off their fears, their painful thoughts and the loss



they feel because they miss their family and friends. It allows them to focus on themselves. Towards the end of 2016, the main emphasis of their daily work was on painting a Buddy Bear based on the theme "We in Berlin". The young people painted memories from their homes and added them to the blank bear sculpture. The bear's head was deliberately left unpainted: Veronika Urban, one of the main initiators of this Buddy Bear project, comments: "We want the head to inspire us to freedom of thought." From this spring, the finished Buddy Bear is presented in the garden of the villa that houses the education centre VHS Steglitz-Zehlendorf to welcome visitors and of course new groups of young refugees.

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## Newsflash

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### Civic engagement in Berlin and Brandenburg

From this year onwards, Buddy Bär Berlin supports the initiatives "Engagiert in Berlin" and "Engagiert für Brandenburg". Holders of a card that recognises their civic engagement receive special conditions or discounts.

Please find out more on: [www.berlin.de/buergeraktiv](http://www.berlin.de/buergeraktiv)

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## The return of the bears

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The teacher is cheered as she carries the colourful bear into the school gym. The bear “Kant meets Pop Art” has returned home. Home to the pupils of the Berlin International School.

Last year in October, children from the 1<sup>st</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> form painted the Mini Dancer with typical Berlin motifs, supported by their teacher Cornelia Krafft-Zander and the artist Anja Boje. On 15<sup>th</sup> November 2016, the colourful bear was sold at a big auction held in Berlin in aid of children’s relief projects, together with many other large and smaller bears. With €3,000, the businessman and patron Hans Wall was the highest bidder and received the statue with the big friendly eyes. The proceeds went to the Berlin International School, the school Hans Wall’s had attended in the past. With this sum, the pupils were in turn able to support charity projects, for example the organisation CRO that helps street children in Uganda, or the Centre of Social Pediatrics for chronically ill children at the hospital Charité in Berlin.



On 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017, Hans Wall seized an opportunity. When all pupils were present at the school’s “Assembly” in the afternoon, he handed the bear over to the private *Kant-Schule* during a festive ceremony. Wall said that the bear had looked so sad when he stayed with him, probably because he had missed the children so much. With great cheers and applause, the Buddy Bear was welcomed to his old and new home, where it will accompany the schooldays of children from all over the world.

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## Newsflash

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### Green Buddy Award 2017

Already for the seventh time, the district of Tempelhof-Schöneberg awards its environmental prize, the Green Buddy Award. Until 11<sup>th</sup> August, companies can apply for this award in five different categories. For more information, please take a look at:

<http://www.berlin.de/greenbuddy>

