

Press release

“Give a box, give a smile” – giving campaign supports children in Nepalese mountain village

- Initiative launched by works council of Bergische Achsen KG
- Love and goodwill in 400 boxes made up by BPW employees
- Reliable shipping ensured by Overseas Logistic Services GmbH

Wiehl, 10.04.2018 --- The aim of the campaign entitled “Give a box, give a smile” was to help the 371 children who live in the Nepalese mountain village of Rapcha and to bring a smile to their faces. Together with the shipping experts of Overseas Logistic Services (OLS) GmbH and the charity Re:Help, the works council of Bergische Achsen KG has now delivered almost 400 aid packages to families living there in impoverished conditions. Each child was presented with one of the boxes in a special ceremony.

They contained things like a warm hat, a hairbrush, soap and pencils – everyday items for us, but precious luxuries for the children of Rapcha. BPW employees packaged all these and other treats in cardboard boxes. “For nutrition, the 2,000 inhabitants of the village depend entirely on the crops they cultivate themselves. They are lacking practically every conceivable resource. Many of the things we regard as normal are simply beyond their reach,” remarks Renate Kotz, who is the chair and founder of Re:Help. She got to know Rapcha around six years ago during a three-month spell of voluntary work in India and Nepal. She was taken to the village by a mountain guide who was raised there. Re:Help was founded for the purpose of providing long-term support for Rapcha. The mountain guide Pancha Rai remains the local point of contact and played an instrumental role in the giving campaign.

The original idea for “Give a box, give a smile” was spawned by the BPW works council, which also recruited both Re:Help and the company Overseas Logistic Services GmbH to the cause. Its managing director Michael Lang comments, “As a global expert in sea and air freight, as well as project and steel logistics, we possess extensive overseas shipping experience and were delighted to support the campaign with our specialist knowledge.” His fellow director Navid Thielemann adds, “Know-how is essential in a shipping project like this, in which customs clearance alone is an especially thorny issue. Even when the application is very well prepared, there’s no absolute guarantee that the goods will be cleared for entry. We are delighted that the operation proceeded so smoothly in this case.”

The packages were in transit for about eleven weeks. At the end of November they were flown from Frankfurt via Bangkok to Kathmandu. Customs clearance was not granted until the beginning of February. In mid-February the boxes were finally delivered to Phaplu Airport. It takes two days to walk from the airstrip to the village of Rapcha. A tractor provided some assistance, but local inhabitants transported the boxes on foot for a large portion of the journey. They were given a

warm reception by the other village dwellers and, in particular, by the children, who were thrilled with the gifts from Germany.

“We were especially determined that the children should receive the parcels directly from us,” says BPW works council member Peter Schneider, “and that there should be a box for every single child.” Thanks to many helping hands, these wishes were fulfilled. The 400 boxes were packed by BPW employees in Wiehl within just a few weeks. Apart from a hat, scarf, cosmetics and school items, each one also contained personal gifts, such as cuddly animals or toys. “Lots of the boxes were lovingly decorated for the children,” reports Kira Fink, who for several months oversaw the project on behalf of the BPW works council alongside Peter Schneider. “In many cases, parents talked to their own children about living conditions in Nepal and the families then selected the items that were to be sent together.” BPW subsidiaries that were eager to support the campaign donated an additional 1,300 euros.



Picture caption: The campaign “Give a box, give a smile” was spearheaded by (from left to right) Kerstin Petermann, Guido Eyer and Achim Kotz (BPW), Michael Lang (OLS), Renate Kotz (Re:Help), Kira Fink and Peter Schneider (BPW), and Navid Thielemann (OLS). (Photograph: BPW Bergische Achsen KG)



Picture caption: The children and young people of Rapcha were given the boxes in a special ceremony. (Photograph: BPW Bergische Achsen KG)

**About Overseas Logistic Services GmbH**

OLS was established in Mönchengladbach in 1997 and now ranks among the leading overseas transport companies in western Germany. Its core business encompasses sea and air freight, as well as project logistics. It has also been very active in the steel logistics segment ever since its foundation. The company draws on the resources of a global network to develop bespoke solutions for its clients while helping to enhance the related logistics processes. www.ols.de

About BPW Bergische Achsen KG

BPW Bergische Achsen KG is the parent company of the BPW Group. With more than 1,600 employees, including around 120 trainees, the family-run company has been developing and producing complete running gear systems for truck trailers and semi-trailers at its headquarters in Wiehl since 1898. BPW's technologies include axle systems, brake technology, suspension and bearings. BPW's trailer axles and running gear systems are in use in millions of vehicles around the world. An extensive range of services also provides vehicle manufacturers and vehicle operators with the opportunity to increase economic efficiency in their production and transport processes. www.bpw.de/en

About the BPW Group

The BPW Group is the dependable international mobility and system partner for the transport industry. The globally active group of companies offers innovative solutions from a single supplier. Its portfolio extends from axles, suspension systems and brake technologies (BPW), locking systems and body structure technology (Hestal), lighting systems (Ermax) and composite technologies (HBN-Teknik) to user-friendly telematics applications for trucks and trailers (idem telematics). The coordinated BPW Group technologies and services enable manufacturers to benefit from economical production processes and provide maximum transparency in loading and transport processes for efficient fleet management by the vehicle operators. The owner-managed BPW Group encompasses 70 companies worldwide and employs around 7,000 people. www.wethinktransport.com

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