

## **HIJMAN DEGEN FOUNDATION**

### **ANNUAL REPORT 2006 FOUNDATION**

The Hijman Degen Foundation was formally set up on 18 December 2005. It was felt there was a need to create an organisation which would promote the use of non-verbal methods in the treatment of trauma patients in developing countries.

#### **AIMS AND PURPOSES**

The object of the Foundation is to

a. increase the skills of local aid workers in non-verbal treatment methods as they seek

to give psycho-social support to the victims of war, violence, persecution or natural disasters anywhere in the world.

The Foundation seeks to do this through the dissemination of information and expert knowledge of psychological trauma, mental health care and psycho-social support systems, and particularly through the skilled use of non-verbal methods such as creative therapy. And to carry out anything that may be directly or indirectly related or beneficial to this aim, in the widest sense of the word;

b. carry out all further actions which are allied in the widest sense to the above or may be of benefit to the aims as stated.

In no way is it the aim of the Foundation to make a profit. The Foundation is emphatically a non-profit organisation.

Because many victims are unable to express their experiences in words, the Foundation believes in the use of non-verbal therapies. Art, music, dance and theatre can all be helpful. These methods are less language and culture-bound and can therefore be useful in many different situations.

In other words, the Foundation makes training and teaching materials available to local aid workers.

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors initially consisted of the following persons, the first three of whom form the Executive Committee:

Mr. J. Lansen, psychiatrist, chairman

Mr. T. van Popta, secretary

Mr. W. Grijpma, treasurer

Mrs. J. Dinklage

Mrs. O. Sollewijn Gelpke-Meijer

Mr. C. de Bode

Mrs. Dinklage was succeeded in the course of the year by Mrs. M Rutten-Saris

Adviser to the Foundation: Mrs. S.E. Meijer-Degen

To enable the directors to act effectively working methods and instruments needed to be drawn up. There had to be agreement about expectations and tasks as well as future plans. Such issues were given further clarification during the discussions around the Plan of Action. The necessary instruments were soon drawn up. The Articles of Association were filed with a solicitor, a giro account was opened, the Foundation was registered with the Chamber of Commerce, a letterhead and logo were designed, an email address opened and the Foundation was granted charitable status by the tax authorities.

**WEBSITE**

The creation of a website has taken a little more time and will be ready early in 2007.

## MANUAL "COPING WITH LOSS AND TRAUMA THROUGH ART THERAPY"

It was not entirely by coincidence that during the setting-up period of the Foundation the Manual by Fiety Mijer-Degen also saw the light of day. It was launched during a study day of the Stichting Kunst & Therapie on 28 April in Amersfoort ( [HYPERLINK "mailto:st.kunstentherapie@planet.nl"](mailto:st.kunstentherapie@planet.nl) st.kunstentherapie@planet.nl).

The Foundation has undertaken to promote the distribution of the Manual in low-wage countries. In 2006 329 copies were distributed and in January 2007 85 copies were sent to the International Rehabilitation Council for Torture victims (IRCT) in Copenhagen. ITCT will ensure the manual is further distributed to its projects in low-wage countries as well as to Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria.

## SPONSORS

The War Trauma Foundation (WTF) gave financial assistance to cover make-up and printing costs of 600 copies of the manual, including one full-colour illustration [?].

A number of sponsors were kindly covered the start-up costs.

TvP

09.03.07

