

**RSB**  
STIFTUNG

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RENÉ & SUSANNE  
**BRAGINSKY**  
STIFTUNG  
ZÜRICH

REPORT 2016

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## DIVERSITY IN EDUCATION

We are often asked whether there is a common theme to the charitable work that our family Foundation has been involved in for over thirty years. Given the many diverse areas in which our Foundation is active, such as social affairs, health, education, science and culture, this question may seem justified. Yet ever since the inception of our Foundation, my wife and I have been mainly concerned with helping people who were less fortunate than us, the idea being to give something back to society.

However, two things have remained constant throughout our Foundation's work. Firstly, our support focuses on Switzerland and Israel – the two countries our family calls home. Secondly, we have always given particular attention to projects involving education. Behind this lies a conviction that developing and providing education is of vital importance to every country. If – given the challenging financial circumstances – Switzerland or Israel feel forced to make cuts in essential and promising areas of education and science, this can very quickly have nega-

tive long-term consequences. We try and play a part in turning the tide in such cases – as far as our modest resources allow, of course.

Three priorities we have focused on over the last few years help to illustrate this point:

For many years now we have been working together with the renowned Weizmann Institute of Science, a leading Israeli research institute, where we have not only promoted first-rate research but also facilitated internships for particularly gifted young scientists.

We have also been supporting the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) in Zurich – one of the top ten universities in the world – for several years. In conjunction with the University Hospital of Zurich and the University of Zurich, ETH has had a new Chair in the field of medical technology since 2011, which our Foundation made possible.

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A cause that is particularly close to our family's hearts is our partnership with and support of the NOAM Jewish primary and secondary school in Zurich. Together with our sister organisation "Haus der jüdischen Jugend", a non-profit public limited company, we have been helping to finance the running of the school and to enable special investments. We recently announced that we will be investing around CHF 8 million in building a gymnasium in Zurich-Enge that will primarily be used by NOAM. Until now, the students sometimes had to travel to fairly distant gymnasiums since the facility at the nearby Gabler school was often unavailable.

These examples clearly illustrate that we are concerned with education at all levels – from primary school to university. In the process, we are committed to supporting projects that make a difference in everyday education, rather than getting caught up in theory. We are very pleased to have had partnerships with such excellent institutions as ETH Zurich, the Weizmann Institute of Science

and NOAM for so many years and hope to continue these cooperations in the future.



*René Braginsky, President of the Foundation Board*

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## PERFORMANCE REPORT 2015

The Foundation Board held two meetings in 2015. The focus of these meetings was the review of the many requests that were submitted to our Foundation during 2015. The Board also addressed statutory business (financial statements, annual report, audit report, votes). The Foundation Board granted a total of around CHF 3.6 million (previous year: CHF 4.1 million) for specific projects. The total amount was distributed across the Foundation's three key focal points.

In the year under review, we provided the area of "Social Affairs" with funding totalling CHF 742,000. Among other organisations, the Sheba Medical Center Tel Hashomer, the Swiss Association of Welfare Organisations and Swiss Solidarity all received donations.

In 2015, the area of "Education and Science" received CHF 1,372,000 in total. ETH Zurich was once again the focus of this support. In autumn 2011, we decided to enable ETH Zurich to create a new Chair in the field of

medical technology, for which we would provide funds amounting to CHF 10 million over the subsequent years. The Chair is administered by ETH in combination with the University of Zurich and the University Hospital of Zurich. In addition to this, we also made major contributions to support academic research at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem and the University of Fribourg.

"Other" activities accounted for CHF 1,506,000, including our ongoing collaboration with Keren Hajessod. This foundation in Israel has undertaken successful, practical education and integration work with Jewish immigrants for many years. The University Children's Hospital and the Lucerne Festival, among others, have also received funding.

The Foundation Board is also tasked with measuring the success of its charitable contributions. We therefore regularly assessed both the extent and impact of our work (the effectiveness) and the profitability of our

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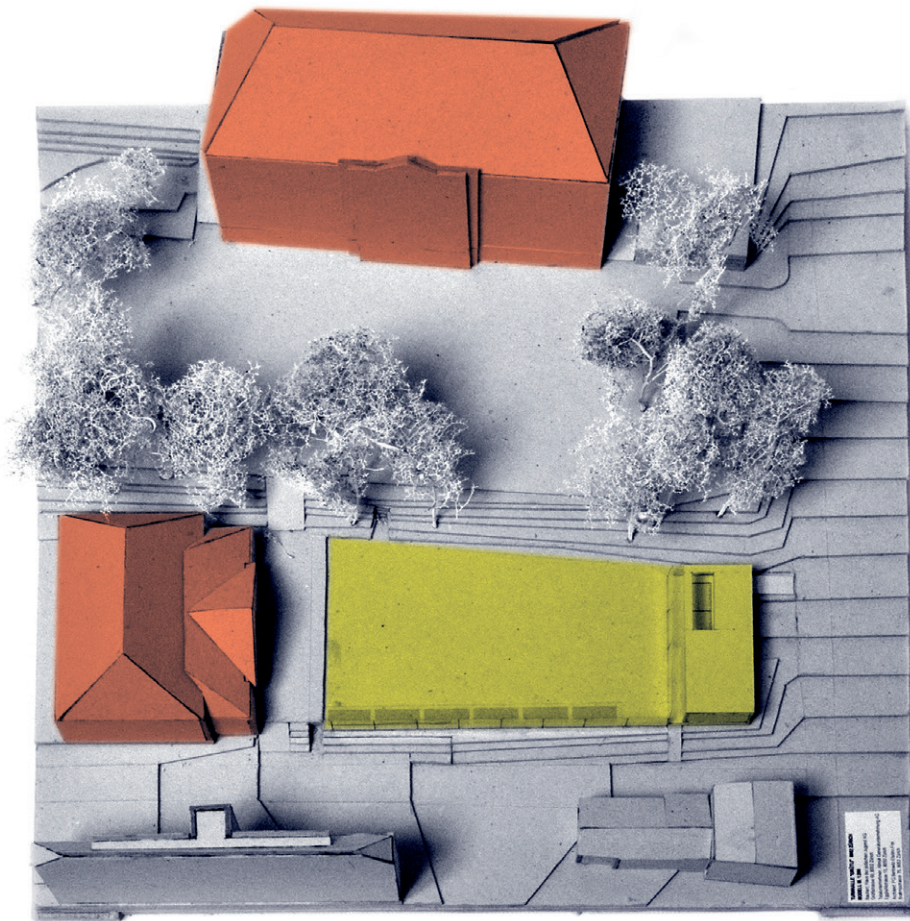
use of funds (efficiency). Finally, we also devoted considerable attention to various financial issues, including investment policies, which are regularly reviewed and adjusted if necessary. We also monitored the activities of the administrative office.

Despite the challenging financial markets, our Foundation is in a stable financial position. As of 31 December 2015 our capital amounted to CHF 53 million. We apply Swiss GAAP FER 21 accounting standards, developed specifically for non-profit organisations, to our annual financial statements.

In the year under review, we elected our son David Braginsky, Professor Felix Gutzwiller and Eric Stupp onto the Foundation Board. All three have given the Board a significant boost. As Managing Director, Eduard M. Rosenstein has once again managed the daily activities of our Foundation with tremendous commitment.

*Susanne Braginsky, Member of the Foundation Board*

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NOAM's planned *gymnasium*, situated between the *Gabler school building* and the *Gabler gymnasium*

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# FACTS AND GOALS

## GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The René & Susanne Braginsky Foundation was founded in early 1986 in Zurich and celebrated its 30th anniversary at the end of 2015. Operating on an exclusively non-profit basis, our Foundation supports and promotes projects and institutions where public sector services are insufficient or simply non-existent. Our contributions seek to empower people to support themselves and we prefer to work alongside established organisations; we only provide individual donations in a few exceptional cases. Our Foundation's geographic focus is on Switzerland (with an emphasis on the Zurich region) and Israel. We assist both Jewish and non Jewish initiatives and institutions.

## GOALS

Our Foundation deliberately has a very broad range of charitable aims:

- To care for the elderly, handicapped, infirm or needy
- To supervise and promote the training of children and young people
- To support healthcare establishments
- To encourage leisure activities for children and young people

- To support religious institutions
- To promote social, scientific and cultural projects

These objectives enable us to set priorities in social affairs and healthcare as well as in promoting culture and science.

## FINANCIALS

In keeping with the encouraging growth of our organisation's capital over the last few decades, we are in a position to make contributions in the range of CHF 3 million and CHF 5 million each year.

Since 2005, our Foundation has contributed a total of around CHF 50 million towards projects and institutions that are aligned with its goals.

	2015 CHF	2014 CHF
Contributions	3 600 000	4 100 000
Capital	52 800 000	56 700 000

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# FOUNDATION BOARD

## FOUNDATION BOARD

### **Dr. h. c. René Braginsky**

Businessman, Honorary Councilor of the ETH  
Zurich, President

### **Susanne Braginsky**

Vice-president

### **David Braginsky**

Lawyer and investor

### **Prof. em. Dr. med. Felix Gutzwiller**

Specialist in preventative medicine and Former  
Member of the Council of States

### **Eric Stupp**

Attorney, partner at Bär & Karrer

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

### **René und Susanne Braginsky-Stiftung**

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CH-8002 Zurich

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## MANAGING DIRECTOR

### **Eduard M. Rosenstein**

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## AUDITOR

MOORE STEPHENS EXPERT (ZURICH) AG  
Glattbrugg / Zurich

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