

**RSB**  
**STIFTUNG**

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RENÉ & SUSANNE  
**BRAGINSKY**  
**STIFTUNG**  
ZÜRICH

**REPORT 2021**

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# INVESTING IN INFRASTRUCTURE DESPITE THE CORONAVIRUS

The COVID-19 pandemic is very taxing, both in terms of its health and economic impact. Its dramatic consequences are not only putting a strain on all levels of the public sector, but also on private sponsors of social services as existing offers need to be modified and new ones need to be created. This requires a great degree of flexibility and additional financial means. Our Foundation has done its utmost to review such incoming requests and applications in a timely manner and to decide speedily. Among other things, we were able to do so given our excellent financial result in 2020, which expanded our financial means considerably.

During these extraordinary times, there is a danger of focusing too much on emergency relief at the expense of necessary infrastructure improvements in the social services area. Yet, the neglect of such technical or structural investments will backfire sooner or later. Our Foundation's board has therefore decided to emphasize

infrastructure projects, and sizeable donations have been thus made in this context.

I would like to list a couple of examples: We have donated a substantial amount to the Jewish organization Beth Chana in Zurich, supporting the upgrade of their residential facility for the handicapped. With our and other contributions, Beth Chana is adding additional single rooms to its venerable Zurichberg residence.

In the reporting period, we also supported the Verein Sonnhalde Gempen in Solothurn. This organization offers disabled people, especially those on the autism spectrum, a place to live and work. The organization's construction plans provide for replacements and extensions to its integrative kindergarten and forum.

Lastly, in 2020 we also engaged in infrastructure projects at Jewish educational institutions. The Zurich-

based primary and secondary school NOAM – with which we have had close ties for a long time, also through our non-profit limited company – was again at the forefront of our endeavours.

We regard the aforementioned donations as targeted investments: They help maintain and expand services in the areas of education, social affairs and healthcare, initiated and maintained by private sponsors. Thus, they correspond particularly well with the purpose of our family foundation. My wife and I, as well as our son and his family, consider our charitable engagements as a responsibility which we want to continue to assume in the coming years.

In addition to our emphasis on infrastructure projects, we have maintained our support of projects in the areas of science and culture. This also holds true for major institutions in Israel, with which we have continued our long-standing, trusted collaboration. This takes me back

to the beginning of my remarks: Like many other countries, Israel was hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, our support will continue to be requested in the current year. Our son David and his family have been living in Tel Aviv for a long time, and they are therefore in an excellent position to accompany and financially support promising projects in Israel.



*René Braginsky*  
*President of the Foundation Board*

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## PERFORMANCE REPORT 2020

Our Foundation has had an intensive, very successful year. Our administrative office did a great job in reviewing the many requests submitted to our Foundation. The Foundation Board again held two meetings to decide on the proposals prepared by the administrative office. In addition, the Board also took care of statutory business (annual financial statements, annual report, audit report, voting).

In total, the Board granted more than CHF 4.3 million (previous year: CHF 3.3 million) to specific projects. The amount was distributed across the Foundation's three main areas of focus:

We provided the area of "Social Affairs" with total funds of CHF 1.16 million. With this amount, we were able to support several larger and smaller social projects in Switzerland and Israel. The emphasis was on important infrastructure projects.

The area of "Education and Science" received CHF 1.21 million. Among other things, we supported the Sheba Medical Center in Israel, but also promoted projects at the Israel Museum and the National Library of Israel. In addition, we made our yearly donation to the ETH Zurich.

"Other" activities accounted for CHF 1.9 million. In particular, we continued our cooperation with Keren Hajesod. This Israeli foundation has undertaken successful hands-on education and integration programs with Jewish immigrants for many years. We also supported the Opernhaus Zurich, the Children's Hospital Zürich, the Davos Festival and the Lucerne Festival, as well as other organizations.

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

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We also devoted considerable attention to various financial issues, including a regular review and – if necessary – adjustment of our investment policies. In addition, we monitored the activities of our administrative office.

In volatile financial markets, our Foundation recorded an extraordinarily large financial gain in 2020. As of 31 December 2020, our capital amounted to CHF 66 million. We apply Swiss GAAP FER 21 accounting standards, developed specifically for non-profit organisations, to our annual financial statements.

Our Foundation will maintain the current level of donations, i.e. between CHF 3 million and CHF 4.5 million a year, even if this means diminishing the Foundation's assets over the long term.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the members of our Foundation Board and especially to our Managing Director, Eduard M. Rosenstein, who skilfully

manages our Foundation with profound experience and expertise.

*Susanne Braginsky*

*Member of the Foundation Board*



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## FACTS AND GOALS

### GUIDING PRINCIPLES

The René & Susanne Braginsky Foundation was founded in Zurich in 1986. Operating on an exclusively non-profit basis, our Foundation supports and promotes projects and institutions active in areas where public sector services are insufficient or non-existent.

Our contributions seek to empower people to help themselves. We prefer to work alongside established organizations; individual donations are only granted in rare cases.

Our Foundation's geographic focus is on Switzerland (with an emphasis on the Zurich region) and on Israel. We assist both Jewish and non-Jewish initiatives and institutions.

### SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

For more than 20 years, our foundation has supported the scientific activities of the ETH Zurich and the Weizmann Institute of Science in Israel with significant donations. In this context, we signed a memorandum of understanding enabling a long-term partnership in the spring of 2021.

**ETH** zürich



מכון ויצמן למדע  
WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OF SCIENCE

## GOALS

Our Foundation deliberately pursues a broad range of charitable goals:

- To promote social, scientific and cultural projects
- To care for the elderly, handicapped, infirm or needy
- To supervise and promote the training of children and young adults
- To foster leisure activities for children and young adults
- To support healthcare institutions
- To support religious institutions

These objectives enable us to focus on the areas of social affairs and healthcare as well as to promote culture and science. In the area of education, we work closely with the non-profit limited company "Haus der jüdischen Jugend AG", which is wholly owned by the Braginsky family and primarily supports the Jewish primary and secondary school NOAM in Zurich.

## FINANCIALS

In keeping with the growth of our organization's capital over the past few decades, we are in a position to make donations in the range of CHF 3.0 million and CHF 4.5 million every year.

	2020	2019
	CHF	CHF
Contributions	4 300 000	3 300 000
Capital	66 000 000	50 000 000

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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

### **Dr. h. c. Eric Stupp**

Attorney, partner at Bär & Karrer

## ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE

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

Grütlistrasse 68  
CH-8002 Zurich

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## MANAGING DIRECTOR

### **Eduard M. Rosenstein**

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Website: [www.braginskystiftung.ch](http://www.braginskystiftung.ch)

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## AUDITOR

MOORE STEPHENS EXPERT (ZURICH) AG  
Glattbrugg / Zurich

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