

**RSB**  
STIFTUNG

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RENÉ & SUSANNE  
**BRAGINSKY**  
STIFTUNG  
ZÜRICH

REPORT 2024

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## OCTOBER 7, 2023

The massacre committed by the radical Islamist Hamas organization on the morning of October 7, 2023, shook the world. The perpetrators invaded southern Israel, brutally murdering over 1.200 men, women, children, and babies, and kidnapping hundreds more. Yet that is not all: they documented their cruelty on video. Anyone who has seen these disturbing images will never be able to forget them. Since the Holocaust, there has been no other day where so many Jews were murdered.

I mention this act of terror because it not only radically changed life in Israel but also here in supposedly safe Switzerland. Even here, there is an alarming number of Hamas sympathizers, who are trying to justify and even glorify the attacks based on the suffering of the Palestinian population. Moreover, antisemitism is on the rise, seemingly becoming socially acceptable again in certain circles. All this weighs heavily on me personally, my family, some of whom live in Israel, and the entire Jewish community in Switzerland.

The Hamas terrorist attacks also have tangible effects on the work of our family foundation: where possible, we offer help and support. There are three main areas that have been at the forefront of our activities since last autumn:

**Emergency and immediate assistance:** We receive requests almost daily from organizations in Switzerland and Israel that are involved in the medical and social support of the victims of the attacks. We favour supporting institutions with which we have well established collaborations. Thus, via the Jewish National Fund (Switzerland), our foundation financed a fully equipped ambulance, which has been in operation for some time now. Keren Hayesod projects also received substantial funds from the Foundation during the reporting year.

**Combating antisemitism:** I would like to highlight the compelling work of the Gesellschaft Schweiz-Israel (GSI) with its distinguished president Corina Eichenberger-

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Walther. The GSI tirelessly fights everyday antisemitism in politics and society, supported by funding from the Foundation. We also donated to the “Stiftung gegen Rassismus und Antisemitismus”, which has spearheaded valuable efforts for many years.

**Dialogue and information:** We consider dialogue between different religions as vital and believe such exchanges need not only be continued but intensified during these difficult times. The „Verein Doppeltür” in the Swiss canton of Aargau has been committed to this cause for years, and we lent financial support to their work during the reporting period. The association promotes interactive debates on contemporary societal issues.

Our family foundation again provided funding to scientific and cultural institutions as well as initiatives in Switzerland and Israel during the past year. We aim to contribute to the peaceful and prosperous medium- to longterm societal evolution despite all the crises and

wars in this world. In conjunction with the non-profit company „Haus der Jüdischen Jugend“, our donations totaled CHF 5 million in 2023.

I very much hope that circumstances will improve soon.



*René Braginsky*  
*President of the Foundation Board*

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## PERFORMANCE REPORT 2023

Our foundation looks back on a particularly intense year, heavily impacted by the dramatic effects of the terrorist attacks in Israel. Our administrative office performed its valuable work with great dedication, carefully reviewing the numerous requests addressed to our foundation in 2023. The Foundation Board again convened for two meetings to decide on the proposals prepared by the administrative office. Additionally, the Board also took care of statutory matters (annual financial statements, annual report, audit report, elections).

In total, the Board approved donations of CHF 3.5 million (previous year: 3.3 million) for specific projects, distributed as follows across the Foundation's three main areas of focus:

In the area of "Social Affairs", we granted funds of CHF 470.000. With this amount, we were able to promote several larger and smaller social projects in Switzerland and Israel.

We donated CHF 910.000 in the area of "Education and Science". Among others, we made contributions to the work of the "Verein Doppeltür" (Lengnau) and the Swiss Friends of the Sheba Medical Center in Israel.

Roughly CHF 2.1 million were allocated to the "Other" category. We continued our cooperation with Keren Hajessod, which has been running successful hands-on educational and integration programs in Israel for decades. The organization faced particular challenges following the Hamas terrorist attacks. We also supported, among others, the Israel National Library, the Jewish National Fund, and the Opernhaus Zurich.

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). Furthermore, we devoted considerable attention to various financial matters, including a regular review and

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– if necessary – adjustment of the investment policies. In addition, we monitored the activities of our administrative office.

In volatile financial markets, our Foundation recorded a positive investment result. As of December 31, 2023, our capital amounted to CHF 51.7 million. We apply Swiss GAAP FER 21 to our annual financial statements, an accounting standard specifically designed for non-profit organizations.

Our Foundation will maintain its current level of donations, i.e., between CHF 3 and 4 million per year – even if this results in a reduction of the Foundation’s assets over the long term.

In a reporting year marked by the dramatic events in the Middle East and Ukraine, our Managing Director, Eduard M. Rosenstein, had a challenging job.

We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to him and to the members of our Foundation Board.

*Susanne Braginsky, Member of the Foundation Board*



*Emergency relief: Crisis-response ambulance for the Israeli border region*

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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, exceptional 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 causes and institutions.



## 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 assist religious institutions

These objectives enable us to focus on social affairs and healthcare as well as to promote culture and science. In the area of education, we work closely with the limited non-profit 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 - 4 million every year.

	2023	2022
	CHF	CHF
Contributions	3 500 000	3 300 000
Capital	51 700 000	52 600 000

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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**

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## MANAGING DIRECTOR

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## AUDITOR

MOORE STEPHENS EXPERT (ZURICH) AG  
Glattbrugg / Zurich

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