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Verein Buch-Aktion invests in education

In five years, the online sale of donated books generated over 60,000 euros. The money goes to a school project in Uganda



Thomas Eislöffel wants to secure the Uganda project permanently. However, because there are no flea markets at the moment, an important source of income is lost. Photo: private

By Jutta Specht

Dransdorf. Thomas Eislöffel had reached the point in his life where the question arose whether he needed all the things he could still acquire. "I wanted to draw a line." Social commitment is self-evident for the civil servant, but he definitely wanted to do more. It should be an aid organisation that handles the money in a transparent and comprehensible way. By chance, the Dransdorf native got to know the three active members of the association

"Kwa moyo - Hilfe mit Herz für Kinder in Uganda". They are collecting donations for the construction of a children's village and an educational centre. Eislöffel promised his support, because the difficult task would be to support such a project financially in the long run.

His idea was to secure the construction and operation of the school centre with income from the sale of donated books, DVDs, CDs, LPs and board games. Five years ago, the 59-year-old founded the non-profit association Buch-Aktion and launched an Internet platform. "In the meantime, more than 15,000 articles are listed in the online shop and another 250,000 media are waiting in the Hersel warehouse for sale on the Internet or at flea markets," he says: Over 60,000 euros have so far been passed on to the project in Uganda. "In 2015, the first 25 children were admitted to the new school, and by now there are more than 150. There is a building for the pre-school, rooms for seven school classes, a multi-functional hall with kitchen, and several teachers' houses," Eislöffel reports. We not only support our school, for example by financing the salaries of teachers and staff as well as 18 sponsored children," Eislöffel says. "In 2018 he started a microcredit project "as help for self-help". Most of the families in Uganda belonged to the lowest income and poorest section of the population. "They earn too little and therefore have no savings that they could invest in their future, so they remain in the cycle of poverty," says Eislöffel, describing his observations on site. Eislöffel: "People's survival depends on income, education and equal opportunities. With micro credits and the corresponding guidance, needy families are helped to become independent and to establish their own small businesses. The children benefit because their parents are then in a position to finance a good school education, but the effects of the Corona crisis are currently putting a damper on the association's activities. "We sell our donated media over the internet and at flea markets. Unfortunately, flea markets are not allowed to take place until further notice, so that an important source of income has been lost", regrets the chairman. "Therefore, the association is dependent on further monetary donations in addition to the income from online sales in order to be able to reliably provide financial support for our partners in Uganda in the coming months. Especially since economic and social life in Uganda has also been severely cut back due to the Corona crisis". However, all employees there are

dependent on their salaries and many needy families need food donations, Eislöffel reports. The online book trade is costly. Eislöffel spends several hours a day sorting and factoring the donations, checking incoming payments, preparing the order for dispatch and answering e-mail enquiries. "We are urgently looking for further voluntary helpers for our large warehouse in Hersel as well as for the dispatch and the registration of all media in our online shop." Anyone who would like to help, find out more about the project and donate can find out more at www.buch-aktion.eu.