



With over 250 sponsorships, Janma is a success story –
a look behind the scenes.

How a Janma sponsorship works - shown by the sponsorship example of Nicole Niquille

It was on 25 November 2013 when little Nikki Rai was born in the hospital in Lukla. The day after her birth Nicole Niquille appeared at the bedside and announced to the family that there would soon be a sponsorship project that would support the families of all children born in the hospital in Lukla. She gave details of the financial contributions to the child's school costs and informed her that she would be the first sponsored child of the project. Needless to say, tears flowed from the mother and father of the newborn. Minutes later, they decided together to name their daughter «Nikki» after Nicole Niquille (see the article on Esther and Marc Ducrey - Sponsorship of Nikki's brother Roshan). Like all school-children in Nepal, Nikki Rai has been provided with a school uniform as well as books, writing materials, paper and lunch money. Thanks to Janma's sponsorship contribution, her parents do not have to worry about these costs. Once a year, on «Janma Day», little Nikki Rai sets off for Lukla Hospital accompanied by one of her parents. Each time, she has her Janma identity card with which she can identify herself as a sponsored child. After registration and verification of Nikki's birth certificate, the family can receive their envelope with the money. On hundred percent of the sponsorship contributions go directly to the families. The payment is recorded in Janma's online database. Afterwards, they have to pose briefly for a current picture, which the Janma team then puts into the database so that the sponsors in Switzerland can view the pictures via their personal login. In addition to Nikki Rai, the Janma family now includes 255 children who, thanks to our sponsors, are supported in their school education.

Birth certificate with footprint was issued immediately after birth in 2013.



4 years until school entry



2018



2020



2019



2021

School fees for another 6 years

Dear godmothers and godfathers Dear friends and families

The good news first: Since the start of Janma in 2013, sponsorships have been concluded for over 250 children from the Solukhumbu District in the Himalayas. The basic school education for these children is thus secured for ten years.

Since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020, and for the second consecutive year we were unable to travel to Nepal in order to visit the hospital in Lukla, the Janma project staff, our Nepalese friends and sponsor families. We certainly do miss Nepal and its people. However, as the creators and founders of Janma, this project has never been about our travels and our love for the country and its people that has grown over the years, but always about the mothers, the children and the families in Solukhumbu and their well-being.

It is therefore a great pleasure for us to be able to state that all «entitled» sponsored children have received their sponsorship contributions, even though we were not personally on site this year. We owe this not least to the Nicole Niquille Foundation, into which the Janma project was fully integrated three years ago. We also owe it to the committed Janma team in Lukla, especially Pasang Lhamu Sherpa, the administrative manager of the hospital

in Lukla, and Kazi Sherpa in Kathmandu. And we also have numerous supporters of the project in Switzerland to thank for this, who have helped Janma get off the ground since the beginning through their professional work in many areas. For example, Kaspar Messerli with his web agency Unlocked GmbH, who not only developed the website but also a customized database for our project. Also Laurent Ulrich from Maybaum Films and Micha Philipp from LUXS, who created films by and about Janma - and many more. We have decided to dedicate this newsletter to the supporters of Janma, and to give you an insight into how the project came about and also to introduce the people behind it a little more closely.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you, dear sponsors and patrons, once again for your trust. We are confident that we will be able to announce another trip to Lukla in the Janma-News 2022.


Rolf Loepfe


Rob Lewis



Rolf Loepfe and Rob Lewis are godparents of Chiring Sangmoo Sherpa (born 17. September 2014).

From the ICRC mission in Afghanistan to Taney - and again and again Nepal

Esther Müller and Marc Ducrey met and fell in love as ICRC delegates in Afghanistan. Today, the couple runs the Auberge La Vouivre on the tranquil Lac de Taney. As founding members of Janma, they were involved from the very beginning. Among other things, the Auberge offers Nepalese specialities. A donation is made to Janma from every menu sold.

Esther and Marc, what made you decide to swap your certainly very exciting and also moving work as ICRC delegates for a life as hosts in the mountains?

Marc spent all his childhood holidays in an old family chalet right next to the restaurant we run today. We returned to Switzerland after our last mission together for the ICRC in southern Sudan. That was shortly before the birth of our son. During a conversation, Nicole Niquille (the founder of the hospital in Lukla), who was running the restaurant at the time, mentioned that she was looking for a solution for the restaurant, as she had become a bit tired after all these years as the operator. We took the chance and took over the restaurant without thinking twice. This enabled us to build up a new existence as a family in Switzerland. And all this in the immediate vicinity of our relatives.

When did you travel to Nepal together for the first time and what impressions did the country and its people make on you back then?

We visited Nepal together for the first time at the end of 2013, shortly before our son started school. We spent three wonderful months there, during which we met many simple, honest people and also many from very poor backgrounds. In Lukla we also met Rob and Rolf through our mutual acquaintance Nicole Niquille. We talked one evening in the lodge about the high child and maternal mortality rate in the Himalayas and especially in Solukhumbu. These were the first thoughts and conversations in November 2013, which gave rise to the idea for Janma.

Your commitment to Janma has already lasted for almost nine years. What motivated you back then to support the foundation and do work on the board of the association?

We had this very warm and exciting meeting with Rolf and Rob in Lukla. A few months after our return to Switzerland, the two of them visited us in Taney and told us about their plans to found a non-profit association with the aim of setting up a project in cooperation with the hospital in Lukla to reduce child and maternal mortality and to improve the quality of life through aid for school education. Specifically, they asked us if we would like to get involved in the project and the association with our experience as ICRC delegates. Of course, we immediately agreed.

With around 250 sponsorships signed for ten years, Janma has grown strongly. Does this development make you a little proud?

Of course we are proud of what we have been able to achieve from Switzerland so far. But none of this would have been possible without our local confidant: Pasang Lhamu Sherpa, the administrative director of the hospital in Lukla, who has supported the project from the beginning with a lot of heart and soul and who maintains contact with the sponsor families.

Auberge-Refuge La Vouivre
www.lactaney.com

You are yourselves sponsors in the project. What kind of relationship do you have with your godchild and can you describe the impact of the project on the basis of your godchild?

Yes, we took over the sponsorship of Roshan right at the start of Janma. He is the older brother of Nikki Rai, the first newborn to be sponsored by Janma. Nicole Niquille took over this sponsorship at that time. The parents were so touched that they named their daughter «Nikki» after Nicole Niquille. When we visited Roshan and his family for the first time, they lived in a simple dwelling with a mud floor. They also told us then that they had no money to pay for Roshan's school uniform.

Today, Roshan is in the second form of secondary school and wears the school uniform with pride. The family's financial situation has improved in the meantime (also because of Janma). We very much hope to be able to visit our sponsored child this winter or in spring 2022.



Esther Müller and Marc Ducrey are godparents of Roshan Rai (born 17. September 2006).



From the Excel spreadsheet to the convenient Janma online database



The first Janma sponsorships were managed in a simple Excel spreadsheet. With the growing success, a better and expandable solution was needed that was suitable as a central administration tool for the sponsorship project and could be processed independently of time and location. Kaspar Messerli and his company Unlocked gmbh created the Janma database.

Kaspar, you privately supported the Janma project with a sponsorship. With your company Unlocked and you also helped Janma very generously with the creation of the website and especially with the programming of the database. How did this come about?

Before the online database was created, we were allowed to programme the website for Janma. At that time, Rob and Rolf told me about their trips to Nepal and about their project. That touched me personally. So it was obvious for me to support the project with a sponsorship in addition to our pro-

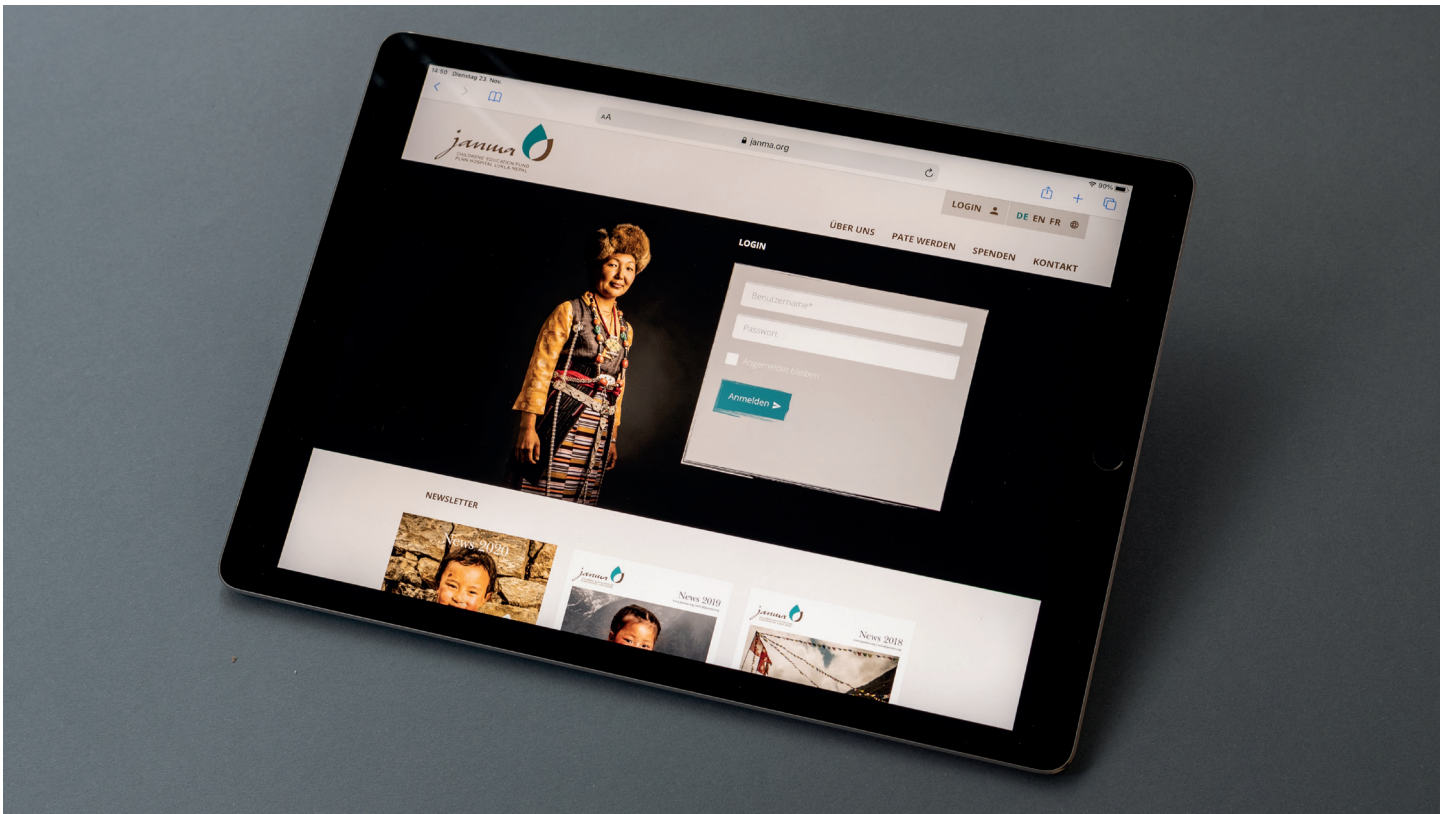
fessional work. The database was set up at a later stage. Besides the willingness to actively support the project, the exciting challenge was also a decisive factor.

The database enables those responsible at Janma to see at any time which sponsored children are assigned to which sponsors, and also what the status of the sponsorship payments is. At the same time, the godparents can log into a personal area and, for example, view the status of their payments or download the birth certificate and pictures of their godchild. Was there no standard software for these requirements?

I am not aware of any standard software that would have met the very individual requirements of the Janma database. After all, it was not only about managing the data of the sponsored children, the sponsors and the payments: The database is also equipped with a login for the godparents. This means that the sponsors can access their personal information on the sponsorship (pictures, birth certificate, payment status) via a password-protected login. With these requirements, an individual solution was needed. This was also an exciting challenge for us in terms of programming, which we gladly accepted for the project.

How secure is this personal data from the Janma database on the net?

Apart from the login required to access the data, the data is protected according to current security standards. The system on which the Janma database was built meets the latest security standards and is continuously checked for security gaps by independent bodies. Security gaps are automatically closed by updates. This is important to us because the database also contains very personal data such as the birth certificates of the sponsored children.



With around 250 sponsorships (many sponsors have several sponsorships) and different payment intervals, the project is growing steadily. Does the database grow automatically or are more extensive expansion steps possible in the future?

Due to the individual solution, the database can be expanded at any time according to the growing, Janma-specific requirements. This would be much more difficult with a standard solution, as such solutions are usually difficult to customise, if at all. As technologies change rapidly, it is important that online solutions keep pace. Therefore, in addition to the expansion steps, the ongoing maintenance of the database is also an important part of further development.

Personally, you have never been to Nepal before. Is a trip to Lukla still on your agenda?

No trip to Nepal is planned in the near future. However, the thought of experiencing the project on the front line has been with me for a while. So what is not, can still become. Until then, I will continue to accompany the project in the background.

Kaspar and his mother Heidi Messerli are godparents from Jenny Rai (born 7. August 2013).

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In the Janma portrait: Fabienne Kaupert, Head of Administration

Born in Freiburg, Fabienne has been responsible for all administrative matters at Janma for four years. While her main job is as a marketing manager for an international technology company, Fabienne carries out the work for Janma on a part-time basis. She is in contact with our sponsors and the project staff in Switzerland and Nepal on an almost daily basis. Growing up in Charmey, Fabienne lived in the same shared flat as Nicole Niquille when she was young. Years later, however, her professional contacts with Rob Lewis and Rolf Loepfe led her to Janma. Fabienne Kaupert lives with her husband in Muri b. Bern. In 2018, she travelled to Lukla for the first «Janma Days» and was able to personally see the gratitude of the sponsor families.

Fabienne Kaupert is godmother of Pema Yangjum Tamang (born 28. April 2018).

Godparents wanted

Take over a sponsorship now
and find out more about it on our
website janma.org.
Also one-time donations to support the
of the project are welcome!

Fondation Nicole Niquille, Hôpital Lukla
Vermerk «Janma» – Childrens' Education Fund
La Bourliandaz 105, 1637 Charmey (Gruyère)

ACCOUNT

Raiffeisen Moléson
IBAN CH57 8012 9000 0415 3952 2
Fondation Nicole Niquille, Hôpital Lukla
Janma – Childrens' Education Fund
La Bourliandaz 105
CH-1637 Charmey (Gruyère)



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www.hopital-lukla.ch



In cooperation with JETHA MAILA



Janma – Childrens' Education Fund Nepal
Steinhübeliweg 8 | 3074 Muri bei Bern | www.janma.org | info@janma.org
