

Dear friends, helpers and supporters,

I have recently returned back from Iran. On February 21, I traveled to Kashan with my sister Asi, where I had the wonderful mission, to hand over your generous donation of 13,165 Euros to the leadership of the Negin Foundation - Mrs. Farivar-Akhavan and her assistant, Mr. Schafi. Their joy was overwhelming, and I would like to pass their sincere thanks to all of you. Due to the rapid inflation of the Iranian currency, the amount I had delivered in Euros had gained about much more than its original value! The foundation can thus take important steps forward in its work. Very important to know: Negin is an NGO foundation => Non Government Organization- the funds flow without administrative costs, directly into the foundation and not in any government pots. (<http://www.neginngo.ir/>)

Negin in Persian means jewel and symbolizes the belief that in every child and in every human being there is a jewel hidden. According to this motto, this foundation was founded 15 years ago by an Iranian doctor and his wife, who live most part of the year in Boston , Mr. and Mrs. Farivar-Akhawan, with the first house which they financed from their own resources. Gradually, friends and benefactors from home and abroad joined, and over the last few years, more houses were acquired and renovated. Recently, the 15th Negin House has been opened. The houses are located in the city center of Kashan, so that the children can live integrated into the social environment of the city. They are housed in these buildings by age and gender. The goal is to let them grow up in a normal everyday life of children: school in the morning, in the afternoons loving accompaniment of pedagogically and psychologically trained caregivers; homework help, sport, play, artistic or musical promotion. After leaving school, the older children receive further education, such as vocational training or studies, according to their talents and preferences. They remain in the care of the Foundation until they are self-reliant and have a good place in life. Mrs. Akhavan spends half of the year in Kashan, personally taking care of all matters and of the children. As well she opened a beautiful hotel in an old historical house in Kashan-the Negin House- whose income also flows into the foundation (<http://www.negin.info>).



From right: Ms. Akhavan-Farivar, myself and Mr. Schafi at the donation handover

The highlight of the day for Asi and me was an invitation of Mrs. Akhavan to visit the children with her in one of the Negin houses. It was very touching to get to know these cheerful, nice children from close by and have an entertaining afternoon with them and their friendly caregivers. We did not have the slightest impression that these are orphans or street children. They feel quite at home there and have a very close relationship with Ms. Akhavan and her caregivers. They proudly performed songs and poems or showed their self painted pictures. Some of the children had also won junior competitions.



from left: my sister Asi, me, the children, Ms. Akhavan and three of the Negin caregivers

Visiting the children has convinced me even more that this is an exceptionally loving aid project which I have even more taken into my heart. So, in the future, I will continue trying to organize actions to support the little Negin Jewels.

In this sense, I would once again like to pronounce a very big "Cheili Mamnun" (in Persian: thank you very much) to all of you!

Your Susann Tabatabai-Schweizer