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The Josef Wagner Foundations – Supporting society, dedicated to charity

For more than five decades, the Josef Wagner Foundations have embodied a commitment to sustainable social responsibility and charitable giving. As owners of the WAGNER Group, they not only safeguard the company's future but also honor the legacy and vision of founder Josef Wagner.

Josef Wagner established two foundations in Germany and Switzerland to ensure that his assets and all company shares would be permanently dedicated to charitable purposes. Childless and deeply committed to social causes, he focused the foundations' mission on supporting people in need and fostering opportunities for children and young people. Each foundation is overseen by a five-member Board of Trustees.

The Josef Wagner Foundations operate exclusively for charitable and benevolent purposes, concentrating their efforts on regions where the WAGNER Group maintains facilities. Through close collaboration with social authorities and aid organizations, the foundations have earned a reputation as a trusted and highly valued partner.

The three core funding areas of the Josef Wagner Foundations:

1. **Support for children and young people**
   The foundations primarily provide project-based assistance aimed at promoting opportunities and development for children and youth.
2. **Scholarships for talented students**
   Scholarships are awarded to exceptional students, giving them the time and resources they need to focus on their studies — particularly in the fields of natural sciences and business administration.
3. **Financial assistance for people in acute need**
   The foundations offer swift, unbureaucratic support to individuals and families facing difficult life circumstances.

"Our foundations strive to provide help where the social security system and government support reach their limits - or where it becomes difficult due to rules and bureaucracy," says Hubert Riek, Chairman of the Board of the German Foundation and Vice President of the Swiss Foundation. "Our goal is always to ensure that people in distress can find their way back to a normal life. For many years, both foundations have engaged in charitable activities, alleviating hardship while also fostering young talent."

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The Josef-Wagner-Foundation (Friedrichshafen, Germany)

In recent years, the Josef Wagner Foundation Friedrichshafen has significantly expanded its support services. Its focus is on education, social support, and strengthening regional initiatives. This includes awarding of 145 German scholarships (“Deutschlandstipendium”) to students from nine colleges and universities. The foundation also supports 14 social service organizations and four food banks in the Lake Constance district, helping families and individuals in need. Promoting children and young people in the region is also central - examples include support for the Wissenswerkstatt Friedrichshafen e.V. and the Schülerforschungszentrum Südwürttemberg e.V. (South Württemberg School Research Centre).

SolarCar Team/Schülerforschungs-zentrum Südwürttemberg

World Robot Olympiad/Wissens-werkstatt Friedrichshafen

Award ceremony for scholarship recipients

The JOSEF WAGNER-FOUNDATION (Altstätten, Switzerland)

The Swiss Josef Wagner foundation focuses particularly on youth welfare and support. One of its key projects is providing ongoing support to the “Bild” children's and youth home in Altstätten. In addition, the foundation also supports organizations carrying out social work. Support is provided in the following areas: integration, inclusion and participation; and the promotion of youth and family support projects.

Commitment in the USA

The Josef Wagner foundations are also active in their second-largest location in Minneapolis, Minnesota/ USA. For instance, they have supported “Every Meal”, an organization that promotes healthy nutrition for children, as well as Groves Academy, a school for children with learning difficulties.

Through these regional initiatives, the foundations contribute to society in line with the founder's vision.

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The WAGNER Group

WAGNER is a market-leading manufacturer of high-tech equipment and systems for applying wet and powder coatings, paints and similar media to surfaces. The more than 75-year-old company is the only manufacturer in the industry to offer products and solutions for DIY enthusiasts, craftsmen and industry ranging from spray guns to fully automated coating systems for series production. The WAGNER Group has approximately 1,800 employees and 19 operating companies worldwide. Sales and service are carried out both by the Group's own companies and sales and service organizations, as well as by around 400 WAGNER agencies worldwide.