

October 2019

Dear colleagues and friends in the Association of Waldorf Kindergartens!

Congratulations and good wishes for this very special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary! For its first 35 years, the Association for Waldorf Kindergartens fostered the growth and development of Waldorf early childhood education in both Germany and around the world. For the last 15 years, it has been an active member of the International Steiner Waldorf Early Childhood Association (IASWECE), which became an independent organization in 2006.

Our two associations continue to work for the same ideals expressed at the founding of the International Association of Waldorf Kindergartens in 1969, including the following:

- cooperation among colleagues through meetings, conferences, working groups, etc.
- deepening and renewal of the work with the young child out of the sources of Waldorf education and support for its quality
- support for training caregivers and early childhood educators
- pedagogical and financial support for projects in countries around the world.
- collaborative research on contemporary questions
- collaboration with parents, other educators and the wider society around the needs of the young child
- protecting the freedom and the name of Steiner/Waldorf early childhood education
- providing resources, information and publications on Waldorf early childhood education and its activities worldwide.

We are profoundly grateful for the foundations laid in Germany, first by Helmut von Kuegelgen, Klara Hatterman and the small circle of kindergarten teachers who founded the Vereinigung, and to the many colleagues in Germany who have continued this work and who join us today in working on behalf of young children throughout the world.

With warm wishes on behalf of the IASWECE Council,

Susan Howard, Philipp Reubke and Clara Aerts

