

## Newsletter April, 2014

Half a year ago, our family started with myball.ch - a project for children around the world. A few months later, hundreds of children in Jamaica are already playing with the yellow balls and another 3'000 balls will be distributed within the next few weeks. For many children it is the first time that they hold a ball in their hands. The pictures, we receive from Projects Abroad Jamaica, are very impressive. They show children playing and running around with their own balls. But, they also show children filled with wonder, as they can hardly believe that they just received their own ball.



Looking at these pictures, we are very pleased to have started this ball project. With Projects Abroad in Jamaica we found a very reliable partner who worked hard for many weeks to receive a waiver for the balls and furthermore, who distributes the balls at preschools and in communities. Volunteers from all over the world inflate the 5'000 balls with hand pumps. And during the distributions they write the names of the children on the balls and show them different ball games.

Our participation during the exhibition mega14 this month was a great success! People supported our project by donating money or buying one or several balls. After four days at the exhibition, we were able to order another 5'000 balls! Of course again in yellow! We are now in contact with Kenya, Ghana as well as India and we hope that soon our balls will be distributed also in these countries. Furthermore, visitors at our myball.ch stand, who are supporting projects in Moldavia, Vietnam, Ecuador and Brazil, were interested in distributing our balls there. We hope to receive pictures from all those countries in the near future, showing happy children with their new yellow balls.

Unfortunately, we have to face one big problem. Although the balls are a donation for children in poor areas, huge custom duties have to be paid. As we cannot bear these costs, they have to be paid by the beneficiaries - unless they succeed in obtaining a waiver, as it was the case in Jamaica.

Actually, we intended to donate our balls also to children in Haiti - one of the poorest countries in the world. Unfortunately, the organization we were in contact with, had finally to refuse our offer due to the huge custom duties. The organization is now trying to achieve special regulations for donations through the United Nations. Hopefully, one day the Haitian children will also receive yellow balls to play with.



On our homepage [www.myball.ch](http://www.myball.ch) you will find the latest pictures of the ball distributions in Jamaica. More pictures and some small videos are on Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/myball.ch>.

We are very delighted about the great interest in the ball project and would like to thank everyone for the great support we may experience.

Laura, Katja, Yvonne and André Steiner



**myball.ch**

a project for children around the world

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