

638 Years

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. CHRISTOPH

1386 – 2024



ANNUAL REPORT
2023



Rooted in historical tradition, the Brotherhood of St. Christoph exemplifies deep social commitment and tireless aid to those in need. With the launch of the St. Christoph Brotherhood Next Generation initiative and the „Adi and Gerda

Werner Quick Aid Fund,“ the Brotherhood demonstrates its resolve to merge tradition and innovation. These forward-looking steps are intended to honor the legacy of the founders, expand the scope of support, and inspire a new generation for charitable engagement.



Over the decades, the Brotherhood has developed a comprehensive range of support services, from immediate assistance to long-term projects, making profound and sustainable improvements in the lives of many. The organization remains faithful to its core goal of providing effective and empathetic aid, while simultaneously adapting to the changing needs of society.

With a firm gaze into the future and a solid foundation in the past, we continue to set benchmarks and remain a shining example of the power of solidarity and compassion in the modern world.

Warm regards,

Florian Werner

Tradition, Commitment, Innovation

Since its founding by Heinrich Findelkind in 1386, and its re-establishment in 1961, the Brotherhood of St. Christoph (BSC) has acted as a symbol of compassion, support, and community. Throughout the centuries, it has dedicated itself to the welfare of the needy. This report provides a comprehensive overview of the historical development, the diverse support services, the remarkable achievements, and the forward-looking plans of the BSC, including the St. Christoph Brotherhood Next Generation (BNG) initiative.

Historical Roots and Re-founding

The original establishment of the BSC in 1386 by Heinrich Findelkind at Arlberg was driven by the vision to provide shelter and aid to travelers. These deep historical roots continue to shape the mission of the BSC to this day. The re-founding in 1961 by Arnold Ganahl and Prof. Stefan Kruckenhauser, followed by the future-shaping leadership of Adi and Gerda Werner from 1964, marked a realignment of the BSC with a strong focus on charitable work. A breakthrough came at the end of the 1970s with the support of orphans and half-orphans of miners who perished during the construction of the Arlberg road tunnel, laying the groundwork for future charitable orientation.

Diverse Support Services

The BSC has developed a broad spectrum of support services over the decades to effectively aid people in need:

■ Immediate Aid:

Immediate financial support for families in acute distress, without bureaucratic hurdles, to provide quick relief in crisis situations. For data protection reasons, we cannot name any names here. However,

even small amounts can provide immediate help to people. This can include household appliances, grief support, orthodontic treatments, school education, and even accessible modifications to homes.

■ Long-term Projects:

Support for initiatives in the areas of education, health, disability integration, and disaster relief, to achieve sustainable improvements for communities and individuals.

■ Psychological Support:

Financial aid for the psychological care of families who have lost a loved one, to support grieving and promote the healing process.

■ Additional Support Services:

Support for various projects and organizations, including youth integration, disability associations, homeless support, Tyrol Cancer Aid, and national projects.

Brotherhood of St. Christoph Next Generation (BNG)

With the BNG initiative, the BSC specifically targets the 20-30 age group, to integrate the next generation into charitable work and the values of the Brotherhood. The precise design of this initiative will be developed in the coming months in close collaboration with the youth, to promote a contemporary and appealing engagement.

Future Plans: Adi and Gerda Werner Quick Aid Fund

As a thank you to Adi and Gerda Werner, the BSC plans to launch the “Adi and Gerda Werner Quick Aid Fund” as a central initiative. This fund aims to strengthen the engagement in immediate aid and honor the legacy of the Werners. The strategic orientation focuses on a balanced relationship between uncomplicated immediate aid and long-term projects, with a geographic focus in the greater Arlberg area, Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Southern Germany, Eastern Switzerland, and South Tyrol.

FINANCIAL REPORT BROTHERHOOD OF ST. CHRISTOPH 1.1. to 31.12.2023

Over six decades, with much dedication and personal commitment, the Werner family has been involved with the Brotherhood of St. Christoph. During these 60 years, the Werner family has invested approximately 5 to 6 million euros in own contributions into the Brotherhood.

Now, it is time to lead the BSC into a new future. This report marks a step towards 100% transparency regarding the financial operations of the Brotherhood.

USE OF FUNDS:

■ 2023: 964 cases of immediate aid

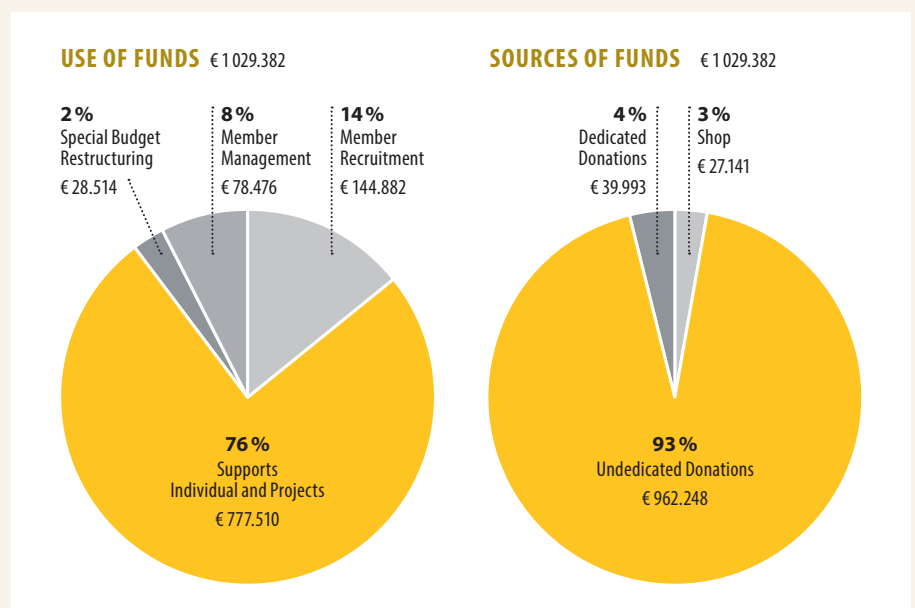
We supported 918 cases with an average of 350 euros. Additionally, we supported 30 families with an average of 1,700 euros and 16 families with an average of 4,400 euros. This direct aid has enabled needy individuals to make urgent purchases and overcome financial shortfalls. The immediate aid has been a success story and an important pillar of the Brotherhood of St. Christoph for 60 years.

■ Projects and Regional Organizations

The Brotherhood of St. Christoph has actively participated in partnerships with Austrian organizations. We donated nearly 300,000 euros to support long-term solutions such as "Women Helping Women," "Network Tyrol," youth clubs, and a women's shelter in the Tyrolean Oberland, or the "Tyrol Cancer Aid." These projects aim to effect sustainable changes in communities.

■ Member Management:

We allocated 8% of our funds for managing our members and maintaining an efficient membership system. This investment enables us to effectively meet the needs of our members and maintain high-quality membership management.



■ Member Recruitment:

We also focused on recruiting new members. For this purpose, we allocated 14% of our funds, or 144,000 euros, for member recruitment and related measures. This included the creation and distribution of our high-quality welcome box for new members with a Brotherhood book, various printed materials, badges, etc., as well as other promotional materials. It is worth noting that the stock of newly ordered items was not accounted for in this expenditure. We will ensure that future reports contain a more detailed breakdown of expenses. Other expenditures here included the annual mailing, Brotherhood Sunday, travel expenses, and press work.

■ Further Development of the Brotherhood:

For the first time in our history, we began comprehensive measures for the further development of the Brotherhood in 2023. For this, we invested nearly 30,000 euros in consulting services to optimize internal structures and processes and in the necessary adjustments to the statutes. This process marks a significant milestone for our organization and will contribute to our effectiveness and sustainability in the coming years.

SOURCES OF FUNDS:

■ Many thanks to our members, from whom nearly 735,000 euros in annual donations came.

■ We received nearly 150,000 euros in contributions from companies.

■ Foundations supported us with approximately 40,000 euros, a sector we aim to continuously expand in the future.

■ We also received 30,000 euros in donations from legacies, which we also actively pursue. Interestingly in this context: NGOs in the United Kingdom increasingly rely on income from legacies, generating around 20% of their income.

■ From the sale of merchandising products such as the Advent calendar, we earned nearly 27,000 euros.

■ 6,000 euros came from donations such as birthday parties, company parties, funerals, etc.

■ In October and at the end of 2023, we were able to collect an additional 40,000 euros in donations. We achieved this through two email fundraising campaigns. As part of our new strategy, we conducted these for the first time. The great success shows the willingness of our members to make spontaneous and project-related donations and assistance.

The Life and Work of Adi and Gerda Werner – A Tribute to Their Lifelong Service

As part of the annual report of the Brotherhood of St. Christoph, we would like to pay special tribute to the life and work of Adi and Gerda Werner. These exceptional individuals will not only be honored with an award from the Republic of Austria on July 14, 2024, but they will also receive the Heinrich Findelkind Prize for their impressive lifelong service to the Brotherhood of St. Christoph. The Heinrich Findelkind Prize will be awarded for the first time in the history of the Brotherhood of St. Christoph. In the future, this prestigious prize will be awarded to particularly meritorious individuals who serve their fellow human beings.



Historical Context and Leadership Takeover

The history of the Brotherhood of St. Christoph dates back to the 14th century, but it was re-founded in 1961 by Arnold Ganahl, Gerda Werner's father, and Prof. Stefan Krucken-



hauser. Gerda and Adi Werner took over the leadership of this venerable organization in 1964 and initiated an unprecedented era of activity and engagement. The construction of the Arlberg road tunnel marked a turning point. In the face of recurring tragedies underground, which left many orphaned and half-orphaned children, Gerda and Adi Werner showed extraordinary initiative and compassion by becoming the guardians of these children and providing them with financial support through the Brotherhood until the completion of their education.

Influence and Members

Today, the Brotherhood of St. Christoph is an international association of dedicated people, politicians, and athletes from 50 countries, including royal highnesses and prominent personalities. Gerda and Adi Werner have succeeded in bringing this di-

verse community together as brothers and sisters. Members carry the message of Heinrich Findelkind both within Austria and internationally, maintaining - as the world's oldest NGO - the desire and will for mutual aid.

Anniversary and Achievements

The year 2024 marks the 60th anniversary of the active leadership of the Werners in the Brotherhood of St. Christoph. Under their leadership, not only has the number of members grown to an impressive 23,500, but over 21 million euros have also been distributed to the needy in the greater Arlberg area and nationally. In addition, Gerda and Adi Werner have

Adi and Gerda Werner have gained approximately 23,500 members through their admirable commitment over six decades, raised around 21 million euros in donations, and in addition, through their hotel operations, invested about 5 to 6 million euros in the Brotherhood of St. Christoph.

led the Arlberg Hospiz Hotel and the Hospiz Alm Restaurant to international fame, underscoring their significant contributions to the tourism industry and community.



Honors and Awards

Over the years, Gerda and Adi Werner have been honored with numerous awards, including the Cross of Merit and the Grand Decoration of Honor from the State of Tyrol, as well as the Grand Decoration of Merit from the State of Vorarlberg. These awards reflect their outstanding services.

Outlook and Recognition

The upcoming awarding of the Decoration of the Republic of Austria and the Heinrich Findelkind Prize to Gerda and Adi Werner represents a profound tribute to their life's work and their impressive contribution to the

community. These honors are a clear sign of recognition for the tireless efforts and significant achievements of Adi and Gerda Werner within the Brotherhood of St. Christoph and beyond. Their merits are a shining example of compassion, leadership strength, and charitable action, which is recognized far beyond the borders of Austria.

The inclusion of Gerda and Adi Werner in the new statutes of the Brotherhood of St. Christoph immortalizes their legacy and their profound influence on society. This measure underscores the BSC's endeavor to preserve and continue their legacy for future generations. We stand in deep gratitude and admiration for all that Gerda and Adi Werner have achieved, and we look forward to celebrating their honors as a sign of our appreciation and as an inspiration for all members of the Brotherhood and the wider community. Their extraordinary contributions will continue to serve as a guiding star for the engagement and goals of the Brotherhood of St. Christoph.

ADI AND GERDA WERNER

QUICK AID FUND

To honor the great legacy of Adi and Gerda Werner, the BSC plans to introduce the „**Adi and Gerda Werner Quick Aid Fund**“ as a central initiative. This fund solidifies the Brotherhood's existing strength in immediate aid. The strategic orientation focuses on a balanced relationship between uncomplicated immediate aid and long-term projects, with a geographic focus in the greater Arlberg area, Tyrol, Vorarlberg, Southern Germany, Eastern Switzerland, and South Tyrol.

On BROTHERHOOD SUNDAY, this fund will be officially introduced, and we look forward to numerous direct donations on this special day of honor.

INVITATION

to the **639th BROTHERHOOD SUNDAY,**
JULY 14, 2024



Dear friends, dear members, and all interested parties,

let us celebrate an extraordinary day full of tradition, community, and visions for the future together. This year's Brotherhood Sunday in St. Anton is particularly significant as we honor the outstanding life's work of Gerda and Adi Werner.

It will be an unforgettable celebration!

DAY'S PROGRAM



10:30 AM:

**Holy Mass and Car Blessing
at the forecourt of the WM Hall in St. Anton**

Traditional reception with representatives of the State of Tyrol and Vorarlberg. The day begins with a joint field mass, celebrated by the Abbot of Stift Stams and the pastor of St. Anton, accompanied by the traditional music band of St. Anton and the St. Anton rifle company. The mass culminates in our traditional car blessing.

12:30 PM:

Brotherhood Festival in the WM Hall

A communal strengthening with the „Heinrich Findelkind“ stew.

Ceremonial honoring of Gerda and Adi Werner for their life's work

Awarding of the Heinrich Findelkind Prize and the Federal Honorary Medal of the Republic of Austria for their voluntary work in the NGO sector. Honoring deserving members of the Brotherhood Council.

Following this, there is an opportunity for new members to become part of our community through a knighting ceremony.

We look forward to your participation and to seeing you again!

With warm regards and anticipation

*On behalf of the Brotherhood of St. Christoph
The Werner Family*

***Voluntary donations
are warmly welcomed!***

**Be there
and be part
of this vibrant
tradition!**

**We kindly ask for reservations for participation:
E-Mail: info@bruderschaft-st-christoph.org**

NATIONALITY STATISTICS

of the Brotherhood of St. Christoph

Over the past decades, the Brotherhood of St. Christoph has not only maintained its traditional values but also expanded its global presence and influence. The following report provides an overview of the nationality statistics of the members and shows how diverse and international our community has become.

Members by Nationality

The Brotherhood now has members from 50 different countries, underscoring the universal appeal of our organization. A significant portion of our members comes from Europe, with an overwhelming majority from Austria itself, reflecting our deep roots in the homeland.

▪ Austrian Members:

With 62.25% of the total membership, Austria remains the core of our community. The high number reflects the local connection and support we enjoy within the country.

▪ German Members:

Germany ranks second with 25.12%. This underlines the great readiness of our German neighbors for charitable initiatives.

▪ Swiss Members:

The 4.12% represent a solid base and the historical connection in the Alpine region.

International Reach

The Brotherhood is proud to welcome members from all parts of the world. The distributed numbers across continents are a testament to our international reach and good connections:

▪ Europe:

With a total of 98.41% of our base, Europe remains the center of our activities. Special mention goes to Belgium with 73 members and Liechtenstein, which contributes significantly to our membership in proportion to its population.

▪ North America:

Approximately 1% of our members come from the USA and Canada, thereby securing our influence across the Atlantic.

▪ Asia, Australia, and New Zealand:

These regions contribute 0.25% of our members to our community and symbolize our connection beyond the hemispheric borders.

DEVELOPMENT OF MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

The membership development of the Brotherhood of St. Christoph over the last six decades shows a remarkable and steady growth and highlights the growing attractiveness and significance of the Brotherhood of St. Christoph. Despite some challenging phases, such as the slowdown caused by the Corona crisis, the Brotherhood demonstrates remarkable resilience and the ability to dynamically adapt. The latest initiatives and activities contribute significantly to the ongoing interest and engagement, positioning the Brotherhood as a vibrant and future-oriented organization.

1961 – 1972

The early years of the Brotherhood of St. Christoph were marked by modest growth. In these twelve years, the Brotherhood gained 382 members, an annual average of 38 new members. During the founding year, especially members of the Ganahl and Werner families joined, underscoring the familial roots of the organization. The limited increase in membership numbers can be explained by the fact that there were no charitable activities during this time. The primary goal of the Brotherhood during this period was still the promotion of moral and religious initiatives, primarily for the hotel staff in Tyrol and Vorarlberg.

1973 – 1982

During this period, the number of members increased by 2,412, an annual average of 241 new members. A significant increase occurred from 1977 – a turning point that marked the achievement of the 1,000th Brotherhood member and the beginning of the so-called “BSC 2.0” phase, as well as the engagement in social projects, such as the support of survivors of workers who died during the construction of the Arlberg road tunnel.

1983 – 1992

With an increase of 5,535 members during this decade, an average of 554 per year, the Brotherhood continued its upward trend. The 600-year celebration in 1986 proved particularly successful for membership growth and gave the Brotherhood a significant boost.

1993 – 2002

The growth remained stable with an increase of 5,325 members over ten years, an average of 533 members per year.

2003 – 2012

This period was marked by the strongest increase, with 5,730 new members and an annual average of 573 members.

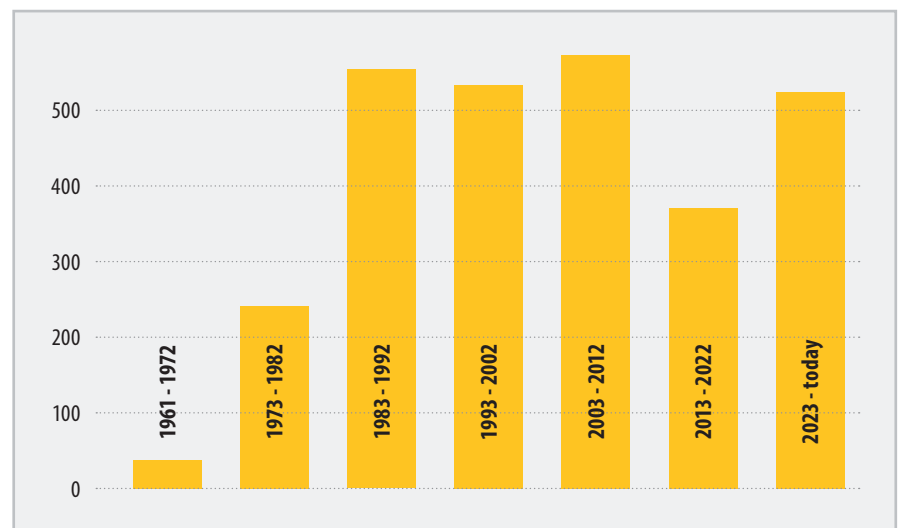
2013 – 2022

The growth slowed slightly, with an increase of 3,710 members over the decade. The annual rate was now 371 members. The Corona crisis starting in March 2020, including the closure of the hotel, had noticeable effects on membership growth.

2023 – today (March 2024)

Since the beginning of 2023, the Brotherhood has welcomed an impressive 655 new members, an average of 524 new members per year. This positive development is due to the successful initiative “Brotherhood on tour” and the increased activities of the BSC.

Average Increase in Members per Year





Selected Projects Supported by the Brotherhood of St. Christoph

Accompanying our regional aid projects, the Brotherhood supports valuable and forward-looking initiatives.

For more information on each of these carefully selected projects, scan the QR code or visit the website of the Brotherhood of St. Christoph.

SINDBAD – Accompanying Young People on Their Path to the Future

Sindbad is not just a mentoring program; it is a movement, a community, and an opportunity to make a lasting improvement in the lives of socially disadvantaged youth. At a crucial phase of their lives, Sindbad offers educationally disadvantaged youth in their 9th compulsory school year a hand to hold, an ear to listen, and a heart to beat for them.

Through the unique relationship between their mentees and dedicated young professionals or students, a bridge of hope is formed, a path of personal growth for both sides.

More information and donation opportunities:
www.bruderschaft-st-christoph.org/en/sindbad-en/



NUT-FREE - Anaphylaxis

„Nut-Free Network“ is wholeheartedly dedicated to children and teenagers who struggle with nut allergies – especially in life-threatening situations like anaphylaxis.

In November 2023, the Tyrolean initiative „Nut-Free Network“ was launched – the first association in Austria specifically supporting children and teenagers with peanut and nut allergies.

Within the Tyrolean Oberland, 29 affected individuals have already been identified, all with the risk-bearing allergy form of anaphylaxis, which can trigger life-threatening reactions from the smallest traces of nuts. The main goals of the Nut-Free Network are networking, educating, and helping.

Already in 2023, the Brotherhood of St. Christoph was able to successfully support two families with severe anaphylaxis episodes with your help.

More information and donation opportunities:
www.bruderschaft-st-christoph.org/en/nut_free_anaphylaxis/



CHILDHOOD DEMENTIA

Imagine being part of something big, a light in the darkness for families battling an invisible but devastating disease: childhood dementia, also known as Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis (NCL). This insidious disease robs children of their vision, mental clarity, mobility, and ultimately their lives. The NCL Foundation stands at the front line of this battle, but this fight cannot be won alone.

More information and donation opportunities:
www.bruderschaft-st-christoph.org/en/child_dementia/



BUFFALO BUCKS

The Buffalo Bucks initiative gives children the chance for education and a better tomorrow. Your donation helps fund learning support for refugee children in Vienna. Every contribution counts and enables children to develop their potential – no matter where they come from or what language they speak. Be part of this valuable change – because education is the best means to positively change the future of the world.

More information and donation opportunities:
www.bruderschaft-st-christoph.org/en/buffalo_bucks/



MENTAL HEALTH DAYS – Suicide Prevention

Let's break the silence together and advance mental health in schools. „Mental Health Days“ creates a safe space for teenagers to engage with their mental health.

The initiative by Golli Marboe, „Days of Mental Health,“ sheds light on the challenges and offers proactive and financial support.

THE MISSION

Education and preventive measures are the key to better mental health. Through targeted action days, workshops, and seminars in schools, the initiative addresses where the need is greatest: directly with the youth, their teachers, and parents.

More information and donation opportunities:
www.bruderschaft-st-christoph.org/en/mental_health_days_en/





638 Years

BROTHERHOOD OF ST. CHRISTOPH

1386 – 2024

**BROTHERHOOD
SUNDAY** JULY 14
2024

BROTHERHOOD COUNCIL: PRESIDENT: Bishop Dr. Benno Elbs, Feldkirch · **BROTHERHOOD MASTER:** Adolf Werner, St. Christoph · **TREASURER:** Gerda Werner, St. Christoph · **SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT:** Abbot Mag. German Erd, Stift Stams · **BRANCH MANAGER:** Mag. Jodok Müller, Feldkirch · **TREASURY COMMITTEE:** Ludwig Muxel, Lech – Franz Tschol, St. Anton · **AUDITOR:** Dr. Josef Hauser, Pians · Gebhard Jochum, Zürs · **MEMBER OF THE ARBITRATION COURT:** Ordinariate Chancellor Dr. Gerhard Walsler, Feldkirch · Ordinariate Chancellor Winfried Schluifer, Innsbruck · **COUNCIL MEMBERS:** Thomas Brändle, Stuben · Prof. Dr. Reinhard Haller, Feldkirch · Mayor Helmut Mall, St. Anton · Dr. Greti Schmid, Göfis · Dietmar Tschohl, Klösterle · Florian Werner, St. Christoph · Ursula Werner, St. Christoph.
Credits: Photo Angelique Wallner, Büffelböcke (2), Alamy (1), 123rf (5), Die Fotografen (2), Josef Mallaun, TVB St. Anton (1), Archiv Bruderschaft St. Christoph

ORGANIZATION OFFICE: BRUDERSCHAFT ST. CHRISTOPH · 6580 ST. CHRISTOPH AM ARLBERG/ÖSTERREICH

info@bruderschaft-st-christoph.org · www.bruderschaft-st-christoph.org

Volksbank: A-6580 St. Anton am Arlberg
IBAN: AT85 4239 0005 1000 2382
BIC: VBOEATWWINN

Raiffeisenbank: A-6580 St. Anton am Arlberg
IBAN: AT52 3624 8000 0081 2107
BIC: RZTIAT22248

Hypobank VBG: A-6764 Lech
IBAN: AT81 5800 0185 2574 7014
BIC: HYPVAT2B

Sparkasse: A-6460 Imst
IBAN: AT94 2050 2000 0081 3063
BIC: SPIMAT21

Sparkasse Allgäu: D-87414 Kempten
IBAN: DE08 7335 0000 0515 3319 40
BIC: BYLADEM1ALG

BTV AG: Zweigniederlassung Staad · CH-9422 Staad
IBAN: CH41 0852 5000 SA31 533A A
BIC: BTVACH22

LGT Bank Ltd.
CHF: IBAN: LI64 0881 0000 0484 2802 4
BIC: BLFLLI2X

EURO: IBAN: LI69 0881 0000 0484 2803 1
BIC: BLFLLI2X