

BAWAG GROUP DONATES € 150,000 FOR SCHOOL SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AFFECTED BY POVERTY DURING CORONA

VIENNA, February 17, 2021 – *“Poverty and education are usually inherited. This means poorer opportunities for over 300,000 children and young people in Austria. Corona has drastically exacerbated this disadvantage through homeschooling, unemployment and short-time work. This is exactly where we want to start off and provide support,” Ewald Sacher, President of Volkshilfe Austria, announces Volkshilfe’s new education project. “A big thank you also to BAWAG Group for supporting this important initiative as a long-standing partner.”*

Actively supporting "Generation Corona" in access to education

BAWAG Group is once again fulfilling its social responsibility and, together with the Central Works Council, has launched an internal appeal for donations to support the educational needs of children at risk of poverty. Many employees, members of the Managing Board, the Supervisory Board and the Works Council responded to this appeal. A total of € 150,000 was raised for Volkshilfe.

Enver Sirucic, CFO and Deputy CEO of BAWAG Group, explains: *“Education plays a major role and supports especially young people in making self-determined decisions – also in financial matters. This social project of Volkshilfe is therefore a matter close to our hearts as a bank. I am very pleased that we can help children at risk of poverty in these challenging times and that the entire workforce of BAWAG Group has made a joint contribution to equal opportunities. For us, Volkshilfe is a long-standing partner that we have always been happy to support in the past, also through our crowdfunding platform when financing projects.”*

In the Corona crisis, children at risk of poverty are increasingly losing out in school. Thus, Volkshilfe will use the generous donations exclusively to support specific educational projects for children at risk of poverty. The money will be used, for example, to buy laptops or desks, as well as for learning support and therapies for children with special educational needs.

“We cannot simply “remove” Corona. But we can combat the financial disadvantage that has been scientifically proven to affect learning success,” concludes **Erich Fenninger**, Director of Volkshilfe Austria.

About BAWAG Group

BAWAG Group AG is a publicly listed holding company headquartered in Vienna, Austria, serving 2.3 million retail, small business, corporate and public sector customers across Austria, Germany, Switzerland, Netherlands and other developed markets. The Group operates under various brands and across multiple channels offering comprehensive savings, payment, lending, leasing, investment, building society, factoring and insurance products and services. Delivering simple, transparent, and reliable financial products and services that address our customers’ needs is our strategy across the Group.

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