

Annual report 2020



From the work of Families in Need 2020

The year 2020 is shaped by the infection of the corona pandemic, with massive restrictions in public life and equivalent impacts on economy and society that reach into many families. The counselling centres of the Diakonisches Werk also had to limit personal contact with those seeking advice. With all due caution, it was necessary to continue to be present for the various emergencies. This time meant existential hardship for some population groups: for families with small children, social burdens and low income as well as for single parents, students, small-scale self-employed people and employees in work time reduction.



Many offers of assistance, initiatives, donations in cash and kind from the population made it possible to help families with special load situations. Among other things, people donated used laptops, clothes and much more. A sports club enabled lunchtime meals in their gastronomy during the lockdown in spring. With various single donations FiN was able to soften the financial difficulties: support students at short notice that had lost their minijobs, help pupils in home office and many families in precarious situations. Once again the good collaboration with the institutions that attend the families directly proved itself, for example the ambulant youth welfare service or the daycare centres.

Since the beginning of the year, more than 50 families reached out to Families in Need. They all received consultation, support and help. Many of those seeking advice came directly to FiN or were sent from other institutions such as daycare centres, ambulant youth welfare services, counselling centres, the job centre or the district of Hildesheim.

Common concerns in the consultation are:

- support for various school issues and the start of school
- family difficulties when parents separate, handling the situation as a single parent, exercising the right of access
- enable family vacations, swimming lessons, etc.
- help provide housing, help with the relocation and furnishing
- support for health needs, e.g. treatment costs, medication, therapeutic care, travel expenses to therapy or to the clinic

FiN was able to support three families with a severely disabled child thoroughly in different ways at the same time. For one family FiN helped to organize a fundraising that should enable necessary reconstruction measures.



Volunteering for FiN

FiN has started this year to build a network for voluntary supporters and already found four new volunteers of different age. They help families with child care and other offers to relieve the daily life.

Round table child poverty

The Diakonisches Werk and FiN are part of the “round table child poverty”, an initiative of the district of Hildesheim. With the start of school in 2020, the district of Hildesheim provided means for social funds through the “round table child poverty”. Together with all the offices of the Diakonisches Werk in the district of Hildesheim, they carried out again the project for the start of school. The counselling centres of the AWO, the Caritas and the Diakonie received €25.000 from the social funds of Hildesheim for this. At the “round table child poverty” in autumn, specific measures and project plans in order to fight the consequences of child poverty were discussed and planned.

Annual meeting: educational justice

“How fair is our educational system?” was the topic of the speech of the higher regional church council Dr. Kerstin Gäfgen-Track. As a guest speaker at the annual reception of the foundation Families in Need at the employers’ association in the Bischofsmühle, she took the view that a reconstruction of the educational system is necessary, because the society has got more heterogeneous. The teaching has to live up to it as well. The kindergarten, schools, but also universities and apprenticeships have had to take over tasks which parents often missed out on between overprotection and neglect in their education at home.



Farewell of Astrid Schreiner from the foundation’s executive board

As “the woman of the first hour”, Astrid Schreiner was largely involved in the creation of the foundation Families in Need. As the administrator of the inheritance of Gertrud Zscheile, who wanted to give her inheritance to support children in need in Hildesheim and the surroundings, she created the foundation “Families in Need Hildesheim” in 2011 in collaboration with the Ev.-luth. Kirchenkreis Hildesheim-Sarstedt.



Over many years Astrid Schreiner supported the interests of the foundation vigorously and carried the idea of the foundation further. She contributed with her work and her commitment crucially to the growth and successful work of the foundation.

The chairman Superintendent Mirko Peisert thanked Astrid Schreiner for her tireless commitment and bid her farewell from the honorary board position and to her new adopted home in Southern Germany.

FiN in public

At Pentecost FiN was represented in an ecumenical radio worship service, in a feature of the radio Tonkuhle and at the Inner Wheel Club in Hildesheim. In the Advent time, they planned a project of wishing trees with a company in Hildesheim. And last, but not least, there is a new flyer for Families in Need and our website is also available in English now.



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