

## Annual report 2021



## **From the work of Families in Need 2021**

### **Consulting and support**

61 families, parents, teenagers or adolescents turned to FiN in 2021. Those who are seeking help become aware of FiN through our homepage, through contacts, or are referred to us by other authorities. In many cases, institutions or other reference persons get in contact with us first. These are primarily out-patient or stationary facilities of youth welfare, day-care centres, parishes, clinics, the social psychiatric service of the county or the job centre.

### **Common concerns of those seeking help were:**

- relationship crises in the family
- separation of parents, contact and custody disputes
- difficulties of single parents and their children
- (impending) homelessness, relocation, furnishing
- assistance for young mothers, baby equipment
- mental crises, mentally ill / absent parents
- homeschooling / need of notebooks, printers and accessories
- severe existential crises due to the pandemic
- problems with public payers for severely disabled children
- specific fundraising for special needs of a family with a severely disabled child.

We offer the families consulting and arrange further support and measures, partly through financial aid. In total, grants in the amount of 23,562.85 euros were paid to the families – of that 16,500 euros for special needs that could not be covered by state services to a family with a severely disabled child. Besides the acquisition of third-party funds, own funds in the amount of 4,355.46 euros were paid directly and unbureaucratically to families in different needs. In addition, there are the grants of the Social Fund of Hildesheim for the start of school in 2021. The counselling centres of the Diakonisches Werk could support a total of 77 first-graders with a subsidy in the amount of 100 euros.

### **Round table child poverty**

Child poverty, educational and participatory justice and development opportunities for all children and teenagers are the focus of our dedicated services for families in need. Also during the past year, FiN, together with other social associations, representatives of municipalities and administrations, supported children and families that are excluded from broad participation due to low income. In that respect, the county of Hildesheim again provided funds for welfare organisations for the enrolment in first grade – in addition to the tight state services.

Before the local elections, the county working group of the welfare organisations (KAG) organised a panel discussion "Corona, climate, cost pressure – where does the humanity remain?" with the county commissioner candidates. On July 19 on the open-air stage of the music school, the politicians faced the critical questions of the moderators and the au-



dience. Following this event, at the invitation of FiN, an in-depth talk with Bernd Lynack took place at the Diakonisches Werk about the social situation of the city and the county of Hildesheim.



### Volunteering for FiN

Amid the versatile tasks, we are pleased that there always are requests for voluntary engagement for families in need. Currently, four volunteers belong to the team who are professionally accompanied. Even though families don't ask a lot for help from laypersons during the pandemic, or it isn't possible, joint meetings have taken place online or in person for further training and exchange.

On the Sunday of the Diakonie, September 12, employees of the Diakonisches Werk organised a service on the theme of "shaping" with dean Mirko Peisert in the St. Andreas church. Volunteers from different areas presented their fields of activity and their way of shaping. Thomas Buschjohann of the foundation board and Gisela Sowa, coordinator of FiN, were also present and presented the voluntary engagement that is possible in the foundation and in the support of families.

### Supporting our work

Many companies and individuals keep supporting the work of FiN actively and financially – despite the complications and the uncertain economic situation. Thus, for example, within the Christmas wishing tree campaign of the Kaufland store in Hildesheim, 50 presents were given to families in need again this year.



### From the Foundation Board

We welcome Gabriele Fürstenberg and Ulrike Zeuner as new members of the foundation board. At the same time, we say goodbye to Dr. Karin Köhler and Astrid Schreiner and thank both of them for their long-standing, vigorous engagement.

Hildesheim, March 2022  
Gisela Sowa (Koordinatorin)

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