

Annual report 2022



From the work of Families in Need 2022

Numbers, data, facts. In 2022, we were able to give advice to a total of 65 families. 80% of those seeking advice were women, predominantly single mothers. 27 contacts were made via network partners. In addition, volunteers, friends or family members referred people seeking advice to FiN. In total, financial assistance in the amount of €12.091,75 was paid out. 50% of this amount was acquired from third parties.

The challenge family. The reason for getting in contact were different personal or family crises and financial emergencies. Many people seeking advice came to us during upheavals, because they had to reorganise their family life – usually after a separation. Custody, contact and alimony disputes are consequences of which particularly the children suffer. The addition of a new child to the family as well as the decision to enter into a new relationship mean a huge challenge for all involved. Thus, in this context it was mostly a matter of e.g. support services regarding costs for the exercise of parental contact, for baby equipment or relocation expenses.

In the context of disease or disability, families needed support with organising personal assistance, with the cost of medication, therapeutic equipment and aids, the journey to treatments and visits to the hospital.

Be involved. The topics of education and participation costs, such as school supplies, textbooks, digital end devices, tuition fees, sports equipment, family recreation or holiday camps, concerned many counselling contacts. Every time it becomes clear how exclusive those – for others self-evident – purchases or events are for families with low incomes. Again this year, the project for the start of school in the county of Hildesheim offered their support: at the initiative of the Round Table Child Poverty, many families were again subsidized for the purchase of school materials for the first class with up to 100€ per child. Through the counselling centres of the Diakonisches Werk alone, a total of 100 families received subsidy for the start of school.

Help! Last but not least, families needed short-term financial help in situations of upheaval and bridging: in the transition between two employments, in cases of unemployment, relocation, but above all in bridging waiting periods for the granting of benefits to secure their livelihood. Thus, the long processing periods at most of the benefit-granting authorities, such as the jobcentre, the family fund, parental allowance and housing allowance offices, were a great burden for the people in addition to their already difficult living situations. The delays in issuing birth certificates in the Hildesheim registry office also led to delays in applications and, as a result, to delays in the granting of benefits to secure livelihoods.

Crises. In addition to the aftermaths of the pandemic, the war in Ukraine and the resulting supply shortages, the increased costs for gas, electricity, and the inflation were a huge burden for families. The increased prices for everyday necessities, e.g. staple foods, fruits and vegetables, overextend the monthly budget of people with low incomes.

Hildesheim gives warmth. We were thrilled by the initiative of the International Choir of Hildesheim: All citizens who do not need the subsidies of the so-called energy flat rate were asked to donate them to Families in Need. The donations benefit those in need during the energy crisis: solidarity in action in the region.

Thanks. The counselling centre for families in need is carried by a huge network: the Diakonisches Werk, the fundraising management, the church office of the Church District Association of Hildesheim, the cooperation partners of companies, administrations, and independent welfare organisations all cooperate with each other. Many individuals donate to FiN on different occasions – occasionally or regularly. We are very pleased every time we receive enquiries and offers in the area of volunteering: an increasing number of people are supporting Families in Need with their commitment in concrete projects.

Our heartfelt thanks go to all of you for your trust and every form of support!

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