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Giving hope

When you are ill, you appreciate some care and attention – and HIV/AIDS sufferers are no exception. In your own personal sphere the best way to help is by showing understanding and having perfectly normal contact with HIV/AIDS sufferers. But if you would like to do more, why not give us a donation! Every euro is welcome, to support aid projects and help people. The German AIDS Foundation thanks all donors for their support. This is how you help us to give sick people new hope.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO ENJOYING YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IN THE FUTURE!

PUBLIC RELATIONS WORK/BENEFIT EVENTS

Winning over millions

Creating public awareness for AIDS with information, education programmes and benefit events



AIDS touches on taboos, solicits interest – but can also bring rejection. From the beginning the German AIDS Foundation has recognised the impact of the public domain on those affected by AIDS. This is one of the reasons why it awards a media prize for the publication of information on this subject. All previous experience with AIDS education has shown that it has to be done without pointing the finger. For this reason the Foundation also uses benefit TV broadcasts, to get millions of people interested in the AIDS question.

DO GOOD AND HAVE FUN

Festive events, art auctions or opera gala evenings – benefit events are the most important fund raisers. In addition these events attract publicity – and have ultimately become a trademark of the Foundation. The



support of many celebrities is a welcome sign that there is public awareness of the AIDS problem. And for many of the guests attending them these events provide an initial impetus to see the fate of AIDS sufferers in a different light.

VACCINE RESEARCH

Vaccine = Hope

Vaccines can stop HIV and the AIDS epidemic – and the AIDS Foundation is giving its full backing to research programmes.

In many countries, AIDS vaccine research is still not a priority. Yet an effective AIDS vaccine is the very thing that provides hope of stemming HIV and stopping the AIDS pandemic. For the German AIDS Foundation too, vaccines are a crucial weapon in the fight against AIDS. For this reason it provides information about the importance of research and is endeavouring to persuade politicians and the German Federal Government to commit more resources to vaccine research.



WORLDWIDE PARTNERSHIP WITH A COMMON OBJECTIVE

Furthermore, the AIDS Foundation is active internationally in this area as the German partner of the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative (IAVI). IAVI initiates, coordinates and finances partnerships between vaccine researchers from industrialised and developing countries and provides for cooperation between companies and universities. On the initiative of IAVI, for example, new potential vaccines were tested at the university hospitals in Hamburg and Bonn; the

German AIDS foundation funded the tests to the tune of 100,000 euros. Experts anticipate that a usable vaccine will not be available for another 10 to 15 years at the earliest, and only then if there is a greater commitment to research.



Giving hope

The work of the German AIDS Foundation



Deutsche AIDS-Stiftung





Dr. Christoph Uleer
Honorary Chairman of the Board

Dr. Ulrich Heide
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Readers,

It was about 25 years ago that the first reports appeared about a lethal and previously unknown illness: the so-called Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome, or AIDS for short. Since then the human race has had to live with AIDS. Since then this dreadful disease has claimed more than 25 million lives. And during this time it has changed its face many times.

If, initially, there was still talk about it being a disease affecting homosexual men, it quickly became apparent that it could target anyone, male or female. Whereas in the beginning, the medical profession was helpless in the face of the illness, nowadays it has the means of delaying the outbreak of the disease for years. It became increasingly obvious that AIDS was not a problem restricted to the industrialised world. At present, more than 40 million people worldwide are HIV positive, more than 90 per cent of them live in developing countries.

The German AIDS Foundation was established in 1987 to grant AIDS sufferers a last request and to relieve financial hardship. Even today we remain true to these objectives – with more than 60,000 cases of individuals and projects receiving support from the German AIDS Foundation – that means we have improved the quality of 60,000 lives! At the same time we are setting ourselves new challenges: in southern Africa we are funding projects to help AIDS orphans, young people, mothers and women at risk.

Then as now the help we provide benefits those affected and in need. We help men, women and children suffering from AIDS in Germany and worldwide. We disseminate information, educate and foster acceptance and public awareness in society.

Please give us your support to stop AIDS.
AIDS DOES NOT RECOGNISE BORDERS – NOR DOES OUR HELP.

HOW WE SEE OURSELVES

As an advocate of the sick

Foundation, history, self-image and fields of activity of the German AIDS Foundation – an overview

In 1984 Rainer Jarchow had his first encounter with an HIV infected person. “I saw how people were isolated and discriminated against by those who should actually be close to them. I experienced their despair. And I learned to fight for them unconditionally.” In 1987 Jarchow established the first foundation for AIDS sufferers. The German AIDS Foundation “Positiv leben” (Living Positively), as it was known at the time, wanted to help people with HIV/AIDS “to alleviate financial difficulties and meet modest needs.” Helping individuals was the focus of our work then as it still is today.



the main objective from its mission statement constantly in mind: “The German AIDS Foundation strives to improve the quality of life of people with HIV and AIDS.”

ALLEVIATE NEED – HELP AND DEDICATION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS

However, the activities of the AIDS Foundation encompass a whole lot more. It funds aid projects for AIDS sufferers in Germany and throughout the world. It fights against prejudice, for acceptance and an improved social climate for people with HIV/AIDS. It informs, educates and lobbies, often in conjunction with other organisations, and with



HELPING INDIVIDUALS/PROJECT FUNDING

Lightening the load

The German AIDS Foundation helps AIDS sufferers quickly and without any unnecessary red tape.

Fast, unbureaucratic support for AIDS sufferers (so-called “individual help”) is one of the most important tasks performed by the AIDS Foundation. People infected with HIV will generally suffer financial hardship – and it is often small things that are a great help. The Foundation has already received more than 60,000 applications for assistance from those affected by HIV/AIDS and has supported them with more than 27 million euros.



Anita Kocher has been HIV positive for 20 years – then suddenly 2 years ago her world fell apart. Separated from her husband of more than 13 years, she was alone, having to fend for herself with the little bit of money from her part-time job. To make matters worse, she suffered two broken teeth. “I am desperate and do not know how to pay the dentist,” she wrote, “Please help me!”*

*Name changed

FINDING HELP – BREAKING THROUGH THE ISOLATION

Apart from financial difficulties, AIDS sufferers are often victims of social isolation. Thanks to grants from the AIDS Foundation various AIDS information centres have been able to create “safe havens” such as breakfast clubs, cafes or recreation centres. The Foundation also finances holidays for HIV/AIDS sufferers and two projects for assisted living in Berlin and Essen. Every year the AIDS Foundation supports over 100 aid projects in Germany with several 100,000 euros and helps to make life easier for those who are sick.



SPONSORING INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

Giving hope – worldwide

AIDS is no longer just a local issue – the German AIDS Foundation is providing support at an international level.

Worldwide, there are over 40 million people with HIV and about five million new cases each year. More than 90 per cent of those affected live in developing countries and do not have any access to doctors, medication or care. The flashpoint of the epidemic is in southern Africa. Here, the face of AIDS is young and female – more than 75 % of new infections in those aged 15 to 25 are in women. Due to the deaths of so many adults, traditional family structures are breaking down, leaving behind grandparents and orphans.

A HOME FOR AIDS ORPHANS, DRUGS FOR AIDS SUFFERERS

In view of the millions of cases of suffering worldwide, the German AIDS Foundation has also been active overseas since 2000. It is concentrating on exemplary projects in regions that are particularly badly affected – it is supporting AIDS orphans in South Africa, for example, helping infected single mothers and their children, ensuring that HIV infected families are being supplied with medication and it is educating young people about protecting themselves from HIV/AIDS. The German AIDS Foundation is making several hundred thousands euros available each year for these international aid projects, thus giving hope and the chance of a better future. Worldwide – for those who, without help, are denied this chance.

