



Christliches Kinder- u. Jugendwerk e.V.
Görlitzer Straße 10
22045 Hamburg

Project description

A sad event marked the beginning of the founding history of ARCHE in Hamburg-Jenfeld. On March 1, 2005, a seven-year-old girl, locked up in her parents' apartment, died of starvation. Nationwide media coverage suddenly brought the difficult situation of children in desolate family circumstances to public attention. In the case of little Jessica, gaps in the system became more visible. The pastor of the local Friedenskirche, Thies Hagge, buried the girl and contacted the ARCHE association in Berlin; such a situation was not to be repeated. A new contact point for children and families was opened in the district in January 2006.

The ARCHE in Hamburg-Jenfeld has grown and is in contact with over 800 children between the ages of 4 and 13 and 200 young people up to the age of 18. The children can take advantage of a free lunch and dinner here on weekdays, with pedagogical support. In addition to the basic services, which include a clothing store for children and other practical help, the work of ARCHE also includes a homework and tutoring area, as well as musical, creative and sporting activities and vacation camps. In addition, we accompany young people through school graduation and into vocational training. With the coaching project "Courage Makers," we succeed in guiding more than 60 young people each year into a professional perspective and support them in acute crises.

In addition, there is a "family work" project that regularly accompanies more than 90 parents with offers (parent café, family camp, family events) on site and during home visits, supports them in dealing with authorities and advises them on educational issues.

A second ARCHE was established in Hamburg-Billstedt in 2016 and works according to the concept of the Jenfelder ARCHE with 40-80 children daily. There, too, a youth area with special offers for teenagers and individual support has been added in 2019.

A further ARCHE has opened in Hamburg-Harburg in August 2020. In the Phoenix district, one of the poorest neighborhoods in Hamburg, we were able to find space in a local church congregation to provide children with a free dinner four days a week, a second hand clothing store, play and sports activities and learning support facilities. We work closely together with the school "Maretstrasse". Language support projects, school courses and special projects for young people who have difficulty attending school help to support the children at this hotspot school. In September 2022, a separate youth area with open youth programs for the teens in Harburg was added.

Cooperation with schools takes place in various projects, for example, since 2012 we have been the sponsor of the all-day school projects at the school "Jenfelder Strasse" with 220 children, and work together with the district schools Max-Schmeling-Schule and Otto-Hahn-Schule. At the elementary school "Öjendorfer Damm" we were able to integrate our support directly in the classroom, two employees help in different classes so that children do not fall behind.

Unser Motto: Unterwegs für Deutschlands Kinder

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Diakonie 
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Hamburg

They support the teachers by learning with smaller groups or by taking out children from the class who are showing problems. There are also cooperation projects in Billstedt with the elementary school "An der Glinder Au" and the district school "Öjendorf" as well as two other elementary schools.

We are a member of the Diakonisches Werk Hamburg and network with other social institutions in the city.

A new addition in 2015 was the work with refugee children in the "Grunewaldstrasse" and "Elfsaal" shelters. In order to avoid parallel societies, a team creates offers for children and young people in the accommodations and in the district, where encounters can take place and integration is made possible.

Since October 2021, the ARCHE has been the sponsor of a Kindergarten in Hamburg-Jenfeld with capacity for 55 children from 0-5 years of age.

Our primary approach is to accompany the children with fixed reference persons over many years. Underlined by meaningful activities. In many families, adults are unfortunately not available as a support to the extent that would be necessary for the children. Therefore, we work with a team of full-time educators supported by volunteers.

Apart from the projects in the schools and the Kindergarten, the work of ARCHE is financed by donations and grants. The association's headquarters and the board of directors of the German ARCHEs are located in Berlin. There are a total of 29 ARCHE locations in Germany, Poland and Switzerland.

Hamburg, 9.11.2022

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