

THE DEACONIC CENTER IN LIEPĀJA, LATVIA

The Deaconic center in Liepāja was founded in 1992. Since then it has played a leading role in the development of deaconia in the congregations of Liepāja and the region. Since 1999 the Deaconic centre works in close cooperation with the Ev. Luth. Congregation of the Cross in Liepāja, in order to build up a deaconical congregation. That means, that deaconia is present in all aspects of the congregational life. The congregation has 100 members. Besides the church the main activities are happening in the parish house, Fr. Brīvzemnieka iela 54. Since 2006 the Deaconic center is a registered nongovernmental organization.

The aims of the Deaconic center are:

- to offer socially disadvantaged people, especially handicapped people, in the city and region of Liepāja material, medical and spiritual help.
- to strengthen the community and self-help efforts of the inhabitants.
- to support deaconic activities in the Christian congregations of the Liepāja region.

Main activities:

➤ Contact and consultation center for handicapped people

With the help of the Deaconia in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany, we have got funding to develop a Contact and consultation center for handicapped people. The center gives handicapped people the opportunity to come together, to speak about their needs and to look for ways, how to improve their lives.

➤ Self-help and support groups

The Deaconic center gives their rooms for a small rent to different organizations and self-help groups (e.g. Alcoholics Anonymous, Association of people who suffer from rheumatic diseases, Cancer selfhelpgroup etc.)

➤ Distribution of humanitarian aid

Every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 11.00 – 14.00 o'clock clothes and shoes are distributed to people in need. The Deaconic center is cooperating with many institutions and rural parishes sharing humanitarian aid.

➤ Health center

Three times a week some nurses and one doctor offer voluntary help for sick people.

➤ Networking

The deaconic center is actively involved in two networks:

- one for NGOs working in the social field,
- and the other for organizations that work with handicapped people.

Future plans:

Step by step we would like to develop the work with handicapped people. Together with our partners we want to develop a workplace for handicapped people. Also we think about the housing conditions of handicapped people. Another project is to develop a homehelp service with our group of medical staff. A precondition to do this is that we have to continue the renovation of the parish house and our church.

Contact:

Liepājas Diakonijas centrs
c/o rev. Martin Urdze
Fr. Brīvzemnieka iela 54
Liepāja, LV 3401, Latvia
e-mail: martin.u@apollo.lv
tel./fax 00371-28254886

Homepage: www.kalpot.lv