

About the Lighthouse:

The association Lighthouse e.V. in Potsdam: tries to help and protect children, which live on the periphery of their society.

Whether a hot meal, a roof over the head, medical treatment or psychological care is needed: These children are often children who live on the street, are orphans, have to work for their living or belong to refugee families or ethnical minority groups, who have to fight for their daily struggle for survival on the street.

They fight against the cold, the hunger, different diseases, against criminal gangs and the furtive glance of the passers-by.

The Lighthouse association offers children a new home within a family orientated setup including meals, pedagogical and psychological care.

Furthermore do the children receive the chance of educational growth or even start a apprenticeship.

The main goal in our work is the total integration back into the society.

One of the first projects, of the in Potsdam based association, is a Children's Home for street children and orphans in the Ukrainian town of Odessa.

Club (Association) Statutes:

The aim of the association is the support for the protection of children and young people especially (children living on the street or have to work for a living or belong to ethnical minority groups or are orphans) as well as the welfare for these deprived children living on the periphery of society.

Our Support/Help contains in details:

- Immediate support for homeless children living on the street.
- Psychological care using the "Debriefing-Approach" for seriously traumatized children.
- Offering shelter and long-term care for children in a family orientated setups as well as food, clothing, been looked after by trained staff and having medical and dental check-ups, educational and other pedagogical support.
- Registration of any anonymous born children with the relevant departments and authorities
- Re-socialisation of the in need of help family members i.e. homeless and single-parent mothers.
- Looking after the children until the end of an apprenticeship, with the aim to fully integrate them back into their society.
- Individual support and coaching for the older children.
- Information and prevention in connection to different informing-projects such as (drug abuse, sexual harassment, drug related crime, consultation for educational deprived parents)

Street Children:

Recent estimates from UNICEF show that there are at least 100 million children worldwide who have to work and live on the street.

There are street children in every bigger city including also rich metropolises of highly developed industrial nations.

Many Ukrainian street children are orphan's. Others have run away from home or are on the escape from mental and physical or sexual maltreatment.

The street children of Odessa are living in hideouts, down in basement flats, alleyways or abandon attics. They are using cardboards and rags as beds, so they wont freeze to death.

These children on the street have to lead a life on the periphery of their society. They are isolated and overlooked.

Most of them are deprived of the basic things such as not enough food, hardly any medical care, no place to sleep or a place at school. They have to eat what other people have thrown away into the rubbish bin. These children have got no childhood at all. And they got no chance of escaping their misery.

These children are often prone to self-harming due to their despair. They are using pieces of glas, sharp tins or razor blades to cut themselves, which leaves deep wounds in their arms.

Many of these children are sniffing glue too. These sniffing-bags contain a very aggressive solvent, which attacks the liver of each child using this. Many of them suffer from tuberculosis, **trichomonaden** or syphilis due to their weakened bodies through malnutrition.

The recent UNICEF report from 2006 in regards to the current situation of these children, points out a further problem: that there is without help or support no return to a normal life and hence to be able, to leave the life on the periphery of society behind.

Furthermore does the report state that children living on the street are more often subject to discrimination by police then others.

They are often herded together, abducted and released beyond the outskirts of a town.

These children are also very often subject to physical violence and hence have no trust in State Authorities and therefore avoid contact to the same.

Once the children arrive in our children's home in Odessa, they will receive medical attention and care. The children will be looked after in cared for environment as well as getting hot meals and a place to sleep.

We want to offer these children the chance to grow-up healthy, been looked after, to be able to learn and play again.

In our children's home "Majak" have they got the chance to be a child again.

Children's Home in Odessa:

The children's home Majak" in Odessa, is one of the first projects of the in Potsdam based association. Lighthouse. Children living on the street and orphans will find a refuge there – children who have to live on the periphery of their society.

The home offers these children to live together in a family-orientated, loving and safe environment for a long-term period.

Apart from having a medical, dental and psychological check-up these children will also get clothing and food on their admission.

Depending on their age, these children will have the chance of education or even a training place. The children will be accompanied and supported until they have finished their education or training. The aim of our work is to offer support for self-help in a long-term run – the total integration of these children back into their society.

Any anonymous born children will be registered with the authorities and will get the relevant papers accordingly. We have also extended our professional help for the in need of help family members such as (homeless and single-parent mothers or fathers).

Children, who have lived on the street for a long time, are traumatized. They also receive help through professional psychological care based on the “De-briefing-approach”. Furthermore do we support the information- and prevention-work in connection with various informing projects such as (drug abuse, sexual harassment, drug-related crime).

How can you help:

We would like to ask you for your help and support. Please help those orphans and street children in Odessa, so they can get back a part from their lost childhood. Any donation, regardless what amount of money or aid will help these children.

The association Lighthouse e.V. is registered with the registry for association in Potsdam under the registration number VR2664P.

The association is recognised as charitable through information by the tax office Potsdam-city.

Therefore all donations are up to 10% deductible from your tax.

The Donation Account Details of the “Lighthouse Childcare” Association:

Account Number: 355177076

Sort Code: 160 200 86

Name of Bank: Hypovereinsbank Potsdam

If you need a receipt for your donation then please provided your full address details.

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