

**Diakonie** 

Deutschland

# At a Glance

**Profile  
of Diakonie  
Deutschland**

# DIAKONIE

The social welfare organisation  
of Germany's Protestant churches

Diakonie is the social welfare organisation of the Protestant churches. We see it as our mission to love thy neighbour. We are committed to helping those who are in need, marginalised or disadvantaged. Furthermore, we serve as an advocate for those whose voices too often go unheard. As such, we publicly call out and identify the political and social causes of their distress. This work is reflected in our name "Diakonie": In Ancient Greek, "diakonia" means service to thy neighbour in all aspects.

Being there for people in need of help and support is our top priority. We achieve this through the work of more than one million people who work, serve or volunteer in Diakonie facilities, in its member associations, on committees or in church congregations.

Diakonie provides support, assistance and aid to people in need of care, people with illnesses or disabilities, to children, young people and families, to people with a migrant background and to people struggling with addiction.

The foundation of all of Diakonie's work is the Protestant faith. The concept of Diakonie traces its origins to the unconditional love of God revealed by Jesus Christ. Diakonie shares the Christian image of humanity. This includes the conviction that every human being is vulnerable and lives from care and reconciliation. Certain situations render people particularly in need of help. By providing practical aid as well as political lobbying, Diakonie carries out its mission.



**RÜDIGER SCHUCH**  
President  
Diakonie Deutschland



**MARIA LOHEIDE**  
Executive Director  
Social Policy



**DR. JÖRG KRUTTSCHNITT**  
Executive Director Finance,  
Human Resources and Law

**700,000**  
volunteers at Diakonie

**10** **M** people are reached  
by the work  
of Diakonie

**627,000**  
full-time employees

## FACTS AND FIGURES

### of Diakonie

Diakonie represents the social projects of all of Germany's Protestant churches. Diakonie Deutschland is the social welfare organisation of the Protestant church in Germany.

#### Our affiliates are

- The 17 charities of the churches belonging to the Protestant church in Germany (EKD)
- 64 agencies operating in various fields of social work, public health and child welfare
- The charities of eleven other denominations and Protestant free churches in Germany.

#### Our work includes

- Approximately 33,000 inpatient and outpatient care centres – from nursing homes and hospitals to community outreach and welfare centres
- 631,975 places in child care services, 185,733 places in elderly care and 151,612 places in services for disability inclusion as well as 889 educational programs in vocational schooling, career training and certification in social work and caregiving.
- Approximately 627,000 full- and part-time employees
- The work of 700,000 volunteers
- 2,169 self-help groups organised by the agency
- The charity work of approximately 18,000 parishes belonging to both member and independent churches

# STRUCTURE

## Cooperation

Diakonie Deutschland is the non-profit social welfare organisation of Germany's Protestant churches. It is part of the "Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung" (Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development). Under this umbrella, it works closely with "Brot für die Welt" and "Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe".

As a charitable organisation, Diakonie Deutschland represents the interests of those it serves at the governmental and societal level. It also advocates on their behalf within various national and international organisations, and in the European Union.

Together with the nation's other leading charitable organisations, Diakonie Deutschland works to protect the social safety net of the German Constitution and to ensure that the state fulfils its duty to serve the public. Diakonie Deutschland works to represent those in need and to be a catalyst for social work and politics.

**1,310**  
medical assistance  
facilities





**2,970**  
residential homes  
(for older people)

# WHERE WE WORK AND WHAT WE OFFER

## HOW WE HELP

### Support for people with illnesses

Hospitals, medical and occupational rehabilitation programmes, home care/ domestic care

### Help for children and adolescents

Support and social work, day-care centres, schools, youth centres, career counselling, volunteer community service year

### Support for people with mental illnesses and addictions

**Psychiatric disorders/mental illnesses**  
Consultation, therapy, counselling centres, psychiatric clinics, medical and occupational rehabilitation, social and psychiatric services, day clinics, day-care centres, assisted living centres, outpatient assisted living, transitional facilities, residential homes, home care/nursing, integration services

### Support for people with disabilities

Consultation, early childhood support, pre-schools, primary and secondary schools, employment, integration into the workplace, assistance, support services, assisted living, counselling

### Help during pregnancies and for families

Marriage counselling, pregnancy consultation, adoption services, maternity centres, post-natal recovery, support for single parents, mother-child facilities, community support, family counselling and support, parenting courses, life counselling

### Struggling with addiction

Self-help groups, counselling centres and specialised clinics, therapy, inpatient rehabilitation, addiction treatment centres, outpatient follow-up care, recovery homes

## Support in old age

Housing communities, outpatient assisted living centres, home care/ domestic care, local services, day-care centres, short-term care, care in nursing homes, services for people with dementia, counselling, assistance, recreational centres, support for care-giving family members, educational centres for the elderly (social work, community centres), household-related services

## Support for women

Women's shelters, counselling centres for domestic and sexualised violence

## Help in special situations

Aid for the poor, aid for the homeless, railway missions, counselling for sex workers and victims of human trafficking, counselling for ex-convicts, debt counselling, career counselling and training, support hotlines, counselling via correspondence

## Support for migrants and refugees

Information and consultation for immigrants, specialised services for asylum seekers and refugees, immigration services for young people, information on emigration

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### Volunteering

Volunteer work

### Volunteer services

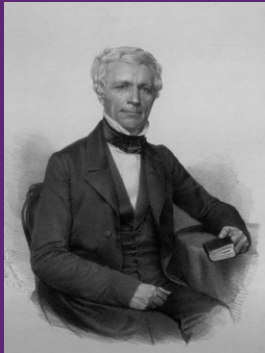
Voluntary Social Year (FSJ)  
Federal volunteer service (BFD)

More detailed information can be found at [www.diakonie.de](http://www.diakonie.de)



# HISTORY

## of Diakonie



**JOHANN HINRICH WICHERN**  
(21 April 1808 – 7 April 1881)  
Source: Diakonie Deutschland



**1925 LAYOUT KRONENKREUZ**  
Professor Richard Boeland

The word “diakonie” evokes service to mankind based on the ideals of Christian charity. The mission to help those in need has always been a core value of the Protestant church. In the middle of the 19th century, the church created an organisation for its social work called the “Innere Mission” (Interior Mission). The project was started in 1848 at the Wittenberg Church Conference by Hamburg theologian Johann Hinrich Wichern, who called for a systematic approach to combating spiritual and material poverty as well as social ills. In 1849, the Central Board for the “Innere Mission” was founded.

Soon afterward, organisations led by the “Innere Mission” sprang up across the country, with legally autonomous facilities and institutions offering social services and care. The “Kronenkreuz” (Crown and Cross) has been the signet of Diakonie since 1925 and remains the basis of the modern logo.

At the end of the Second World War, the Protestant church created an additional aid organisation in order to meet the specific needs of those suffering amidst the destruction of post-war Germany. The new organisation sought to attain aid from abroad and galvanized ecumenical contacts to combat the nation’s hunger crisis, to facilitate the transition of displaced persons and refugees into

**‘Every work should be done first with the heart, then with the hands or with the voice.’**

Johann Hinrich Wichern

new homes, and to support young people’s education and employment. In 1959, the Protestant church launched in cooperation with the independent churches the initiative “Brot für die Welt” in order to provide aid to people in developing countries. The project was later incorporated into the “Diakonisches Werk” as a full-time agency. An annual donation drive is held specifically for “Brot für die Welt” projects every Christmas.

In 1975, the Innere Mission merged with the Hilfswerk to form the “Diakonisches Werk der EKD”. On 19 March 1991, the corresponding member organisations of the Protestant church in East Germany joined the “Diakonisches Werk”.

For the 150th anniversary of Diakonie in 1998, the Crown and Cross in connection with the lettering Diakonie and the color blue was set in its present form.

In 2012, the “Diakonisches Werk der EKD” merged with the “Evangelischer Entwicklungsdienst” to form the “Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie und Entwicklung” (Protestant Agency for Diakonie and Development). The umbrella organisation includes Diakonie Deutschland as well as Brot für die Welt and Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe.

In 2023, Diakonie launched the campaign #ausLiebe (“#outoflove”) to celebrate its 175th anniversary. More information at: [ausliebe.diakonie.de](https://ausliebe.diakonie.de)

# HELP PROVIDED

by Diakonie on the ground

## Diakonie facilities and counselling centres

The Diakonie facilities and counselling centres in your area can be found here:  
[www.diakonie.de/informieren/einrichtungssuche](http://www.diakonie.de/informieren/einrichtungssuche)

## Regional Associations

The contact information for the regional Diakonie associations can be found here:  
[www.diakonie.de/landesverbaende](http://www.diakonie.de/landesverbaende)

## Specialised Associations

The detailed addresses of the specialised associations of Diakonie can be found here:  
[www.diakonie.de/fachverbaende](http://www.diakonie.de/fachverbaende)

## Independent and Confessional Members of Diakonie

The contact information for the charities of the other denominations and Protestant free churches in Germany of Diakonie can be found here:  
[www.diakonie.de/freikirchen](http://www.diakonie.de/freikirchen)





## **Diakonie Deutschland**

Evangelisches Werk für Diakonie  
und Entwicklung e.V.

Caroline-Michaelis-Straße 1

D-10115 Berlin

P +49 30 652 11-0

F +49 30 652 11-3333

[diakonie@diakonie.de](mailto:diakonie@diakonie.de)

[www.diakonie.de](http://www.diakonie.de)

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Diakonie Deutschland meets the transparency standards for Caritas and Diakonie and has joined the Transparent Civil Society Initiative. For more information on this as well as our commitment to sustainability and quality control go to: [www.diakonie.de/transparenz](http://www.diakonie.de/transparenz).