

Building human and cultural bridges

"Live to Love" visits refugees in tent village Ohlstedt



Ohlstedt - Live to give love - this was the theme of the visit of the Hamburg association "Live To Love Germany" when visiting the tent village at Ohlstedter Platz at the end of January. About 20 volunteers had set up tables with various themes in the tents, which invited participation. Women and girls could do handicrafts with wool, knitting needles and crochet hooks reconnecting them to the familiar environment of home. Children had the peace and quiet to paint; often creating pictures of escape scenes and motifs that expressed their longing for safety and love. The joy of collective action and creation established a peaceful atmosphere where fear and worry could be forgotten for a short while.

The band "DUBE" were also present with their drums and South African music, which is characterised by a vision of the world where people of all colours and creeds live in peace and harmony. Singing together moved everyone, some danced. There were even exuberant moments during coffee and cake.

Openness as a counterpoint

Now as the "Welcome refugees - enthusiasm" has waned in Germany and opposite movements created, the "Live To Love Team" want to demonstrate openness from human to human. "With such events we are trying to build human and cultural bridges and looking to find solutions to integration", says Gianna Wabner, president of the foundation and association Live To Love Germany.

Having already made visits to Harburg and Langenhorn the team have gained experience in dealings with regard to such events. For example refugees are not asked about experiences from their pasts to avoid them having to remember them again.

A good structure for such events creates focus in co-operation with the employees of "fördern und wohnen" (supporting & living), who continually deliver excellence performances, logistically and educationally.



Connecting attitudes towards life

"Live To Love Germany" is part of an international humanitarian secular network "Live To Love" which was founded by Gyalwang Drukpa, the spiritual head of the 1000 year old Tibetan Buddhist Drukpa lineage, who visited Hamburg in November in light of the refugee crisis and formulated his vision of integration: "I hope for a marriage of different attitudes to life so that different cultures can find a way to each other like two halves of a heart."

More information to projects and events under www.live-to-love-germany.org