



Furries For Kids
Freundschaft spürbar machen.

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Press Kit

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THE THERAPY-ACCOMPANYING WORK WITH ORPHANS AND SERIOUSLY ILL CHILDREN

The cuddly animals and members of Europe's first and unique cuddly zoo work all year round alongside therapy with half, full and social orphans as well as seriously ill children. The entire work, from pedagogical planning to on-site visits, is 100% voluntary.

Visits to children's villages and homes

According to the motto "Freundschaft spürbar machen" ("make friendship tangible"), Furries For Kids gives children in the children's village a carefree time with a pedagogical supporting program as well as free time for games, conversations or whatever the children need at the moment.

The emotional and physical absence of one's own parents often creates fear of commitment and gaps in the life of the affected children that are difficult to fill. As a result, they forget how to rely on people who are close to them. It is often almost impossible, even for the youngest, to allow other people to be close and to trust them.

Furries For Kids helps children to relearn trust and make friends in a fun way. Due to their resemblance to the related, smaller cuddly toys, the large, fluffy creatures quickly take on a familiar role with the children. The attention given to the anthropomorphic cuddly toys is free of prejudice and not subject to any conditions. The aim is to give each child the attention and closeness that they need and want to allow.

The visits take place in so-called regular teams, always made up of the same people and cuddly toys for each institution. The playful framework is designed by the pedagogical team under the direction of our qualified social worker and qualified pedagogue Mag. Michael Kamauf. The goal is to promote the children's social skills. All visits are accompanied by the social pedagogues of the respective institution.



Visits to seriously ill children

In cooperation with partners from the local care and support of seriously ill children, the cuddly animals from Furries For Kids visit affected children and their families in their private homes.

These visits are very individual and require a high degree of flexibility and empathy with regard to the needs and possibilities of the affected children, siblings and parents. The primary goal is to allow those affected to escape, at least for a short time, from everyday life marked by illness. The promotion of joy of life is a source of improved physical and mental health - even for family members.

About Furries For Kids

Furries For Kids was founded in Vienna at the end of 2013. The organization's primary goal at that time was to help people temporarily forget the worries and sadness of their everyday lives. Since then, the cuddly animals have been able to visit several hundred children in children's villages. All the volunteers are working diligently to bring joy to even more children in need in the future.

FACT SHEET

Established:	October of 2013
Place of business:	Vienna, Austria
Executive director:	Ing. Andreas Bartl
Service:	Interacting with children and others in need through pantomimic performances in anthropomorphic animal costumes. In care facilities and homes, at events and in public
Funding:	Donations, sponsorship, grants
Executive board:	Ing. Andreas Bartl (chairmen) Roland Sommerbauer (deputy chairman) Mag. Michael Kamauf, DSA, Dipl.Päd. Manuel Saliger
Auditors:	Bernhard Schiller Jürgen Labutta
Members:	20 anthropomorphic actors 17 child care workers and other volunteers
Employees:	10 honorary employees



FUNDING

The visits and performances of our cuddly zoo are a gift to the children. All employees of the organization work on a voluntary basis. As part of our work in the children's villages and with seriously ill children, there are costs for travel, materials, costumes, repairs, training and so on.

Funds from donations and sponsorship are necessary to keep up our charitable work. With these funds we finance all expenses incurred.

The appropriate and economical use of financial resources is confirmed by the association's auditors. Details are published transparently in the annual report on the association's website.

SPONSORS

Special thanks go to our socially committed and loyal partners. Their thorough assistance, fostering and recognition of our work for and with orphaned children is the greatest gift to us.

THANK YOU!

We'd like to thank ...

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