

The Christian Social Welfare Centre *Spattstraße*

The Christian Social Welfare Centre, *Spattstraße* is a limited company and a member of the *Diakonie* Austria, the governing body of protestant social welfare establishments in Austria. The Christian Social Welfare Centre, *Spattstraße* is owned by the Evangelical Methodist Church in Austria.

The range of our service is best described by our motto, “**We are there for children, adolescents and young adults**”. We have been working as pioneers in the area of social, remedial and therapeutic education for more than 50 years. We are also engaged in medical and therapeutic care and work amongst children, adolescents and young adults in crises and emergency situations.

Our services are demand-driven and cover in- and out-patient facilities as well as mobile services and mobile care.

Our primary goal is to foster and encourage the physical, emotional and social development of our clients.

We take care of more than 1 400 children, adolescents, young adults and their families in emergency situations and crises throughout Upper Austria and parts of Lower Austria.

The *Spattstraße* Centre was **opened as a house for young people in 1963**. At the moment we have approx. 650 employees, including educationalists, remedial teachers for the early years, psychologists, therapists, children’s and youth psychiatrists. We offer mobile early intervention and family support as well as various forms of in-patient care for children, adolescents and young adults.

Our services:

Young disabled children are visited directly at home by our **mobile early intervention and family care** team. We have been offering this service for over 20 years. A new project in this area is the speech remedial care of young children, where boys and girls with speech difficulties can be supported.

There has been a **playschool** since the very beginnings of the *Spattstraße* Centre. This centre celebrated its 50th Jubilee in 2006. The playschool offers 46 places and is divided into four groups – two therapeutic pedagogical groups and two groups where children with special needs are integrated.

School assistants work in almost all Upper Austrian regions. This means that pupils with special needs enjoy the support of a school assistant in approx. 270 schools.

Kaya is a residential home where 7 **girls and young women with eating disorders** receive support. An interdisciplinary team provides help for these young people in their efforts to recover from their eating disorders.

A special hospital for children and adolescent neuropsychiatry offers in-patient services for 18 children in therapeutic groups and 10 places for boys and girls in a day-care centre.

The *Spattstraße* Centre is also involved in youth work. Our graded system starts from mobile services and ranges up to in-patient care. For example there is a **crisis centre and shelter for young people in crisis situations** in Linz called **Wáki**. Approximately 70 young people are taken in every year and are then referred on. We have 6 other **social residential care centres for girls and boys** each with its individual special focus, 4 in Upper Austria and 2 just for boys in lower Austria. We offer job coaching to help young people in their choice of profession. **Individual and family care** is offered through our **flexible care system**. Various experiential education projects complete the list of our mobile services.

Psychological, psychotherapeutic, speech and occupational therapy are important measures which support developmental and rehabilitative processes. The **family- and parental counselling offices** in *Linz* and in a regional centre in *Mauerkirchen* are well frequented by parents seeking advice.

We also make a contribution in the area of **education and academic discussion through symposia and specialist conferences**. We are meeting current challenges with dedication and professional competence and we are taking on future issues by inviting interdisciplinary dialogue, by further developing the services we offer and by taking the initiative where we see new situations emerging.