

1949 to 2005

NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE SCHÖNEBERG E.V.

ONE HOUSE FOR ALL

With its variety of attractive locations and interesting offers, the Neighbourhood Centre Schoeneberg e. V. (NCS) is an extraordinary facility. The combination of social, cultural and health enhancing activities, the encouragement towards self-help, partaking and development of artistic talent and the qualified professional service have made this a unit to benefit the well-being of the citizens of Berlin.

IT ALL STARTED OVER 50 YEARS AGO

- 1948 Establishment of the workers community of Christian Women for the purpose of self-help and organized neighbourhood help as a direct forerunner to the **Neighbourhood Centre Schoeneberg e.V.**
Initial activities: sewing circles, shoemakers' workshops, employment opportunities, cultural supervision and practice; financial support from the American military government.
- 1949 Founding of the **Neighbourhood Centre Schoeneberg e.V.** by individuals of social work and the public under the leadership of the "Workers Community for Public and Free Welfare in the American Sector". Founder members amongst others: Elisabeth von Harnack, Käthe Mende, Marie-Elisabeth Lüders, Stefanie Hirt, Margret von der Decken (who becomes the 1st chairman). Käthe Rawiel (today an honorary member of the association), Brigitte Meiniecke, Irmgard Schuchart, Margaret Day Anthon (USA). On the 1 November 1949 the councillor of Greater Berlin acknowledges the new association as a non-political organization. The charter is signed by Berlin's mayor, Ernst Reuter.
From the Charter: „The purpose of the organization is to establish and lead a neighbourhood centre in which social work shall be carried out on the basis of mutual help. The work is to be done in the spirit of charity and tolerance.
The Society moves to its own rooms in Hedwigstrasse. 6 in Berlin-Friedenau.
The annual budget is around DM 3,000.
- 1950 The Society becomes the founding member of the "Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband, Landesverband Berlin" (Equality Welfare Association, region Berlin).
- 1951 The Society becomes the founding member of the Association of German Neighbourhood Societies, now called the "Association for Social and Cultural Work".
- 1953 Founding of the **Senior Day-care centre**.
- 1955 The Neighbourhood Centre also becomes a meeting place for disabled people in close partnership with the "Fürst-Donnersmarck-Stiftung". As in the past, many refugee groups continue to meet at the house. Mothers' groups, music groups, craft and youth groups and others influence the centre.

- 1958 Move to new rooms at Rembrandtstrasse 8. The house in Hedwigstrasse 6 had become too small.
- 1961 The social aspect of the centre begins to become more professional. The child and youth work moves to the forefront.
- 1962 The rooms in the house are enlarged. The international Youth Exchange gains in importance.
- Approx. 1970 Local initiatives move to the forefront. The centre demands more local playgrounds. The citizen's initiative "Action Play Space" is created. In Cranachstrasse 49 and Menzelstrasse 7 play centres are created and handed over to the district.
An adventure playground is opened.
- 1973 The citizens' initiative fights for the improvement of the Dürerplatz and from 1973 onwards, annual district street parties take place there.
In close partnership with parents, the children's day-care centre is opened.
- 1974 The first district shop in Germany, the „Yellow Shop“ is opened at Cranachstrasse 7 by the citizen's Initiative, which is also used by NCS ("Meeting Place for Young and Old") and later adopted.
- 1979 Founding of the „Jugendtage“ (Youth Club) at Vorarlberger Damm 1, a former police station.
Beginning of the supervision of Palestinian refugee families in conjunction with the district of Schoeneberg. This becomes the „Al Nadi“ in 1984, a meeting place for Arabic women, first at Cranachstrasse 49, now at Moselstrasse 3.
- 1980 Founding of the Turkish Women's shop „Kidöb“ in Cranachstrasse 63, after many Turkish women moved into the GSW estate around the Grazer Platz.
- 1981 Move from Rembrandtstrasse 8 to Fregestrasse 53. After notice was given there, NCS was able to acquire a former Salvation Army Nursing Home, extend it and improve its space. Financially the German Lottery supported them.
The first NCS programme is published and since then is distributed to all households in the district of Schoeneberg-Süd and Friedenau. The „Stadtteilkulturarbeit“ („District Cultural Work“) with events, exhibitions and courses (and soon also a choir) are main parts of the programme.
- 1983 A Help & Advice Centre is opened in the former „Yellow Shop“ in Cranachstrasse 7. A few years later, it moves into the neighbouring larger shop in the same house. As the first Help & Advice Centre, it adds Family Care to its range of services.
NCS becomes a supporter of the first, and to this day the most successful theatre for Senior Citizens in Germany, the "Theater der Erfahrungen" ("Theatre of Experiences") acknowledged by the Minister for Family, Youth and Senior Citizens.

- 1984 NCS becomes an active member of the „International Federation of Social & Cultural Neighbourhood Centres (IFS)”.
- 1985 The “**Regional Contact & Advice Centre for Self-Help Groups**” is opened in Fregestrasse 52. Today more than 80 self-help groups meet at the neighbourhood centre. Advice on courses, lectures and general advice complete the service. The Neighbourhood Café invites chat and relaxation. The first taster sessions take place for women considering returning to work.
- 1988 The “**Media Workshop**” is initially founded for occupational and qualification purposes and today it is the main part of the work with children and young people.
To deal with the question of integration of immigrants and refugees, the 16th International IFS-Conference takes place in Berlin with over 400 participants from all over the world. The NCS leads the organization and running of the event.
- 1989 With new personnel, the Youth Club changes its concept and puts its emphasis on intellectual work and musical education of children and young people.
- 1991 With the offer of „**All about Childbirth**”, the foundation is laid of the very popular programmes for family education.
- 1992 to 1993 The care organization „Cura“ begins its work. Five salaried staff and around 100 police-checked volunteers endeavour to help those in need of personal and legal advice.
- 1994 The day-care centre Friedenau in Cranachstrasse 59 is one of the first in Germany to offer a new service: it looks after elderly people requiring day care.
In response to great demand, a new branch of the social centre in Haehnelstrasse 5 is opened in the same year. This is to ensure the provision of care nearby.
Supported by the „Work Initiative”, the pupils-club “Oase” begins child and youth work in the Uckermark-Grundschule.
- 1995 Commissioned by and together with the „Akademie der Künste“ (Academy of Arts), the Youth Club with 36 children and young people presents the sold-out musical „**Die Sharks und die Show**” (The Sharks and the Show).
- 1996 The parent-child meeting place for family education is opened in Holsteinische Strasse 30.
The Youth Club takes part in the preparations for the first Berlin Carnival of Cultures and actively takes part with children, young people, parents and the “**Kifrie Sunshine Show Band**”. The Band is honoured as a prizewinner by an international jury of the „MUSICA VITALE 1996”, the music prize of the “Musikpreis der Kulturen in Berlin und Brandenburg” (Music prize of Culture in Berlin and Brandenburg).

- 1997** The new **child day-care centre** in Riemenschneiderweg 13 is opened. The district has transferred the building to the NCS for this use. Long opening hours and special services on offer quickly lead to a long waiting list.
- The festival on Grazer Platz, conceptualised and organized by the NCS takes place for the first time with over 30,000 visitors.
- 1998** The NCS opens the first advice centre for parents of foreign origin in Germany in Holsteinische Strasse 30.
- The services of family education are now also available at the Youth Centre in the district of Steglitz in Jeverstrasse 9.
- 1999** NCS celebrates its 50-year anniversary with 500 guests at the Rathaus Schoeneberg. In parallel, a conference of the „Internationale Vereinigung der Nachbarschaftsheime (IFS: International Union of Neighbourhood Centres) takes place.
- Around 35,000 people visit us at the festival in Cranachstrasse and the subsequent anniversary events arranged by all the different branches.
- The district hands over the **Child and Youth Centre** at Vorarlberger Damm 13-1 to us.
- The hospice service Schoeneberg joins the NCS
- 2000** The Neighbourhood Café moves from Fregestraße 52 to Holsteinische Strasse 30, offering the use of the garden, the attractive rooms and play area to groups and course participants as well as parents with young children.
- The court and front garden at Holsteinische Strasse 30 are transformed into an attractive neighbourhood garden and playground with the help of volunteers, in-house tradesmen, a specialist firm and a financial contribution from the senate.
- An apartment belonging to the building society GSW is renovated together with the „Verein Freunde älterer Menschen e.V.“ (Association of Friends of the Elderly) into a **communal home for the bewildered and those in need of nursing care.**
- The **Childcare Centre „Frieda“** is opened officially in rooms at the town hall of Friedenau.
- 2001** In the „Year of the Volunteer“, the neighbourhood centre puts on a party for all volunteer members (by now approx. 470), with the opening of an exhibition and publication of a brochure with interviews.
- Takeover of the **child day-care centre in Karl-Schrader-Strasse 9** with approx 50 places.
- In cooperation with the “Kiezoase Schoeneberg e.V.” and the Pestalozzi-Fröbel-Haus, an **association for employment and qualification**, is opened. The project „Kick“, an office for information and advice for employment seekers is opened.
- The garden at the child day-care centre in Fregestraße is transformed into a jewel with the help of many volunteers.
- The **Kiefrie Youth Club** organizes a large children’s and young people’s culture festival at Dürerplatz and in Begastrasse.
- The meeting place „Merkez“ which spans the generations is opened together with „Outreach“ and a group of older Turks, young adults and teenagers.

- 2002 The Kiefrie Youth Club organizes an international Youth Conference.
An **indoor playground** enhances the services offered at the **Frieda Childcare Centre** at the Rathaus Friedenau.
The **Day-care centre** at **Hohenstaufenstrasse** is opened at Scharmuetzelsee School with 44 places.
At the Brandenburg-Teltow-School, the **BT-Pupils Club** is opened.
Building-up of a **second Cura Care Centre** for the district of Charlottenburg.
In September, NCS acquires a villa in **Kantstrasse 16** and renovates it into a **hospice**.
- 2003 On the 15 June, a festival takes place at the Grazer Platz with shows on stage, a junk market, numerous actions for everyone and a lot more.
On 1 August, the running of the **Child, Youth and Family Centre** in **Jeverstrasse 9** is transferred to NCS.
On 29 August, the Family Education Club celebrates its 10-year anniversary.
On 31 August, as part of the occasion „Day of Voluntary Work“, the voluntary hospice group of the Hospice Schoeneberg is honoured with the sponsorship prize „Tempelhof-Schöneberg 2003“.
The Kifrie Youth Club and Media Workshop combine to form the new „**Kifrie Musik- und Medienzentrum**“ with the emphasis on music, computers and video.
The Music theatre „Der Besuch“ (The Visit), performed by the **Kalliope Children and Youth Theatre** is honoured on the 6 December at the event of the 3rd Berlin Youth Forum in the House of Representatives, Berlin.
On 16 December, the „**Nachbarschaftsheim Schoeneberg Pflegerische Dienste gGmbH**“ (Neighbourhood Centre Care Services) is entered as a trading company.
- 2004 The child day-care centres in **Freiherr-vom-Stein-Straße 15**, House A with 200 places and the centre at **Kaubstrasse 2-3** with 38 places are taken over by the district council of Tempelhof-Schöneberg on 1 January.
Opening of the **Hospice Schoeneberg-Steglitz** on 26 March in **Kantstrasse 16**. The generous villa offers 16 single rooms for patients whose care at home cannot be safeguarded, may it be for medical, nursing or family reasons.
On 30 April, the NCS thanks all the volunteers for their work and the talent they bring with them, with a „Tanz in den Mai“ (Dance into May).
On 1 May, the „**Integrations-Kindertagesstätte**“ in **Freiherr-vom-Stein-Straße 13**, House B, with 90 places is taken over by the district council of Tempelhof-Schöneberg. This centre caters for the special needs of children with multiple disabilities and metabolic illnesses.
The district council Steglitz-Zehlendorf hands over the running of the **child day-care centre** in **Jeverstrasse 9** with 90 places to the NCS on 1 May.
The child day-care centre in **Vorbergstrasse 15** with 168 places is taken over by the district council Tempelhof-Schöneberg on 1 July.
The running of the former workplace **childcare centre** of the Investitionsbank Berlin (IBB) in **Prinzregentenstrasse 97** with 35 places is handed over to the NCS on 1 July.
The NCS takes over the **children’s centre “Menzeldorf”** in cooperation with the district council of

Tempelhof-Schöneberg on 2 August.

In April, the „Nachbarschaftsheim Schoeneberg Pfllegerische Dienste gGmbH“ arranges a **voluntary visitor service for patients with dementia and their relatives**. The volunteers chosen for this service are thoroughly trained to prepare them for the special needs of patients and relatives.

2005

The **“German-Polish Youth Project „Heirs for the Future“**, initiated by the „Theatre of Experiences“ is honoured as part of the competition „Aktiv für Demokratie und Toleranz“ (Active for Democracy and Tolerance) on 21 February. The honour is handed out by the „Bündnis für Demokratie und Toleranz“ (Alliance for Democracy and Tolerance) and the Home Office. In the summer of 2003, during an exchange project and with the help of an actress from the „Theatre of Experiences“, young people from Poland and Germany had searched for traces of German-Polish-Jewish history. Under theatrical-educational guidance, the mutual research into the past in Germany and Poland was carried out on various levels of experience and the history in common brought to life.

On 25 February, the **Youth-and Family Centre in Jeverstrasse 9** is re-opened after substantial renovations. Responsible for its running is the NCS in cooperation with the district council of Steglitz-Zehlendorf and the centre later re-named „JeverNeun“. Following the renovation of the building as well as the grounds, there are now 3 storeys offering numerous bright and friendly meeting rooms e.g. a large dance studio, a room with a stage and a well-appointed pottery studio for children, young people and families. The garden has been designed to be child friendly and invites various uses. The JeverNeun programme offers a variety of sports, creative and leisure activities and also provides school meals at lunchtimes and homework clubs.

The NCS, together with 3 other Berlin-based neighbourhood centres, and in conjunction with the **“Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband”** (Equality Welfare Association), takes part in the model project **„Generationsübergreifender Freiwilligendienst“** (Generation-spanning Volunteer Work). The project is funded by the Ministry for Families and is to find and test new forms of voluntary or honorary co-operation. Since 1 April, a newly employed colleague is engaged specifically in the promotion of honorary work in the area and beyond.

Since April, the NCS is running a **„psychiatric complaints office for the district of Tempelhof-Schöneberg“** in its rooms in Holsteinische Strasse 30. The external project is a service offered by the **„Psychosoziale Arbeitsgemeinschaft Tempelhof-Schöneberg“**, which people can contact when they have problems with psychiatric services. The staffs here offer weekly appointments and provide individual and preferably easy to follow solutions.

Since 1 August **three further public child day-care centres** have been transferred to the NCS: The day-care centre in **Monumentenstrasse 13 b** in Schoeneberg with 150 places, the day-care centre in **Sponholzstrasse 16** in Friedenau with 45 places as well as the smaller Kita in **Lindenhof-School in Reglinstrasse 29** in Tempelhof with 28 places.

In August, as part of the takeover of day care to schools in Berlin, the NCS takes over the running of **day care of schoolchildren** in various areas in Schoeneberg und Wilmersdorf: At the **Uckermark School** in cooperation with the „Integrationsschülerladen Hase und Igel“; at the **Sachsenwald School** in cooperation with the school; at the **Scharmuetzelsee-School** the existing day-care centre is extended and a second facility opened. At the **Lindenhof-School, the Carl-Orff-School and the Fläming-School** new day-care centres are planned to be run by the NCS.

In October the **day-care centres in Stegerwaldstrasse** (district Marienfelde) and in **Breitensteinweg** (district Zehlendorf) are affiliated to the NCS.