

PRESS RELEASE**November 24, 2022**

The Johanniter organization opens a place of warmth in the Humboldt Forum

A parlor and a place of comfort in Berlin's historic center: on December 1, 2022, the local Johanniter association opens a *Place of Warmth* in cooperation with the Humboldt Forum Foundation in the Berlin Palace and shop operator MUSON. Especially welcome are people who need help during these challenging times because they are homeless, socially and economically disadvantaged, or lonely. Everyone is also cordially invited to attend the official opening on December 1st at 2 p.m.

In the retail space by Portal 3 of the Humboldt Forum, the local Johanniter association opens its doors to all Berliners every day, except Tuesdays, from 2 to 6 p.m. From the beginning of December until probably the end of March 2023, the *place of warmth* provides an opportunity for up to 60 people to stay in a heated space, offering protection and comfort. Sufficient seating is provided, free hot drinks and small snacks are offered, and a reading and playing corner as well as a thrift shop have been set up.

"With the place of warmth as a venue of encounter and exchange in Berlin's urban society, we want to provide a service for all who face hardship this winter," says Christine Rieffel-Braune, Chief Administration Officer at the Humboldt Forum Foundation in the Berlin Palace. "We are very pleased that the Berlin regional association of Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe and MUSON agreed to partner with us. All Berliners are invited to warm themselves, enjoy a hot drink, and have conversations."

"We are very pleased that our retail space by Portal 3 can do its part to support the Johanniter project this winter by becoming a special place of warmth," says Tina Korbmacher, Managing Director of MUSON GmbH.

As Björn Teuteberg, Regional Johanniter Director in Berlin, explains, "We are grateful to the Humboldt Forum Foundation in the Berlin Palace and to shop operator MUSON for making this wonderful space at this prominent location in the heart of the city available to those who are particularly hard hit by the cold and high energy prices." The project is a contribution to the *Warmth Network* that was launched by church, social, and private organizations to provide practical help and create venues of encounter in light of the challenges of the energy crisis due to the war of aggression against Ukraine.

"Everyone is welcome at our place of warmth, no matter where they come from and what background they have," Teuteberg points out. By offering this service, the Berlin Johanniter seek to provide not only warmth but also a space for encouraging conversations and low-threshold social integration and participation. "The most important thing to us is to offer a friendly ear, try to help with concerns and needs, and point out available forms of assistance," says Teuteberg.

**JOHANNITER**

Guests will be cared for by volunteers of the Johanniter association. The space and infrastructure are provided by the Humboldt Forum Foundation in the Berlin Palace and MUSON.

The Johanniter association is always looking for volunteers to help with the place of warmth at the Humboldt Forum. Donations in kind such as coffee, wrapped candy, new socks, and unopened toiletries will be accepted by prior arrangement. Additional information available at humboldtforum.berlin@johanniter.de.

Place of Warmth. The Johanniter association in the Humboldt Forum, retail space by Portal 3, Schlossplatz, 10178 Berlin. Starting Dec. 1, 2022, every day, except Tuesdays, from 2 to 6 p.m. Closed on Dec. 24 and 31.

Official Opening on Dec. 1, 2022, at 2 p.m. Words of welcome spoken by Christine Rieffel-Braune, Chief Administration Officer of the Humboldt Forum Foundation in the Berlin Palace; Tina Korbmacher, Managing Director of MUSON GmbH; and Björn Teuteberg, Regional Director of the Berlin Johanniter association.

Emergency overnight accommodations of the Johanniter association, including hot meals, shower facilities, and clothing store: Ohlauer Straße 22, 10999 Berlin, open daily from November 1st, 2022, from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. Medical consultation hours on Tuesdays from 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Nachtcfé Krause in St.-Thomas-Kirche, Bethaniendamm 25, 10997 Berlin, from Nov. 1st, 2022, open Tuesdays to Fridays from 5 to 9 p.m.

johanniter.de/kaeltehilfe-berlin

One building, four partners: The Humboldt Forum is a collaboration between the Stiftung Humboldt Forum im Berliner Schloss; the Stiftung Preussischer Kulturbesitz for collections from the Ethnologisches Museum and the Museum für Asiatische Kunst of the Staatliche Museen zu Berlin; the Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin for the Humboldt Lab; and the Stadtmuseum Berlin for the Berlin exhibition.

Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe Regionalverband Berlin e. V.

The nationwide Johanniter-Unfall-Hilfe is one of the largest aid organizations in Germany, serving people in the tradition of the Protestant Order of St. John. The work of the Johanniters includes providing rescue and medical services, disaster response, and first aid training. In addition, they provide care for the elderly and sick, support and care for children and young people, refugee and integration aid, homeless assistance, and other charitable services.

The Johanniters have been active in Berlin since 1958 and support people of all age groups reliably and competently by providing a wide range of services. The Berlin Johanniter association has about 700 full-time employees and a staff of 1,500 volunteers.

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