



PRESS RELEASE

10 November 2023

Johanniter's cold relief: place of warmth in the Humboldt Forum reopens

Just in time for the start of the cold season, the place of warmth is reopening today at the Humboldt Forum. The inclusive service is open to all Berliners and is particularly aimed at people in need of help. They can find shelter, warmth and security here, as well as small meals and advice. For the second year in a row, the place of warmth will be run over the winter months by the Berlin Johanniter in cooperation with the Stiftung Humboldt Forum and shop operator MUSON.

All people are welcome in the place of warmth - but especially those who are homeless, socially and economically disadvantaged or lonely. The warmth lounge in the center of the capital is expected to be open until the end of March 2024 - every day except Tuesdays - from 2 pm to 6 pm. The place of warmth offers a warm place to stay during the day, free hot drinks and snacks, a reading and donation corner and advice services. Once again, Johanniter volunteers will be looking after the guests. The premises and infrastructure will be provided by the Stiftung Humboldt Forum and MUSON.

With a total of almost 10,000 visits, the Place of Warmth quickly became a safe space for many people in need in Berlin in the winter of 2022/2023. Up to 150 guests came on cold days, including many visitors to the Humboldt Forum. "We received a lot of positive feedback. My special thanks go to the fantastic volunteers who do everything they can to make our guests feel at home here," explains J rge Bellin, Coordinator of Homeless and Shelter Services at Johanniter Berlin.

"This winter, many people in our city will once again face special challenges," says Christine Rieffel-Braune, Chief Administration Officer at the Stiftung Humboldt Forum. "Thanks to the proven and successful cooperation with the Berlin Johanniter organisation and MUSON, we can once again offer them a warm place to spend the day, meet people and exchange ideas at the Humboldt Forum."

"We are delighted that our shop can once again be a place of warmth and encounter this year," says Tina Korbmacher, Managing Director of MUSON GmbH. "Together, we create an atmosphere in which people feel welcome and secure."

"We would like to thank the Stiftung Humboldt Forum and the shop operator MUSON for once again making this prominent location in the centre of the city available to those



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who suffer particularly during the cold season," explains Björn Teuteberg, Regional Director of Johanniter Berlin.

With its services, the Johanniter in Berlin not only provide a warm place to stay, but also create a space for dialogue and low-threshold social integration and participation. "It's important for us to have an open ear, to support people with worries and needs and to point out possible ways to help. We are also registering increased demand for our other services offered by Berliner Kältehilfe. Our guests are getting younger and their problems are becoming more complex," says Björn Teuteberg. "For this reason, we will be expanding our counselling services in the coming winter. Small concerts and artistic performances are also planned. Inclusion also means cultural participation."

The photo exhibition *mensch sein* by Rostock-based photographers Andreas Duerst and Anja Gronwald is already on display at the place of warmth. They create expressive portraits of the guests and volunteers at the Johanniter emergency shelter in Kreuzberg.

The Johanniter are looking for volunteer support for the place of warmth in the Humboldt Forum. Donations in kind such as coffee, packaged sweets, clothing and unopened toiletries are accepted by prior arrangement:
humboldtforum.berlin@johanniter.de.

Place of warmth. Johanniter at the Humboldt Forum and *mensch_sein* photo exhibition, Portal 3, Schloßplatz, 10178 Berlin. From 10 November 2023 open daily except Tuesdays from 2 pm to 6 pm. Closed on 24 and 31 December 2023.

Johanniter emergency shelter with hot meals, shower facilities and clothing store, Ohlauer Straße 22, 10999 Berlin, open daily from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. since 1 November 2023. Medical consultation hours once or twice a week from 7 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Café Krause with hot meals at St Thomas Church, Bethaniendamm 25, 10997 Berlin, open Tuesdays to Fridays from 5 pm to 9 pm since 1 November 2023.

www.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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