

## ZuFlucht Lebenshilfe

**A Lebenshilfe Hamburg project for refugees with disabilities, their parents and relatives.**

**Focus on: qualifying volunteers, creating peer groups and training mentors and guides.**

Of the more than one million people who have fled to Germany since 2015 in the hope of finding a better life, 32,562 are currently still in Hamburg. Lebenshilfe Hamburg estimates that of these refugees, up to 6,000 have disabilities.

Our aim is to support civic engagement by and for refugees so that the families affected by disabilities can get the best possible treatment and social support in this for them still foreign country. Special attention is given to enabling self-help – by qualifying and empowering parents and relatives. They play an important role in the help and care system.

### **Simply put: project contents**

ZuFlucht Lebenshilfe is taking a multi-stage training approach. Together with its volunteers, the organisation is developing an intercultural and culture-sensitive way of dealing with disability, helping with recognising disabilities when visiting refugee accommodations, passing on knowledge of available help and support measures for people with disabilities in Germany as well as offering legal advice for making claims based on the German social welfare law for asylum seekers.

As volunteer work can play a key role in integrating refugees, the ZuFlucht Lebenshilfe team advises and supervises peer groups and also trains mentors and guides to accompany disabled refugees.

### **Standing shoulder-to-shoulder: ZuFlucht Lebenshilfe supporters**

The project ZuFlucht Lebenshilfe is sponsored by the lottery fund *Aktion Mensch*, the welfare organisation *Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband Hamburg* and the foundation *Stiftung:do*. Aydan Özoguz, Minister of State, Member of the German Parliament for the constituency of Hamburg Wandsbek and Commissioner of the Federal Government for Migration, Refugees and Integration, is the patroness of ZuFlucht Lebenshilfe.

*“The project ZuFlucht Lebenshilfe by Lebenshilfe Hamburg for refugees with disabilities focuses on those who are disadvantaged and traumatised in multiple ways. Disability should be tackled by eliminating barriers. Cultural differences should be met with mutual sensitivity. That is exactly what ZuFlucht Lebenshilfe is trying to do: providing an important building block for integrating refugees who have come here to escape war and persecution. Following in the tradition of helping people with disabilities to help themselves, ZuFlucht Lebenshilfe is guiding refugees with disabilities into the existing self-help structures and supports the volunteers active in refugee work.”* Aydan Özoguz

### **Lebenshilfe Hamburg**

Since 1960, the organisation Lebenshilfe Hamburg e.V. has been aiming to support and empower parents with disabled children and people with disabled relatives. Its services include offering information, counselling, training, support and care. With ZuFlucht Lebenshilfe, Lebenshilfe Hamburg is reacting to the socio-political developments of the recent months, staying true to its own principles.