



Erste Bank supports mobile Caritas medical care

22.12.2011

EUR 20,000 for "Louisebus" handed over to the Caritas Director Landau

Medical care for the homeless also without the e-card

Nowhere to live, no job, no regular medical practitioner, no e-card – the Caritas Louisebus is the rolling doctor's office for people who live on the street and that often have no insurance. The bus is now 13 years old and it needs to be replaced urgently. A lot of money is being spent on maintenance costs and repairs that would be needed to provide medical care. Erste Bank is supporting the purchase of a new bus with a donation of EUR 20,000.

"The Louisebus is one of the useful utility vehicles that I know. Because the drivers and co-drivers help to heal physical and spiritual wounds. We are fully committed to our support for this facility," explained Thomas Uher, Member of the Board of Erste Bank Oesterreich.

Now, in the winter season, the situation for the homeless is especially harsh. Despite sinking temperatures, hundreds of people sleep outdoors, in abandoned buildings and WC facilities. "Uncomplicated and professional help as provided by Louisebus can save lives, above all, in the winter. Because even just a cold or a minor injury can have serious consequences for the homeless if left untreated," explained Caritas Director Michael Landau. "Erste Bank's donation is a major contribution to the purchase of a new bus that will enable Caritas to continue offering this dearly needed basic medical care."

The homeless often come to Louisebus, because they are ashamed or afraid to go to a regular doctor's office. Louisebus not only provides professional medical support, but also treats the needy with respect and understanding. In the previous year, 7,639 treatments were carried out and 1,855 patients received medical care. Presently, 40 persons work on an honorary basis as drivers and/or helpers. On five days a week, the bus offers its services at different locations in Vienna such as at the Caritas support centre Gruft at Franz-Josephs-Bahnhof or FrauenWohnZentrum. The main conditions treated are dermatological diseases, diseases of the ear, nose and throat and respiratory system, and injuries to the musculoskeletal system.

The doctors that work for Louise are financed by Fund "Soziales Wien", the Vienna Health Insurance Organisation pays the costs of the medication, the rest is financed by donations. EUR 35,000 is the cost of a new bus. EUR 45,000 is needed for medical equipment and for the adaptation work. EUR 100 pays for the bus to drive to all locations for three weeks.

Caritas donations account

Erste Bank 012-34560, Bankleitzahl 20111

Identifier: "Louisebus"

For inquiries, please contact:

Klaus Schwertner

Press Officer of Caritas of the Archdiocese of Vienna

Phone: (+43-1) 878 12 221, 0664 / 8482618

klaus.schwertner@caritas-wien.at

Peter N. Thier
Press Officer of Erste Bank Oesterreich
Phone: (+43)(0) 50100 – 12907, 0664 / 83 88 600
peter.thier@erstebank.at



© 2015 Erste Group Bank AG