



The Multi-Generational House

Back in 2005, the corporate philosophy of **solaris** led to the idea and the concept for our multi-generational house in the neighbourhood Chemnitz-Kappel. At Irkutsker Straße 15, three pillars make the multi-generational house a strong institution in its neighbourhood – the day-care centre “Kappelino”, the local meeting centre “Kappel” and the children and youth club **solaris-TREFF** – as well as numerous co-operation partners, such as the “Local Alliance for Families in Chemnitz” (LoBü-C). In early 2008, the Federal Ministry for Families distinguished our “Generationentreff” (Meeting place for Generations) as the first multi-generational house in Chemnitz by affiliating it in the action programme “Multi-generational houses”. This seal of quality, as well as the financial contribution and acknowledgement which come long along with it, helps us to follow our path elatedly. In 2011, the multi-generational house together with its support organization became a member of the lobby for multi-generational centres in Saxony. Since then, it has also been represented in the lobby’s managing committee. In 2012, with the support of the City of Chemnitz, the multi-generational centre was accepted to the action programme “Multi-generational houses II”.

We understand ourselves as a house which is open to everybody, regardless of age, gender or social status. We are available for discussions and support our guests when they face social problems. We consider ourselves a mediator and work closely together with other welfare services of the City of Chemnitz. We respond promptly when informed about requirements and needs by developing possible offers or by giving over to the institutions in charge.

The tree pillars – the day-care centre “Kappelino”, the local meeting centre “Kappel” and the children and youth club **solaris-TREFF** – support the roof “Multi-generational centre”. Our visitors benefit from intergenerational contacts, family enrichment and flexible childcare options within the scope of the day-care centre “Kappelino” as well as from the courses offered, the rooms and their equipment and the several projects we pursue. Meeting the individual needs of our visitors in a flexible way – that is where the multi-generational centre is outstanding. Our centre is based on a holistic concept and includes every age group. In particular, we focus on the organized neighbourly help – following the motto “Citizens for Citizens”.

The multi-generational centre counts on the help of numerous volunteers who support several projects, such as “Grandparents for me” or “Senior partner in school”, or who assist in our courses. Those volunteers enable us to offer our guests a wide variety of courses and projects.

Exercise of rights of access in adoptive and foster families

The multi-generational centre offers adoptive and foster parents its rooms (especially the family room and the lounge) and its outdoor area, including a playground, for the exercise of the rights of contact and access with the biological parents of the children. Furthermore, the children are taken care of by our staff during the care planning discussions.

Visiting service “Little chat”

The volunteers of the visiting service chat with the elderly or with sick people; they read to them, assist them with their shopping or accompany them to their appointments. This project is no care service in a legal sense; its objectives simply are to improve the quality of life for people in need of help, to assist and relief relatives who care for their next of kin and to promote the exchange between the generations.



Elterncafé RAPPEL (Meeting place for parents RAPPEL) in co-operation with the job centre Chemnitz and the employment agency of Chemnitz

Within the scope of the Elterncafé RAPPEL, volunteers with a wide experience offer a platform for parents to discuss about their needs, interests and problems. The volunteers also deal with the parents' issues in so-called "ElternInfoAbende" (Informational evenings for parents) which are always focused on topics formulated by the parents. This offer mainly aims at families that need help, families in special situations and young families. At the same time, it focuses on persons who have a rich experience of life and family life in particular and who wish to contribute to the community. The representatives for equal opportunities in the labour market of the job centre and of the employment agency of Chemnitz complement this offer during fixed appointments. Here, parents who wish to return to their professional life after their maternity/paternity leave can discuss their queries with the staff of both institutions.

ElternInfoAbende (Informational evenings for parents) with childcare facility during the meeting

These informational evenings for parents focus on topics of family education and are usually set up as workshops or lectures. Parents can leave their children with the pedagogic staff during the meetings.

Flexible childcare service during off-peak hours and in cases of emergencies

Parents and single parents who find themselves in extra-ordinary circumstances are invited to use our childcare facilities for a limited period of time free of charge.

If you need some time to see your doctor, to settle an official errand or if you just want to go to the hairdresser's unhurriedly, you are free to use our flexible childcare service. Upon previous consultation our staff takes care of your children aged 2 to 6 within the official opening hours. The service is provided at a charge of 1.50 euros per hour or part thereof.

Grandparents for me

Unfortunately, grandparents and grandchildren often do not longer meet each other regularly. Families with children often lose the contact with the older generation when moving to another city where the parents work. Another reason might be that the biological grandparents are no longer able to take care of the children, or that they, too, are still working full-time. For parents this means less assistance with the upbringing of their children.

On the other hand, especially in Chemnitz, there are many senior citizens of both sexes who miss the contact with children and the attachment to a family. Furthermore, the number of couples without children or singles who wish to have more contact with children and families is ever growing.

The project is meant to be a mediator between all these partners. It has been existing since 2010 and intends to bring the different generations together. Whether it is an extra aunt or uncle, whether it is an extra grandpa or grandma – the most important thing in this context is to give a child the opportunity to get in touch with other adults who accompany it throughout its childhood and who help its parents in their upbringing.

Toddler group "Little fishes"

This group is a creative attempt for children from 6 months on and their parents to experience new things – parents have the opportunity to chat and to relax doing yoga, while their babies experience the world around them, using natural materials, making music, playing and moving around. The course is supervised and accompanied by a teacher.



Reading tutors

Volunteers – in co-operation with one primary school and two day-care centres – show children how much fun it is to read and to be read to. The reading tutors practice reading with the children, while the reading grandma comes every week to read to the children before they go to bed.

Low-threshold social consulting service and procurement of help / Access to the internet

Our educational staff helps parents, grandparents, families and single parents with their questions and worries. During a first meeting our employees find out what kind of help is needed, offer assisting services provided by the multi-generational centre or its support organization or refer them to other institutions.

We dispose of personal computers with access to the internet for our visitors to enable them to do their own research.

Senior partner in school

Senior partner in school is a joint project of the multi-generational centre, the incorporated society “Seniorpartner in School e.V.” and four primary schools in Chemnitz. Seniors of both sexes went through a training course of three modules and are now official school mediators. As volunteers they visit children at their school and show them how to solve conflicts in a fair way.

Play time and family room

This is an offer for families, mothers, fathers and grandparents. Children are free to play and jump around, to meet new friends and to exchange ideas. Our small children’s library offers books to read on the spot or to borrow. Our staff always has an open ear for queries or sorrows.

Courses

Bakery/Baking together
Assistance with job applications
Computer classes
German classes for resettlers and migrants
English classes
Relaxation course
Nutrition course
Cooking together
Homework tutoring
Internet
Bobbin lace-making
Creative design
Fashion show group “All Generations”
Nordic Walking
Russian for children and adults
Knitting classes
Dancing classes
Theatre group
Table tennis
Sewing classes
Sports for children and adults
Yoga for children and adults



Services

Library
Ironing and mangling service
On-site civil policeman
Flexible child-care services
Renting of rooms
Workshop

Events

Readings of books
European Neighbours' Celebration
School holiday programme
Health Days
Travel reports
Playing games together
Dance parties
Thematic parties
Lectures