

**Organisation: „Help for the children of Chernobyl“ by the Lutheran Church of Hanover (Arbeitsgemeinschaft "Hilfe für Tschernobyl-Kinder" der ev.-luth. Landeskirche Hannover)  
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The movement consists of a congregation of 28 different churches in the area of the Lutheran Church of Hanover, the largest Lutheran church in Germany. Each church in the movement has its own actions and focus but the general aim for all is to help the children in the area of Gomel and cure as much as possible the impact of high radiation levels on their bodies and minds.

Actions are refined to the oblast of Gomel in Belarus and focus especially on children. The most important tasks are

- Organisation and facilitation of four-week stays for vacation of 9 to 13 year old boys and girls and mothers with infants in host families in one of the congregations of the church in Hanover
- Medical aid for the hospitals in the oblast of Gomel and training of Belarusian doctors. Transports of goods for humanitarian aid for hospitals, schools, kindergardens, orphanages and other social facilities
- Encouragement for and help with contacts from the churches in Hanover to partners in the oblast of Gomel
- Informing people about the impact of the Chernobyl-Catastrophe

The movement was founded through a private initiative of the Stoevesandt family in Neuenkirchen in 1990. Within a short period of time and through many volunteers support stretched over the whole Lutheran Church of Hanover. A one-time action of having people from Gomel come to Germany to recover in Hanover during their vacation turned into a yearly event. From 1991 to 2005 more than 1600 children, 1200 mothers and fathers and more than 900 translators have found their way to Germany.

Through the central medical aid, drugs and other medical help worth more than 1.5 million Euro have been donated to hospitals in the oblast of Gomel. Moreover, also the different congregations have their own help transports bringing medical aid into the region as well as packages for children who stayed in Germany or other goods to help facilities in Gomel. About 1.500 tons of goods have been brought to Gomel this way. 157 Belarusian doctors have been to Germany for training in hospitals in Lower Saxony.

The medical and humanitarian aid is financed through donations. The cost incurred through having Belarusians come to Germany to recover for some time is covered by the churches, congregations and host families.

The movement lives off the engagement of volunteers, no matter what they do: become a host family, drive in the help convoys, organize and coordinate actions or being delegated of the movement. It carries a Christian spirit wanting to help and giving the children of Gomel new perspectives.

For more information, downloads and pictures see: <http://www.kirchliche-dienste.de/themen/42/305/0/0/0.htm>