The name giver: Carl Sonnenschein

The Sonnenschein Award is named after Carl Sonnenschein (1876–1929). Sonnenschein was a leading Catholic social reformer during the Weimar Republic. After the First World War, he worked in Berlin, where he launched a wide variety of initiatives. His work revolved around the vision of a society sustained by the Christian spirit of charity.

Sonnenschein encouraged many people to join forces with him to work for those living on the fringes of society – on a voluntary, unpaid basis, motivated by their Christian beliefs. The writer Kurt Tucholsky called Carl Sonnenschein “a Salvation Army in his own right”.

Nominations for the Sonnenschein Award should be submitted to the Management Board of the foundation Caritas-Gemeinschaftsstiftung Osnabrück by 20 May 2016:

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“In recent months, millions of people are on the run, fleeing war, violence and the consequences of unjust structures. Our world is becoming increasingly destabilised. Some find this bewildering, but it must not discourage us. Especially at this time, we, in our society, are being called on to face these enormous challenges,” wrote Auxiliary Bishop Johannes Wübbe in the Caritas Refugee Brochure.

Caritas is engaged in many different kinds of support for refugees. The voluntary commitment of numerous individuals from the Bishopric of Osnabrück is equally diverse. Adopting the motto “Together for refugees”, the Sonnenschein Award 2016 recognises the voluntary commitment of individuals or groups that are involved in language training, provide assistance by furnishing and renovating apartments or by helping refugees to move house, accompany refugees on visits to authorities or health centres, and organise recreation and meeting facilities.

Nominate an award winner!

The criteria

- The individual’s or group’s voluntary involvement must correspond to the Christian objectives of charitable commitment.
- The voluntary involvement must relate in some way to the Catholic Church. Activities of an ecumenical nature are expressly included.
- Proof must be provided that involvement is secured beyond 2016.
- Nominations for the award must be made by a third party.
- Full-time employees at Caritas and its professional associations are not eligible for the award.

The Sonnenschein Award

The Sonnenschein Award, worth €20,000, is conferred by the foundation Caritas-Gemeinschaftsstiftung Osnabrück.

The aim of the prize money is to enable the voluntary involvement to be continued.

The Sonnenschein Award will be presented on 10 September 2016 during the Bread and Roses event in front of the cathedral. All nominees and those who benefited from their help will be invited to the award ceremony. Nominations for the Sonnenschein Award should be submitted to the Management Board of Caritas-Gemeinschaftsstiftung Osnabrück by 20 May 2016. Give us a call, drop us a line, or send us an email.

Caritas-Gemeinschaftsstiftung

- Improves children’s and young people’s future prospects
- Supports families
- Enables people with disabilities to lead lives with equal opportunities
- Helps people in social distress throughout the world
- Helps refugees, immigrant residents and late settlers to find a home

In all cases, we seek to help people help themselves: Caritas facilitates participation and self-responsibility by providing support and solidarity.

There are more than 715 charitable institutions and services involved in various task areas in the Bishopric of Osnabrück. Some 38,000 people are actively involved in voluntary work in the parishes.