

# The Käte-Tresenreuter-House

Terrace view



**Our mission:**

**TRADITION in our HEARTS -  
FUTURE in our HAND**

**Our success:**

**More than 1 million guests  
since 1983**



**City Map/Access:**

**S-Bahn (Urban Train): Station Halensee  
Bus: M 29; X10 (Stop Bismarckplatz)**

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**Sozialwerk Berlin e.V.  
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Käte-Tresenreuter-House  
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**SOZIALWERK  
BERLIN E.V.**

**A social non-profit  
organization in Berlin**



**Neighborhood Center  
Käte-Tresenreuter-House**

**Daily opening hours:**

**10.00 am - 06.00 pm**

**(including Sundays and public holidays)**

# The Sozialwerk Berlin e. V.

## Foundation and development

The Sozialwerk Berlin e.V. was founded by **Käte** and **Harry Tresenreuter** on December 6, 1971. Being a citizen's initiative, it is politically and religiously independent.

The Sozialwerk Berlin is a member of the Deutsche Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband (a national platform of non-denominational German welfare organizations) and is cooperating with the Deutsche Sozialwerk. Following the motto „seniors help seniors” social and cultural community events have been offered and numerous interest groups have been created right from the start.

Setting up a **voluntary visiting service for senior citizens homes** has been the most important social initiative. In addition, **group and music activities** as well as **excursions** by ship or bus have been offered to the residents of nursing homes.

Furthermore, a **counseling service** provided by seniors to seniors was started.

On request of its members and of volunteers, a **Center for Self-help and Advice for Seniors** was set up. Today's **Käte-Tresenreuter-House** was officially inaugurated on December 16, 1983.

The following goals have been achieved:

1. The center was **planned, co-financed and built with close involvement of seniors.**
2. It is the first center in the Federal Republic of Germany **that is fully run by seniors who work on a voluntary basis.**

Based on the experience and responding to the requests of its voluntary visiting service, the Sozialwerk Berlin also founded **coordination centers for out-patient rehabilitation of seniors** in 1988. The later became the today's **advising centers for nursing issues.**

## From 1989 until today

The Sozialwerk Berlin has promoted self-help across the newly- formed German states since reunification in 1989. It has initiated voluntary visiting services making the principle of volunteering broadly known.

Furthermore, the **work group „Self-help for Seniors”** was started.

Due to extensive contacts to countries in Central and Eastern Europe the **EURAG-Working Group** was formed in 1996, later named the **Group of Friends in Central, Eastern and Southeast Europe.**

**Another Center for Self-help and Advice for Seniors** was opened in **Tallinn/Estonia** in April 1996 with the support of the Sozialwerk Berlin and benefitting from its experience.

**The Center for Self-help and Advice for Seniors** of the Sozialwerk Berlin has been transformed into the **Neighborhood Center Käte-Tresenreuter-House** in 2015. It is open to all, however, focusses on elderly people.

The **Center of Competence** for non-institutional support for seniors collects best practice and disseminates knowledge about German social legislation (Social Code XII) through symposia, conferences and panel discussions. It has initiated several projects in cooperation with colleges and universities.

The results of these initiatives and activities of the Neighborhood Center prove that seniors are able to care for themselves emphasizing that:

**Self-help and self-determination of seniors are the future of non-institutional work for seniors.**

## Services focus on:

**Self-help – voluntary activities – leveraging the knowledge and experiences of seniors – counselling services – care services – encounters and education.**

## Working groups exist for:

Voluntary visiting services, kinematics, IT-training, conversation groups for ladies or gentlemen, English conversation circle, memory training, gymnastics, handicrafts, card games, bowling, keyboard courses, creative design, culture, literature, painting, traveling, choir singing, sitting-dance, Sunday stroll, hiking, yoga.

We are in touch with the representatives of all political parties represented in Berlin's Parliament, **in order to improve the quality of life of the generation 60+, from the „younger seniors” to the oldest age group.**

For current information about our work, please visit our website at: [www.sozialwerk-berlin.de](http://www.sozialwerk-berlin.de) or consult our journal „Schlösschen-Post”, which is published quarterly by our voluntary editorial team.