



Dr. Aslam Alkozai (left) examines many of the small „Herzbrücke“ patients in Kabul. He was the first doctor who came to Hamburg for more advanced medical training via the “Herzbrücke” project. This sharing of experience and transfer of professional know-how not only facilitate the collaboration for future “Herzbrücke” activities, they also improve the medical care for children with heart diseases in Afghanistan.

### Your donation will save children's lives!

Albertinen-Stiftung Herzbrücke  
 IBAN DE 27 251 20 510 55880 55880  
 BIC BFS WDE 33 HAN  
 Bank für Sozialwirtschaft  
 Keyword: Herzbrücke

### Every Euro helps!

Each treatment of a Herzbrücke-child will cost between 5.000 and 25.000 Euro.

### Please contact us if you have any questions!

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### How to find us



### Bus and rail connections

- U-Bahn line U2 to Niendorf-Markt, then Metrobus 5 to Oldesloer Strasse, then Bus 183 to Albertinen-Krankenhaus (Albertinen Hospital)
- S-Bahn line S21 or S3 to Eidelstedt, then A1 (AKN) to Schnelsen
- A1 (AKN) / Bus 195 to Schnelsen
- Metrobus 5 to Oldesloer Strasse, then Bus 183 to Albertinen-Krankenhaus (Albertinen Hospital)

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## Albertinen-Foundation

The “Herzbrücke” project –  
 Life-saving operations for children  
 with heart disease



## „Herzbrücke“ - A bridge that saves lives: From Kabul to Hamburg – and back

The „Herzbrücke“ project (literally: Bridge of Hearts) was set up by the Albertinen-Foundation and Albertinen doctors in 2005. Prof. Dr. Friedrich-Christian Riess, Chairman of the Albertinen-Heart-Centre and Head of Department for Cardiac Surgery, is the medical director of the project. To date (12/2013), 107 Afghan children with life-threatening heart disease have been brought to Hamburg und successfully treated at the Albertinen-Hospital or (since 2010) at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf.

During their time in Hamburg the „Herzbrücke“ children stay with German and Afghan host families who in turn are in close contact with the parents at home and who respect their Afghan culture and traditions. All children return to their families in Afghanistan – normally after 12 weeks.

All „Herzbrücke“ children come from poor backgrounds. In Afghanistan they have no chance of receiving effective treatment. Their only chance of survival is the „Herzbrücke“ project – which is exclusively financed by donations. For these children and their families „Herzbrücke“ offers emergency aid for their survival.

We cannot treat all children suffering from heart disease in Hamburg. Since 2011, in order to reach those children who may be treated directly in Kabul, the „Herzbrücke“ team has been sharing their professional know-how and technology with doctors working in the country. In this way, „Herzbrücke“ offers help for self-help.

**Save the lives of children with heart-disease!  
Donate to the Albertinen-Foundation.**



### The four pillars of the „Herzbrücke“ project

- **Emergency aid** – deprived children suffering from heart disease are given the chance of survival, independent of any religious, ethnic or political influences.
- **Friendship** – Afghan and German people work together on all levels of the project. So „Herzbrücke“-children can observe and feel in their daily life how different cultures exist peacefully side by side.
- **International understanding** – When they have successfully undergone the operation, the children return from Germany to Afghanistan as ambassadors for peace and cooperation.
- **Help for self-help** – in order to improve the medical care for children in Kabul, the „Herzbrücke“ team offers selected Afghan doctors who work locally the opportunity of advanced medical training. Many German and Afghan doctors who work in Hamburg in their own practice or in hospitals support this project.

### The „Herzbrücke“ team

The success of the „Herzbrücke“ project is based on the good cooperation and the personal commitment of volunteers and full-time members of staff whose involvement goes far beyond the call of duty:

- Heart surgeon Prof. Dr. Friedrich-Christian Riess and his operating team, medical colleagues and nursing staff of the Albertinen-Heart-Centre.
- Head physicians of the departments of Paediatric Cardiology and Paediatric Cardiac Surgery, and their teams in the Heart Center at the University Medical Center Hamburg-Eppendorf (UKE)
- Afghan doctors who make the first diagnosis and who, together with the „Herzbrücke“ team in Hamburg, select children who can be treated in Hamburg.
- German and Afghan host families who provide the children with a sense of stability and safety and who keep in close contact with the parents at home.
- General practitioners as well as pharmacists, producers and drug retailers who treat secondary illnesses or provide remedies.
- Employees of public authorities and institutions who deal with legal requirements, particularly the Diakonieverein Vormundschaften und Betreuungen e.V.
- Many voluntary helpers, who interpret, cook, report, accompany or provide other kinds of support.
- Many donors who carry the costs, establish contacts and search for further donations.

**The board members of the Albertinen Foundation are truly grateful for these contributions which help us realize the vision of the „Herzbrücke“ - a bridge between hearts across country borders, cultures and prejudices.**

### The sorrow of „Goodbye“ and the joy of „Hello“

The successful and purely humanitarian work undertaken by the „Herzbrücke“ is well-known across Afghanistan. Families from far-off places make their way to Kabul, hoping to find a place in the „Herzbrücke“ project for their children suffering from heart disease. Being apart is difficult for all families. But they trust the doctors and members of the „Herzbrücke“ project and they trust the host families in Germany. Once they are fully recovered and return home the children provide a great opportunity for their native country. They have re-gained their strength to live. They have experienced safety and respect. As far as it had been possible, they were enrolled in nurseries and schools and have become eager to learn. Strength, friendship and curiosity accompany them back home. This presents many of them with a completely new outlook on life.

**Help the „Herzbrücke“ project with your donation, so children suffering from heart diseases in Afghanistan can survive!**

