



...a new educational and rehabilitation phase begins...

We begin the new school year after the summer vacation. In July, this meant that some of our children said goodbye to kindergarten and started at the special school. Some of our schoolchildren also finished their time at school and moved to our workshops for vocational training. Other young people completed their vocational training and started their careers. The program for these "transitions" was lovingly prepared by our team with children and young people. We made festive clothes in our textile department and invited parents and family members who celebrated with us and their children. This was a beautiful and harmonious end to an intensive six months of our special needs schooling.



Farewell to the special kindergarten - arrival at the special school



"Summer retreat" at the early intervention center

The state and private schools have already started their summer vacation at the beginning of June, while we at Lifegate are still bravely continuing our support programs until mid-July. The reason we at Lifegate limit ourselves to a maximum of 6 weeks vacation is to minimize the impact the vacation has on our children, who would otherwise forget or lose too much of the support steps they have learned. We also ask parents to continue working with their children at home so that during the vacation time there is a continuity of support for the children. An air-conditioned Lifegate building naturally helps us here and inclusion children from other schools visited us during these weeks. In the last few weeks before the

vacations, all the children looked forward to a visit to the swimming pool, although it was also a lot of fun for the mothers.



*Inclusion activities
with children from the
regular kindergarten*

Eight young people finished their time at the special school and began vocational training.



Training in Lifegate Garden



..in the Lifegate laundry..



..in the training kitchen..

Vocational training and Lifegate workshops

Seven young people completed their vocational training and began working at various local workplaces. They are still being visited by our social worker and we are helping to ensure that the employers and the trained young people find a good working relationship. In these difficult times, when many people have lost their jobs, it is particularly important that the significant effort put into finding jobs bears fruit.

The first part of the Lifegate gift products ordered from Germany was dispatched in July and has arrived safely at our warehouse in Tauberbischofsheim. Many beautifully crafted items from our workshops can now be ordered here. Thank you for your help!



Workplace in a restaurant.



Bon appétit!

Wheelchair basketball

The interior work on our underground storage rooms is progressing well and we hope to be able to complete the planned wheelchair basketball court on the roof of these rooms soon. After almost a year of waiting, 13 new sports wheelchairs from Germany arrived at Lifegate and the wheelchair basketball team is thrilled. Our old chairs had taken such a battering after 10 years of hard use that repairs were no longer

possible. We are very happy! Meetings with our Israeli sports friends are not possible at the moment due to the current situation. We are patiently waiting for something to change for the better.



Lifegate Garden

Our cozy guest house is often booked by seminar groups from our region as well as by individual guests and we are pleased that, as a result, it is well occupied at least a few days a month. Six young people are now being trained at Lifegate Garden and are learning how to clean the guest rooms and prepare them for new guests. They prepare meals in the kitchen and serve them in the dining room. Together with our teacher Abir, they tend to the flower garden with love and dedication and thus contribute to the daily upkeep of this beautiful place. We hope that more guests from abroad will soon be able to enjoy this oasis again!



The young people in training in the guesthouse kitchen prepare their own breakfast.





..in the small Hessian town of Lich in August, this rainbow adorned the sky..

In Genesis 19 it says in verses 14-17

"When I let clouds gather in the sky and the rainbow appears in them, I will remember the covenant I have made with man and beast: Never again shall there be such a great flood: never again shall all life be destroyed in this way.

God has made a decision to preserve life and not destroy it. When do we, his creatures, make a decision?

In the Holy Land, we are eagerly awaiting such good decisions for life and against destruction. For almost a year now, we have been in the midst of a cruel war. Every day people die, people are maimed, people lose their homes and apartments and whole generations of children, young people and even older people have to continue living with deep physical and psychological wounds. Many doctors and psychologists are leaving Israel, the country's credit rating is being downgraded and the price of food and gasoline is rising almost daily. Hamas in Gaza wants to remain in power at all costs; human lives do not seem to matter, even the fact that many innocent people lose everything and die in the war is accepted. Everywhere mothers cry, fathers are paralyzed by their powerlessness and children grow up in fear, anger and hatred towards the people who do this to them. How can we build something new in the next generations, how can trust

grow? How can we overcome the past without forgiveness? It is not easy to maintain an emotionally balanced life in these times; we are always confronted by people with their terrible experiences. Added to this is the reporting, which is characterized by many untruths. In Israel it is reported that the last 6 hostages were cruelly executed by shots to the head and the autopsies revealed the time of death (a few hours before they were found by Israeli soldiers). Palestinian media report all hostages were killed by an Israeli air strike. Everyone believes their media, discussion is pointless. As a rule, you believe almost nothing from your own government, but when it comes to the other side, you suddenly believe everything. It is only through grace and the loving power of God, which is allowed to flow into our lives again and again (without our intervention, His gift), that we are able to endure these worlds.

Jesus gave us an example. The most powerful man on earth (the Son of God) says to Peter when he is arrested: "Put away your sword, whoever takes up the sword will perish by the sword". He allows himself to be slandered, spat upon, beaten almost to death and then nailed to a cross and says in his hour of death: "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do" and then, "it is finished"! Jesus took everything upon himself, our failures, our transgressions, our cruelties and the depths of our sin, and gave His life so that we humans could be reconciled with God the Father. He atoned for our sins in His death and defeated death as the last enemy of eternal life. This frees us as His followers from wanting to earn our way to heaven. Heaven is His gift that we can already unwrap on earth! His love and devotion towards each and everyone of us, works through us to change the "shape" of the world around us every day. So we courageously pass on what we have been given and sometimes also we pass on our pain, our helplessness and despair. This is part of our lives these days and there should be room for it. The "truth" must also be given to us again and again and we must learn to look with our hearts.

We therefore ask you to continue to support us in your prayers and with help and advice. Every friend counts twice and threefold in these times! Thank you from the bottom of our hearts!

With best regards and good wishes

Yours, Burghard Schunkert and the Lifegate team