



Heart mosaic by Otmar Alt for the German Children's Heart Transplant Centre

10,000.00 Euros for the German Children's Heart Transplant Centre in Gießen

Buderus Edelstahl Christmas Donation for Children's Hearts

In 2005 Buderus Edelstahl again diverted its funds from Christmas presents for customers to a cause close to customers' hearts. On 19. 12. 2005, Friedhelm Asbach, Managing Director, Karl-Peter Johann, Technical Director, Dr Ingrid Knell, Company Doctor, and Christian Jung, Marketing and Advertising Manager, handed over a cheque for 10,000.00 Euros in the name of Edelstahlwerke Buderus AG to Prof. Dietmar Schranz, the head of paediatric cardiology at the Children's Heart Centre at the Justus-Liebig University in Gießen.

This contribution by Buderus Edelstahl will support a unique project that will save many children with heart defects. A centre for transplanting children's hearts is being set up in Gießen, a unique project in Europe. The heart surgeons in Gießen are already at the forefront of medical practice. Their first heart transplant in Germany was successfully carried out in 1988, and they now carry out ten to twelve such transplants a year, and the number is increasing. Roughly one in a hundred neonates is born with a heart defect. Some cases are so serious that the functionality of the tiny organ cannot be restored with an operation. Only a new heart can help the

tiny patient. In order to save as many infants and children as possible in this way, the intention is to network all competences within the first German Children's Heart Transplant Centre to best effect.



Christian Jung, Dr. Ingrid Knell, Karl-Peter Johann, Prof. Dietmar Schranz, and Friedhelm Asbach presenting the cheque

Deutsches
KinderHerz-TransplantationsZentrum



Prospect of a Healthy Life

The new centre opening in spring 2006 is to have more than 21 intensive care beds. There are special parent-and-child units to accommodate parents, because the tiny heart patients need warmth and security as well as the best medical attention and the latest medical technology.

Centralising all the key elements in the Children's Heart Transplant Centre has many advantages. The large number of intensive care beds means faster and better post-operative care for children. Paediatric cardiologists, anaesthetists and surgeons work closely together with the nursing staff with practised ease and efficiency. Things are close together, including the operating theatre and the intensive care centre – an important factor, since transport over long distances from one centre to another can be a risk factor for these children with their frail circulation.

At least five million euros is needed to equip the centre with state-of-the-art medical technology. The initial donation of half a million euros came in 2004 from the charity Fördergemeinschaft Deutsche Kinderherzzentren e.V. The artist Otmar Alt has designed a heart mosaic for the project, and another piece is added to the mosaic every time a new donation is made. The Buderus Edelstahl Christmas donation is going into a fund from which a magnetic resonance tomography device is to be acquired for diagnosing genetic heart defects. The "donations instead of Christmas gifts" campaign is part of the social commitment of Buderus Edelstahl, which it intends to continue in future.