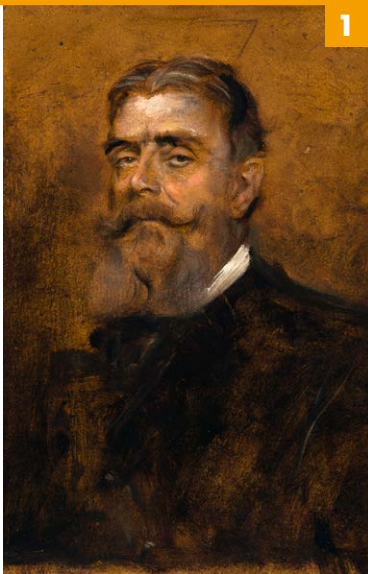


# LEVELLING THE WAY.

## THE FÜRST DONNERSMARCK FOUNDATION



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The Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation is an operational foundation for people with physical and multiple disabilities which was founded in 1916. It manages the P.A.N. Zentrum für Post-Akute Neurorehabilitation (Center for Post-Acute Neurorehabilitation) in Berlin-Frohnau, an Ambulanter Dienst (outpatient service) and an Ambulant Betreutes Wohnen (outpatient assisted living arrangement) with numerous decentralized locations in Berlin and two hotels in Rheinsberg and Bad Bevensen, as well as “Villa Donnersmarck”, a meeting place for people with and without disabilities in Berlin-Zehlendorf.

The Foundation’s purpose is the rehabilitation, care, support and advancement of people with physical and multiple disabilities as well as the furthering of research in this area.

### Establishment of the Foundation

Guido Graf Henckel Fürst von Donnersmarck (*Fig. 1*), a major landowner, industrialist and property developer, counted among one of the most successful businessmen of the German Empire. In 1914, immediately after the outbreak of the First World War, he set up and financed a military hospital for wounded soldiers at the present-day train station Frohnau in the north part of Berlin.

His experiences at the military hospital led him to establish a foundation on May 8, 1916, which was to serve “the scientific processing and therapeutic application of the medical experiences collected during the present war.” To this end, he endowed the Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation with 250 hectares of land and capital of four million marks. (*Fig. 2*) “Health and healing facilities” for wounded soldiers and a related research institute were to be created there.

However, Fürst von Donnersmarck’s plans had to be put on hold. His death on 19 December 1916, the advance of the First World War and finally the inflation of the post-war years prevented the implementation of an active foundation policy. The foundation was only able to start operations after the end of the Second World War. The advisory board of the Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation gradually sold the Frohnauer property piece by piece and reinvested proceeds from the sales in residential real estate, mainly in Berlin,



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Hamburg and Munich. The real estate income is the basis for the foundation's operational activity, and ensures the long-term existence of the organisation.

## The Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation Today

The Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation stands for innovative action, overcoming social barriers and inclusive coexistence. Since its establishment, it has pioneered the promotion and support of people with disabilities. With a net worth of around € 150 million and over 600 employees, the Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation is active in the areas of rehabilitation, tourism, leisure, education and consulting.



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### Rehabilitation

The Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation's Rehabilitation Department offers services for people with a need for neurological rehabilitation in Berlin-Frohnau, as well as outpatient services that support people with disabilities to live as autonomously as possible.

With the P.A.N. Center for Post-Acute Neurorehabilitation, the Fürst Donnersmarck-Haus in Berlin-Frohnau has focused on the treatment of people with neurological rehabilitation needs, such as those resulting from a stroke or a traumatic brain injury. (Fig. 3) The centre was awarded the Kurt-Alphons-Jochheim Medaille in 2015 by the German Association for Rehabilitation for its outstanding achievements, as well as in 2016 with the Bauherrenpreis by the Reinickendorf District. The Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation's services in Berlin-Frohnau can be divided into three areas:

- The P.A.N. Center for Post-Acute Neurorehabilitation (Fig. 4), with 66 spots, offers real-world oriented, medical and therapeutic neurorehabilitation. It thus offers a bridge between a person's acute medical care and their return to a life as autonomous as possible.
- The permanent residence area in the Fürst Donnersmarck-Haus is open to a total of 24 people with disabilities.
- The residential home "Am Querschlag" provides a long-term home for 13 people with disabilities.



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The Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation's outpatient services enable people with disabilities to live their domestic lives independently. The Ambulant Betreutes Wohnen (ABW – outpatient assisted living arrangement) offers its clients social educational support. It organises different individual residential options for people with disabilities, ranging from assisted single-occupancy housing to group residencies (Fig. 5) and housing estates to residential communities. It is based on the concept of social space and promotes the participation of its clients in the sense of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Ambulant Betreutes Wohnen maintains the Wohnen mit Intensivbetreuung (WmI – living with intensive care) in the Alte Mälzerei in Pankow (16 spots) and the Seelbuschring in Tempelhof (18 spots). (Fig. 6) Here, people who need 24-hour care due to the severity of their disability can live in their own homes. Due to the thematic overlaps between the P.A.N. Center and WmI, the Foundation breaks the rigid boundary between inpatient and outpatient services for people with disabilities, and prepares the rehabilitants for the path to autonomous living.



Support for people with disabilities is provided by the Foundation's own Ambulanter Dienst (AD – outpatient service). (Fig. 7) It assists people with



disabilities to live an autonomous life through care and household services as well as treatment in accordance with § 5 of the German Social Code (SGB). It also operates, in cooperation with the P.A.N. Center, a project Unterstützung bei der Entwöhnung von Beatmung (UEvB – support for the weaning from respirators). (Fig. 8) This is a rehabilitation-oriented and time-limited out-clinic nursing service. In this context, the affected people are supported as they wean off respiratory devices or tracheal cannulas.



In addition, the Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation, together with two other providers of Berliner Behindertenhilfe (services for the disabled in Berlin), runs the "Lotse" project. It is a central advisory centre and agency for the housing of people with physical, mental and multiple disabilities in Berlin. One of four "Lotse" locations in Berlin is in Blissestraße 12, a Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation property.

## Leisure – Education – Consulting

Inclusive leisure and educational activities have been some of the Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation's core activities since the start of its operations. The Villa Donnersmarck in



Berlin-Zehlendorf is a meeting place for people with and without disabilities in the district and beyond. (Fig. 9) The regular activities of the department include:

- Events and cultural activities
- Regular group offerings for people with and without disabilities
- Talks, trainings and meetings
- Advisory services for people with disabilities and their relatives

The department is a partner of the Berlin self-help movement. Approximately 20 self-help groups meet regularly at Villa Donnersmarck or a meeting room in Blissestraße 12.

From 1980 to 2000, the Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation operated the first completely accessible café in Berlin on its own property in Blissestraße 14. Today, the café “blisse 14” is run by the FSD Lwerk Berlin Brandenburg gGmbH as a café and art workshop under the name “Kunstwerk blisse”.

## Tourism

The tourism department is informed by decades of experience in the implementation of accessible travel for people with disabilities. The Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation’s travel agency can be found in Blissestraße 12. It offers:

- Competent advice on accessible travel destinations
- Day trips around Berlin
- Short trips
- Information on an accessible holiday in Berlin

The Foundation’s two accessible vacation options are combined under FDS Tourismus gGmbH, a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation (with a total of 260 beds and approximately 45,000 overnight stays annually).

The Gästehaus Bad Bevensen has been an accessible holiday location in the heart of the Lüneburg Heath since 1972. Situated directly on the forest’s edge in the spa town Bad Bevensen, it is equipped with its own health centre and provides guests a relaxing holiday in a refined atmosphere. The Gästehaus Bad Bevensen also offers meeting and seminar rooms. (Fig. 10)

The HausRheinsberg. Hotel am See, directly on the Grienericksee in Rheinsberg, is the largest fully accessible four-star hotel in Germany. HausRheinsberg has a wheelchair-accessible swimming pool, numerous seminar and event rooms and a multipurpose hall





suitable for competitive games. It is a regular venue for high-calibre disabled sports and political events. (Fig. 11)

## Research

Since the mid-2000s, the Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation has strengthened its commitment to research. In 2006, it awarded the first research prize for outstanding work in the field of neurorehabilitation. Since

then, a prize of 30,000 euros has been awarded every three years. (Fig. 12)

In addition, the Foundation is committed to accompanying and participation research and strives to intensify its research activities in its P.A.N. Center for Post-Acute Neurorehabilitation.

## Property Management

The Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation's large real estate holdings, found mainly in Berlin, Hamburg und Munich with over 4,000 rental units, have been managed by the FDS Gewerbebetriebsgesellschaft mbH since 1984. FDS Gewerbebetriebsgesellschaft mbH is a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Foundation. The property management firm also operates a repair vehicle, where skilled tradespeople work together with well-trained assistants who are disadvantaged in the mainstream labour market. They work together to keep the residences in good working order.



## Holdings

The Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation holds a 50 % interest in the Nordbahn gGmbH as well as 5 % in the Berliner Werkstätten für Menschen mit Behinderung (Berlin Workshops for People with Disabilities).

## Understanding the Foundation

The Fürst Donnersmarck Foundation sees itself as a partner of people with disabilities in their efforts to achieve comprehensive social participation, equality and self-determination. The Foundation as a whole works to promote the social inclusion and self-determination of people with disabilities in their respective social areas, within the meaning of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.