



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

District 1880 - Germany

PETER IBLHER

Berufsdienst



Rotary helps saving lives, activities of district 1880 to fight leukaemia

To commemorate the 100th birthday of Rotary International in the spirit of its constitutive service rules the council of German governors proclaimed a big effort to fight leukaemia. At the beginning of 2005 the council appealed to the German rotary clubs to mobilize potential donors of stem cells to help leukaemia patients curable only by immunity transplants. At the same time they asked for financial contributions to pay for the examination of the blood samples gained. After a modest start the result of the project has now reached an impressive level in district 1880 and is still running. Up to now the club activities produced almost **4800 candidates for cell classification and financial donations of 210000 €**. 26 clubs out of 63 participated so far. Another group of **10 are preparing further actions**. Especially gratifying was the cooperation of clubs when some gained more cases of classification than financial means while others disposed of more contributions.

Some of the clubs have produced outstanding results. Top of the list are the three clubs of **Chemnitz**. Their indefatigable activities brought together 3124 candidates for stem cell classification, almost two thirds of the whole district, and with the help of other clubs and district funds more than 72500 €. This was achieved in a most diversified creative succession of events – sports and cultural highlights, Christmas fair, sale of books and recipes etc. -, integrating celebrities and VIPs from all spheres of public life and making the actions the headlines of the local press. The second rank is held by the RC of **Riesa-Elbland**. In a city of less than 40000 inhabitants and not too strong economically they convinced 843 candidates to let themselves be classified for stem cell donation and (supported by the district) collected 50000 € of financial help. In the region of **Oberlausitz** six clubs cooperated in a common effort with an output of 370 cases for classification and 18500 € of contributions. The club of **Stiftland** brought about similar results. Together these four clubs accounted for 75% of the whole district's financial outcome. Other club activities had special focal points. The four Leipzig clubs offered financial help for the cancer centre of the university. The RCs of Regensburg support research of the medical faculty on the use of stem cells in umbilical blood in the battle against leukaemia. Pirna and other clubs in the neighbourhood of Dresden will collect money with a VIP-cycling tour in which even Governor Sandler will participate.

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