

MOBILE, an all-round support program

Germany / - MOBILE- Selbstbestimmtes Leben Behinderter e.V. for independent living

SUMMARY OF PROJECT

MOBILE is building a network of support and assistance for persons with disabilities living out of institutions, including parents, allowing them to lead an independent life.

"Equal rights, equal opportunities, equal chances, and equal duties – that's the heart of independent living."

—Dr. Birgit ROTHENBERG, Executive Member, MOBILE Honorary Steering Committee

FACTS & FIGURES

- MOBILE began to support persons with disabilities in 1983, to provide a service of assisted living in 1992, to support parents with disabilities in 2005, and to provide personal assistance to people with disabilities in 2009.
- Costs for assisted living are in most cases now covered by the Westfalen-Lippe authorities, and according to official figures 1,829 persons are now using this service in this area.
- MOBILE currently supports 195 people, including 13 families with parents who have intellectual disabilities and their 25 children.

PROBLEMS TARGETED

For the most part, persons with disabilities still live in institutions, and government support is primarily directed towards these institutions. Independent living in accessible apartments is very rare because few such apartments exist and community services are not widely available.

SOLUTION & METHODOLOGY

Originating in the Independent Living movement, MOBILE allows persons with disabilities to analyse their own living situation and conditions, partly using the skills of trained pedagogics. They themselves define their needs for support and develop perspectives on how to live independently in the future. MOBILE

informs persons with disabilities about their rights, improves their self-confidence, and assists in the transition process. Depending on the individual needs, pedagogical support, peer counselling, and other low-threshold support is provided.

OUTLOOK & TRANSFERABILITY

The public funding that is available for the employer model of personal assistance (described by MOBILE) is constantly increasing in response to the improved quality of life of persons who use assisted living or other MOBILE services. MOBILE is also offering a training program for organizations interested in implementing this model in their own services.

Photo Fototitel 1: MOBILE organizes a demonstration at a railway station under the theme of "Access for all."

Fototitel 2: A MOBILE team visits another 'people first' group in Scotland.

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