



Diaconia Center of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia

Welcome to the Diaconia Center of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia, a non-profit organization dedicated to providing social services and support to communities across Latvia.

Who We Are

1

Founded in 1994

The Diaconia Centre is a non-profit organisation founded by the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Latvia in 1994 and is acting as a social service provider in Latvia. It supports diaconal work within local Christian congregations, provides training for social workers and volunteers, and operates community centers offering social services and charitable assistance to children and adults.

2

Our Mission

To serve people as Christ has served us.

3

Our Vision

A diaconia where everyone is involved, where the receiver becomes a motivated giver, in love and good works.





Diakonijas centram 30. Ulda Muzikanta foto 2024.gada 28.jūnijā



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Our values

1 Everybody is precious

We believe in the inherent worth and dignity of every individual.

2 Ability to listen and hear

We prioritize active listening and understanding in our interactions.

3 Support and encouragement

We strive to uplift and empower those we serve.

4 Faith and prayer as our foundation

Our work is rooted in our spiritual beliefs and practices.



Our work in action

1 Community engagement

We foster a sense of belonging through inclusive activities and support services.

2 Education and empowerment

Our work focus on skill-building and personal development for all age groups.

3 Crisis response

We provide immediate aid and long-term support for those affected by crises, like Ukrainian refugees.

4 Spiritual care

We offer faith-based support and counselling to nurture spiritual well-being.

Our reach and impact

Locations

Currently, there are around 100 employees working in 13 locations: 8 centres in Riga: the headquarters, "Mēs," "Sirdsgaisma," "Dzīvības aka," "Arken," "Paaudzes," "Roku rokā", "Avots" and "Torņkalns"; three centres in Madona municipality: "Baltā ūdensroze" and its branches "Eglāji" and "Veseta"; and "Gaujaslīči" in Cesis municipality.

Services

The Diaconia Centre provides various types of assistance, including food parcels, clothing, shoes, and other necessities. Additionally, the Centre organizes a weekly fellowship for local residents and Ukrainian refugees, during which they can participate in activities such as making trench candles and camouflage nets.

International involvement

Since February 2022, our foundation has been supporting Ukraine and Ukrainians in Latvia. The Diaconia Centre values experts by experience, and already has 13 colleagues who came to Latvia as refugees. The Diaconia Centre actively participates in international projects, organizes conferences and training for social work professionals, charity workers, and ministry leaders in Latvia, and involves both local and foreign volunteers in its daily work.

Community centres and services

30 years of service

For 30 years, the Diaconia Centre has formed Community Centres that welcome everyone, regardless of social or ethnic group, education, health or financial situation, or any other characteristic.

Daily impact

The Community Centres receive daily visits from more than 180 children aged 7-18 years, of which 50 are refugees from Ukraine, and over 250 adults, including 50 refugees from Ukraine.

Meal services

Every weekday, the soup kitchen delivers 200 portions of soup and up to 450 portions of a main meal to people at four food distribution points in Riga. Hot meals are also served in Madona.

Services offered

In cooperation with local authorities and municipalities, the Community Centres offer various social services and project-based experiences for adults, children, and their families, including: afterschool clubs; counselling; non formal education for seniors; Excursions; Camps; language instruction; services for people with mental disabilities; a support centre for pregnant women and new mothers in Madona; services for homeless people in Cesis.



Our work





European Solidarity Corps project «Together we can – let's live greener!»

Promoting opportunities through project for different groups of society

Project Outcomes and Impact

1 Knowledge transfer

Participants gained practical skills in sustainable living and responsible farming practices.

2 Intergenerational learning

Young people shared modern sustainability concepts while elders imparted traditional farming wisdom.

3 Skill development

The project enhanced participants' living skills, socialising abilities, and self-care capabilities.

4 Future opportunities

Skills learned could potentially be applied in the labour market, opening new career paths. Project compliments the aim of the day care centre – to organise various activities to develop people's living skills, socialising and self-care abilities.



Green Living Curriculum

Seasonal gardening	Plant life cycles	Sustainable farming
Food Processing	Natural beauty products	Eco-friendly alternatives
Deposit system	Battery sorting	Responsible consumption

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