



Foto: Thomas Lemmer

mob e.V. – homeless people mobilize

Self-help project for homeless and poor people

strassen|feger (street|sweeper)

The homeless peoples streetpaper, published by the association
mob – obdachlose machen mobil e.V.



(1) mob e.V. – starting point of our work

The reason for founding our association in 1994 is still there: The lasting poverty of significant parts of the population, that shows in its most extreme form when it comes to homeless people. In spite of statements from the housing trade and industry and parts of the politics, there is still a serious problem of urgent need for shelters, unsafe housing conditions or stay on the streets.

To support this group of people in terms of keeping a dignified living and developing own perspectives, mob has different specific projects that are being described on the following pages.

(2) mob e.V. – aim and offer

The Organisation and carrying out of all these projects follow the thoughts of self-help, which means that the own activity of the people is being stressed. Under the roof of the associa-

tion the participating users can have their own projects-as far as to find an own apartment.

- The **self-help building project in the Oderberger Straße 12** is making it possible for the self-helpers-homeless and poor people-to create new housing with much own responsibility and competent instruction. This is a substantial contribution to the structural fight against the housing shortage, because it is made sure that there is being offered a lasting cheap housing with proper tenancy agreements.
- In the **Trödel Point (junk point)**, as an important economic part of the association, there is being sold furniture, all kinds of household articles as well as a rubbish, books and records etc. Those articles are given to the association by Berlins population.
- The internetpage **www.strassenfeger-berlin.de** is for the communication with interested part of the public and shows the work of the association to a broad audience.

(3) strassen|feger – homelesspaper

The strassen feger is a media to make urgent social problems and development public. It offers a financial improvement to the streetsellers and is also a creative space for those sellers who want to publish own texts. The paper comes out every two weeks with 26 editions a year and average of sold copys is 15000. The editorial staff has an open meeting once a week, where contributors and users discuss their expectations and by this make sure that the topics are permanently up-to-date. Besides this there sometimes, when it is needed, is a writing workshop where people can work on their individual style of writing. The papers is handed out at Bahnhof Zoo, Ostbahnhof and in the Kaffee Bankrott. The strassen|feger is being sold by very different people. They are all very poor. There are homeless people that live in flats (or other housings) and who are poor because of many different reason. By selling papers they can earn some money.



Foto: Volker Sonderhoff

somebody, who is sell the „strassenfeger“ and somebody, who is buying the „homelesspaper“

(4) Kaffee Bankrott (café bankrupt) – meeting point and emergency-shelter

The “Kaffee Bankrott” as a open self-help meeting point, for homeless and poor people and for the neighbourhood, which is a address to turn to.

„Kaffee Bankrott“



Foto: Thomas Lemmer



Foto: Thomas Lemmer

emergency-shelter in the Prenzlauer Allee 87

They have the possibility to eat cheap, they can wash their clothes and can meet other peoples.

The rules of the House are: no alcohol, no drugs no violens and no sexual encroachment. Dogs are wellcome and in the House they have to go on the dog-lead.

Many people pretend to a regular social advice, it is included in the offer. The emergency-shelter has open throughtout the year and seven days the week. We have alltogether 16 overnight accommodation, men and woman are in separate rooms. Every room has 8 places, were homeless can sleep. The “Kaffee Bankrott” can also use for cultural activities, like a exhibition a film show and every kind of shows. It is a important place, were the poor people came together. And it is also a important place for the counterculture and the subculture, everybody can also use the internet in the “Kaffee Bankrott”.



Foto: David Vogel

secondhand-shop in the Oderberger Straße 12

(5) Trödelpoint (junkpoint) – secondhand and household articles

The Trödelpoint helps homeless, which move into a new apartment, with the second and household articles. The Trödelpoint helps people in Berlin and Brandenburg, which save furniture and all kinds of household articles, which lie down in the cellar. We fetch it up and gladly we agree a date. This concept unburdened the environment. This project produces employment. People have a choice between a prison sentence or charity work at the Trödelpoint, where they can bring in their capacities and skills.

Foto: Thomas Lemmer



Trödelpoint (junkpoint) in the Prenzlauer Allee 87

(6) Oderberger Straße 12 – self-helping building-project and apartmenthouse

An apartment is not everything-but without an apartment is everything nothing.

For this reason is the self-helping building-project in Oderberger Straße 12 an essential element of the struggle against this structural apartment shortage in Berlin. As there is a structural lack of affordable living space and the unavailability of Berlin has withdrawn its support for the building of rented flats the need for self-help in this is urgent. In the framework of the "Landesprogramm Wohnungspolitische Selbsthilfe" (state program of a policy for housing-self-support) mob renovated a building of the "Gründerzeit" (1871). This project was realized between 1999 and 2003 in cooperation with formerly homeless people working under professional guidance and on their own initiative. There 18 entities for living and 2 entities for non-profit business were created.



Foto: Peter Woelck

self-helping-building project in the Oderberger Straße 12

Hence for the first time in Berlin a homeless people self-supporting project is able to offer constantly cheap living space by itself. Oderberger Straße 12 proved: it is possible to realize together with homeless people a very ambitious renovating project, meeting all quality standards and deadlines. From here on the next step may follow, that is to innovatively interact with the existing neighborhood.

(7) Founding and supports

mob – obdachlose machen mobil e.V.: „in general wants to raise the problem of homelessness and apartment-shortage; in form the public about social, culturell and political aspects and enable, support critically supervise cooperations between homeless and non-homeless people“.

mob persues exclusively and directly non profit respectlively charity aims according to the paragraph (Steuerbegünstigte Zwecke) of the “Abgabenordnung”. The club acts without self-interesst and does not primarily aim for economical goals.

In order to achieve these aims and to develop and maintain the respective projects the club depends on various forms of support, i.e. voluntary work, donations for the “Trödelpoint” or the ungoingwork, financial founding for the emergency-shelter ungoing expansion projects. Possible are also charity-events or other considerable forms of cooperation in a mamer of mutual benefiscance. We are happy to issue donation comfirmances on request.

Foto: Peter Woelck



„strassenfeger“ in front of the Reichstag-building



„Kaffee Bankrott“-photo-exhibition and peoples are using the internet

(8) Banking-connection

Account-number: 328 38 01
bank codenumber: 100 205 00
Bank für Sozialwirtschaft

Account-number: 76 35 48-107
bank codenumber: 100 100 10
Postbank Berlin

(9) Member ships

- Bundesbetroffeneninitiative wohnungsloser Menschen e.V. seit 1995
- Paritätischer Wohlfahrtsverband seit 1998
- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft medizinische Versorgung Wohnungsloser e.V. seit 1998
- Bündnis Hanfparade e.V. seit 1997
- Arbeitsgemeinschaft Leben mit Obdachlosen e.V. seit 1996
- Arbeitskreis Wohnungsnot Berlin e.V. seit 1999
- Bundesarbeitsgemeinschaft Wohnungslosenhilfe e.V. seit 1999
- AG Kiez und Bezirk Pankow seit 2002

the new „strassenfeger“ (street sweeper) is arrived



Foto: Thomas Lemmer

living on the street, instead a foreword

Poor people especially homeless do not own anything than they are wearing and they have no chance to produce something lasting, instead the most things goes loosing somewhere on the small and big flights. For the expellee stretch of road between daily warming house and emergency-shelter, christmasparty and clothing run and social welfare office, ambulant medical emergency-supply and soup-kitchen. You need phsycical training a great footwear, profound time-table-knowledge and first of all: permanent mobility. Everybody are wellcome, but not much are offered: Insipid soups, some socks and sometimes a little converstation, an advice or intertainment. When the cold is very bad, bunkers and underground station are being opened but it does not invite to staying there for a long time. Poor people do not have other choices. People that do not show up in time are down on their luck. Then they have to stay outside and have to fight for suvivar. Maybe they get begging some euros or they take a train until the morning to get some sleep for 2-3 hours.

A life outside means living with the permant danger of being deprived, assaulted or set on fire. The lucky ones can try again the next day. Exhausted like this and soon being completely burned out, homeless people hardly have any other options than involuntarily to prove the prejudice that it is their own fault in the end, you cannot help them and they deserve it. And this is how the homeless people get the most obvious idea: to move into empty houses or other places where they want to stay. They can be sure to be driven away sooner or later because the misery should only be visible for a very short time. The so-calles winter-help for homeless people is another word for freezing to death on the money-saving organized installment plan. If not this winter, then the next one, which is definatly going to come.

Generally speaking: the living situation of homeless people is marked by the far-reading exclusion of social participation and a break-down of individual activities. The cipation and a break-down of individually percieved lack of options and usually lacking perspectiveives. Cretive surviving strategies go together with permanent challenges, the living situation supports a dependence on supply-and helpoffers and boards as well as (because of missing financial resources) a latent tendency to small criminal acts (theft, theft of food, joy-rides). Social relations are lost or usually limited to functional contacts to people in the same situation and professional help-ers. Sexual relations or partnerships are only possible under very limited conditions or take place as prostitution. Competences are lost and qualifica-tions are depreciated. Problems with drugs (often as a strategy of handling and coming to terms with their living situation) arise or develop, physical burdens (cold, weather, unsufficient foodsupply, drugs) lead to serious, partly lasting, health damages. The lasting whereabouts in structurrs like these often lead to mental abnormities, the loss of motivation and meaning with life, resignation, lethargy or individual protest (the I-don't-care-effect"). Getting out of this situation or changing (improving) it is getting harder the longer it lasts.

Stefan Schneider



(10) Contacts

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10435 Berlin-Germany

foundation:

01.08.1994

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public utility:

Finanzamt für Körperschaften I

steuer-Nummer (tax-number):

672/ 51 757

chairmen/chairwoman:

Dr. Stefan Schneider
Jutta Welle
Andreas Brodthuhn

management:

board of directors

- treasurer: Ronald Hegert
- members: right now we have 17 members, 12 members was formerly homeless