



# Press Release

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## Deutsche Wohnen supports children's charity *Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk*

**Berlin, 07 June 2019.** With the support of Deutsche Wohnen, the children's charity *Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk* is distributing 60 school satchels in the multigenerational house *Buntes Haus* today to children who are starting school in Berlin-Hellersdorf.

At the time of its tenant survey in 2017, Deutsche Wohnen took the decision to donate one euro for every completed questionnaire. Numerous tenants participated in the survey, so the total sum raised was almost EUR 29,000, which the charity *Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk* is using to help finance its nationwide school satchel initiative. The distribution of satchels in Hellersdorf today is part of this initiative. The aim is to enable children in difficult financial circumstances to make a good start to their school careers. The satchels are filled with pencil cases, coloured pencils, exercise books and a gym bag.

As Stefanie Koch, Director of Deutsche Wohnen Immobilien Management GmbH, explains, "The first day at school is the beginning of an exciting new chapter in life for all children, and it is a day that children remember for the rest of their lives. So, it is all the more important that children have a school satchel. As one of the largest housing companies in the area, we would like to help families in difficult circumstances. This is why we are providing financial support to this school satchel initiative. We are delighted at this very important initiative of the *Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk* in Hellersdorf and wish all the children a successful start to their school career."

Deutsche Wohnen manages around 15,000 residential units in Hellersdorf and provides financial support to neighbourhood management work there as well as to numerous associations and institutions that are involved locally. Deutsche Wohnen also helps by making commercial units available.

Claudia Keul, from the section of the *Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk* responsible for providing support and emergency help for children, points out, "The first day at school is an extremely special event for every child. However, it puts a lot of financial strain on poor families. And a good school satchel costs a lot of money. With our school satchel initiative, we want to make day-to-day life in school easier for children from low-income families so that they don't lose the joy of learning. After all, it is these children who often find life at school more difficult than other children."

Katrin Rother, who runs the *Buntes Haus*, adds, "Child poverty in Berlin-Hellersdorf continues to be much too high. We mustn't simply accept the fact that very many children are still dependent on social benefits. As the head of the *Buntes Haus*, I am delighted at this school satchel initiative. It will give these children a good start to

their life in school and will take some of the financial pressure off their parents. I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the *Deutsches Kinderhilfswerk* for this.

## **Deutsche Wohnen**

Deutsche Wohnen is one of the leading publicly listed property companies in Germany and Europe with a business focus on managing and developing its portfolio, which consists mainly of residential properties. As at 31 March 2019, the portfolio comprised 167,100 units in total, of which 164,400 were residential and 2,700 commercial. With approximately 15,000 residential units in Marzahn-Hellersdorf, Deutsche Wohnen is one of the largest housing companies in the borough.