



## **For inclusive and resilient neighbourhoods: Caritas Community and Neighbourhood Work**

**Since 2012, the Community and Neighbourhood Work of Caritas Vienna has been committed to socially fair, lively and inclusive development of neighbourhoods and quarters in the area of the Archdiocese of Vienna. The interdisciplinary team of around 25 employees and 45 volunteers promotes empowerment, participation and solidarity among people in urban and rural communities.**

„Social inequality, exclusion and loneliness have continued to increase since the corona pandemic. The Caritas Community Work connects people, promotes their abilities and encourages health consciousness. In urban and rural neighbourhoods, we foster lively coexistences and the idea of common goods. We are happy that even in the crisis we can involve so many people, from young to old, through cross-generational projects and digital formats“, says Katharina Kirsch-Soriano da Silva, head of Caritas Community and Neighbourhood Work.

### **Community-oriented practice for social justice**

With our projects, we act in different social and spatial contexts – at the municipal, regional and European level. We develop need based and participatory activities for and with people in their living environments. A sustainable impact is possible when people become active agents and co-creators.

### **Accompanying neighbourhoods and quarters**

From „Seestadt“ to „Wildgarten“, from „Ternitz“ to „Favoriten“: The Caritas team promotes engagement in civil society, especially locally emerging initiatives and processes in various quarters. In addition, we support self-organization and the development of competences as well as the appropriation of public and common spaces.

## **Cooking as a means of communication**

Community Cooking contributes to health promotion, sustainability and diversity: intercultural cooking rounds, holiday offers for children, cooking workshops with social institutions as well as team building events for companies and the virtual exchange format „Kitchen Stories“, which exists since 2020. In 2019 alone, around 3,700 participants benefited from the 165 cooking events and its wide range of opportunities to meet and receive advice concerning healthy nutrition.

## **Neighbourhood Parents support people from different communities**

Language barriers, discrimination, a lack of social networks or being new in a place: those are challenges that can trigger uncertainties. Volunteers act as so-called “Neighbourhood Parents” and help people with different ethnic and social backgrounds, who encounter themselves in difficult life situations. Around 30-40 Neighbourhood Parents, who speak over 20 different languages, support more than 600 people every year on questions related to housing, living together and integration.

## **Enabling people like Abeer Mohammed to help**

The Caritas Community Work relies on donations in order to train volunteers to become Neighbourhood Parents: “Through my voluntary work with the Neighbourhood Parents, I learned a lot and was able to evolve. I am now passing on the knowledge and experience I have acquired to people who are in a similar situation like I was once. I want to make it easier for newcomers to get started in their new living environment,” says Abeer Mohammed.

## **More Information about Caritas Community and Neighbourhood Work:**

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