

“Wir sagen NEIN zur Gewalt gegen Frauen und Kinder.”*

Chances are, you haven't yet heard of the Autonomes Frauenhaus Erlangen. After all, as a haven for those seeking asylum from domestic violence, it is shrouded in secrecy by sheer necessity. However, when the IWG committee began considering which charities to pair up with for the upcoming silent auction, it fit the two established criteria perfectly.

The first thought was that the charity should be something local, to allow us to give back to the community that we all know and love (excluding of course rainy days or the occasional shocking service experience).

The second criterion was that the charity benefits women in some way, for obvious reasons (as a women's organization). The "Autonomes Frauenhaus" does just that, with its focus on sheltering and protecting battered women and children.

The first of its kind in Bavaria, Frauenhaus is only the second shelter Germany-wide, making it a real no-brainer in terms of whether or not it was deserving of our support and attention.

At the Frauenhaus, each woman receives a private room for herself and any child (or children) she may have. The women who run the shelter provide food, emotional support, counseling, and will even go to "Amt" appointments with victims upon request. But perhaps most importantly, if a situation arises where the victim must return to their home (for any number of reasons, i.e. for personal belongings), the women of Frauenhaus will be right there with them.

Some of our members have personally endured domestic violence, know others who have or, more likely, encounter women who suffer in silence. As such, the Frauenhaus deserves our respect and support and we are happy to announce the Autonomes Frauenhaus as this year's charity of choice. Please, let's work together to make every cent raised at the upcoming silent auction count for victims of domestic violence, specifically the women seeking shelter at the Frauenhaus, right here in our very own community. These women are our neighbors, our doctors, or maybe even our children's teachers. And now, you can make a difference in their lives.

The IWG 10th Anniversary Planning Committee

*From a recent flier produced by the Frauenhaus.

see: www.frauenhaus-erlangen.de for more information.