



Just as many grains of sand form the beach, many small contributions form the basis for a great idea. - Thank you for helping us to turn children's tears into tears of joy.

(Photo: tanialerro - Fotolia.com - 209550343_X)

You can support Bowspirit Kids with a **classic donation**. In a notice dated 25 June 2018, we were recognised as a non-profit corporation by the competent tax office in Lübeck in accordance with Section 60a (1) of the German Fiscal Code (AO), and thus donation receipts can be issued for donations in accordance with Section 10b of the German Income Tax Act (EStG).

If you don't want to donate online, your donation will reach us on the account of Bowspirit Kids gemeinnützige GmbH with the

IBAN DE42 2304 0022 0033 6263 00

at Commerzbank AG in Lübeck (BIC COBADEFFXXX). Please remember to include your full address as a reference so that our donation receipt can reach you.



Or you can get involved in the **world record attempt "the world's largest floating pinboard"**: And it is not just a corkboard with pins on a small boat. Or a pinboard that simply gets tossed into the water. No, it will be on the sides of an actual large seagoing vessel. This has never been done before and it will be a world record.



Or you can compete in the **Bowspirit Penguin Race**. - And that's how it works: Compete with someone - or even several - in a race of 10 meters - in penguin style 🐧! The winner will nominate at least three other people who will host corresponding races of grown-ups and/or kids within 24 hours. The losers donate one Euro per meter of the lost race to the Bowspirit Kids and thus help to enable sick and traumatised children a "recreation from illness".



For more information on the campaigns and other support options, please visit our website at www.bowspirit-kids.org.

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(Photo: prakasitlalao - Fotolia.com - 207012144_X)

We want to turn children's tears into tears of joy



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Sooner or later, setbacks, misfortune and crises affect everyone's life. And that's when it's good to have help at your side.

But what if that wasn't the case...?

What if you were still very little and the "grown-ups" try to do everything they can for you, but still can't make it all better...?

What if you can't just be a kid anymore...?

Wouldn't it be great if there was a place where sick and traumatised children could go to relax and unwind? Where the seriousness of the disease and the worries of family and friends could be forgotten for a time?

A place where it doesn't matter where you come from, but who you are.

We are creating exactly such a place: A floating holiday and recreation camp for sick and traumatised children. A ship that can also be used for maritime adventure-based and experiential learning programmes for kids to discover and explore the ocean.

The name **Bowspirit Kids** expresses this place.

It is an idea that will become a great one if **you** help out now.

Bowspirit Kids' Nautical Holiday Camp - A Recreation from Illness

The aim of the activities of the Bowspirit Kids Group is to establish a facility that will give sick and traumatised children and their siblings - often called the "shadow children" - the opportunity to have fun and take a recreation from the illness. Bowspirit Kids views itself as a nautical holiday camp that does not take a specific, overarching therapeutic approach, but of course includes individual therapy and treatments. Our focus is on enjoying life, having fun and being a kid.

Unfortunately children are not spared from experiencing such traumatic events as the diagnosis of a serious illness, death of a loved one or having to flee your home and country. The mental, emotional and physical stress of hospital stays, treatments and therapy is often an everyday occurrence for the child and his/her family for years. If the child has to travel far from home for the treatments, the stressful situation is exacerbated even more. Many of the young patients are not allowed to enjoy the usual childhood activities: playing, swimming, climbing and a lot more.



Whoever went through hell shall be able to be a kid again.
(Photo: Berty - Fotolia.com - 69687130_X)

There are no public organisations or legal entitlements that provide for taking a "recreation from illness". There is only one facility in Germany - based in Heidelberg and exclusively for children who have cancer - and its capacity is limited.

"Bowspirit Kids has the potential to not only brighten the lives of sick children, but also those of their families", **Elke Thompson**, member of the Board of Trustees of Bowspirit Kids, is convinced. "I am a mum and step mum to seven kids - my first husband died suddenly and unexpectedly, aged only 34, in 2009 - and I know first hand how much a life-threatening or rare, lifelong illness can turn a family's life upside down.

In 2012, I myself was diagnosed with breast cancer; the same year my then seven-year old son got the diagnosis 'narcolepsy / cataplexy'. Tests. Check-ups. Hospitals. Fear. Not knowing. Medication. Chemo. Doctors ... - that was our new normality. As much as we tried to continue 'normally' - it was impossible.

Our other children lost the part of our attention that was now taken up by fear, uncertainty, hospital appointments and treatment. The emotional stress was enormous - for everyone. Laughter almost an exception.

Bowspirit Kids would have been such a great and welcome distraction, which would have provided us with new, much needed, strength and life energy."

Founder **Michael Speckenbach** (49) has hung up his lawyer's robe and used the proceeds from the sale of his house. "I went 'all in' - as the saying goes so well in poker. Everything that I have and everything that I am and everything that I know thanks to an excellent education, which my parents kindly made possible for me, has flowed into the base of Bowspirit Kids."

You think that's crazy?

"If Walt Disney is right with his statement

'If you can dream it, you can do it',

then I am not crazy, but at best a person with a vision. A vision that - unlike a dream - can become reality", says Speckenbach. "Our potential young guests, some of whom literally went through hell, simply need a chance. This chance is Bowspirit Kids. And I stand - as I did in court at the time - with my name for it."

What? How? Why?
In moving pictures:

