“Carers’ Association”

Working for and with informal carers

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Background

- Approx. 20% of the concerned families benefit from care and social services
- 42% of the caregivers reported that they can not afford community services (i.e. home care)
Background

- Care-giving by informal carers is the strongest pillar of our care system

- Decision makers rely on these “natural” non-budgeted services
The situation of informal care-givers

- The care of family members
  - is hard work,
  - is little noticed in the public debate,
  - is little appreciated,
  - is unpaid
  - competes against other demands in life
The situation of informal care-givers

If no or to little support is being provided, the heavy physical, mental, social and financial burden of informal care-givers can result in health problems and need for long-term care of their own.
Care-givers need …

- financial, emotional and practical support.

e.g.:
- education, information, training
- public recognition
- support and relief by day-care-facilities, more flexible services, more and affordable short-term-care facilities
Who benefits from the “Carers’ Association”?

- People who care for family members/friends at home
- People who care for and assist family members/friends in residential care facilities
- Others who are involved in care and assistance
Who benefits from the “Carers’ Association”?

- People interested in care issues
- Self-help groups
- Organizations in the field of social services
- Other communities
- Insurance companies, enterprises etc.
- Opinion leaders and decision makers
What does the Carers’ Association stand for?

- Give informal caregivers a voice
- Annual valorisation of care allowances
- Harmonization of services and service fees
- Structured information on all services
- Better compatibility between informal care and career
- Improved support through networking and counselling
The role of the Austrian Red Cross

- Support an Austrian-wide and working community structure

- Give support in public relations with the aim of raising awareness on the situation of informal caregivers as well as gaining members
The role of the Austrian Red Cross

- Providing essential infrastructure (conference rooms etc.)

- Provide targeted information and exchange opportunities concerning existing services
Organization of the association

- Members
- Board of directors
- Advisory board
Members

Members of the association are:

- **Natural persons:**
  - Full and supporting members
  - Honorary members

- **Legal persons:**
  - Small association/big association
  - Full and supporting members

- Each member has 1 vote
Thanks for your attention!

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