

Annual summary

Grants overview 2023















We have a duty to
manage what is
entrusted to us to the
best of our ability.

Ole Kirk Kristiansen
LEGO® company founder



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Preface

At Ole Kirk's Fond, we want to contribute to improving the quality of life for children and their families and, in particular, support and help those who are especially vulnerable. We believe in widespread cooperation across public sector organisations, civil society and foundations. It is also very important to us to involve the people this is all about. So we listen to adults and children alike, and make it a priority to involve them when we launch major projects or initiatives.

With that in mind, it has been a great pleasure – all the way through 2023 – to observe the dedicated work with patients, relatives and staff involved in developing the user experience at Mary Elizabeth's Hospital. The user experience is a key element in fulfilling our vision of creating a ground-breaking hospital for children, young people, expectant mothers and their families. This year, construction has really taken off too. Before the summer holidays we celebrated a topping-out ceremony, and the building's façade was completed by the end of the year.

When launching our 'A childhood free from domestic violence' programme in the spring, we listened with deep respect to the experiences of children and adults who have experienced or continue to experience domestic violence. This independent programme initiative also involves the dedicated employees in municipalities, NGOs, the police, healthcare etc., who go to work every day to make a difference to children and families experiencing domestic violence.



As a foundation, we set great store in being flexible, ready for action and ready for change when a new situation arises.

Our ambition for the programme is to create new ways and solutions in cooperation with all those who work with and are around the children growing up in a home with violence. Approaching this systemically, over the next 10 years we want to help to unite good forces around a common understanding of the root causes of the problem. In this way, we can work together to develop preventive measures aimed at breaking the cycle of violence. This will give new generations a better chance of growing up without domestic violence.

We are living in a time of stretched resources and the Danish welfare model is under pressure. This calls for new ways of tackling the problems and, of course, as a foundation, we also want to contribute. Breaking the cycle of violence will take many years, and we believe it is important for us as a foundation to prioritise the long haul, but at the same time there must also be room for shorter-term projects and initiatives. Therefore, we remain intent on supporting the organisations, volunteers and passionate people who make a positive difference every day and give a helping hand to children, young people and their families with expert advice, activities, spaces for communities and much more.



For Ole Kirk's Fond, 2023 has been another year of giving grants to many worthwhile projects – large and small, and run by many skilled professionals and passionate people. We try to stick to our ambition to always be relevant to our context here and now, and to contribute to what is happening. We believe that Mary Elizabeth's Hospital and 'A childhood free from domestic violence' are ways of challenging how we can create innovation for lasting change in cooperation with many dedicated partners. At the same time, we keep an eye on current needs, such as the persistently large number of Danes facing financial challenges, and for that reason we doubled our outlay on Christmas aid in 2023.

We hope that the overview of grants in 2023 will provide a clear insight into the broad scope of the foundation's grants and work over the past year, and how – through many positive projects and collaborations – the foundation has contributed

to creating quality of life for children and their families – in Billund, in Denmark and in the hotspots of the world.

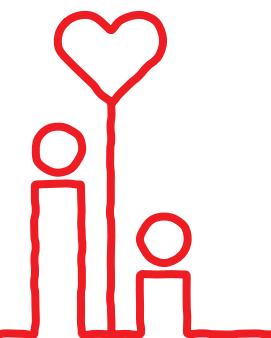
The total sum of our 2023 grants was DKK 327 m and below, we offer an insight into the year – in terms of both numbers and supported projects.

Happy reading!

Karin Skjødt Hindkjær
Managing Director

Kjeld Kirk Kristiansen
Chairman of the Board

Billund, March 2024



About Ole Kirk's Fond

We further the quality of life for children and their families

Ole Kirk's Fond is a non-profit foundation that works to support children and their families, giving them a better chance for positive development in their lives.

Community and trust

We engage in a number of long-term collaborations and partnerships with other organisations, where community and co-creation are keywords when it comes to creating the best results for children and families.

Mutual trust is a precondition of our work – irrespective of whether the project is large and complex or a small donation to people with a burning enthusiasm for a project.



Founded in memory of the founder of the LEGO® company

Ole Kirk's Fond was set up in 1964 in memory of the founder of the LEGO company, Ole Kirk Kristiansen, to make Billund an attractive place for LEGO employees and their families.



Local, national and global

Ole Kirk's Fond was set up in Billund, where we also belong today. We still support keen local people and communities in and around Billund but focus particularly on creating safe surroundings, well-being and development opportunities for children throughout Denmark.

On a global level we support humanitarian aid through Danish partners – primarily through two funding pools.

Focus areas of Ole Kirk's Fond

We support and participate in projects that help vulnerable children, as we are particularly focused on them. At the same time, we are part of the broad, preventive efforts that enhance a child's well-being and life chances.



Cultural

We support cultural projects which benefit many people – particularly projects developed with and for children, which provide frameworks for positive interactions.



Education

We support training and educational initiatives that bring children and young people together around communities, dissemination and shared interests. The foundation also has a long tradition of awarding travel bursaries to students of educational theory and practice, who will be travelling abroad to work with children.



Locally – Billund

We support local people in Billund Municipality who are keen to contribute to our community through their ideas, enthusiasm and local involvement.



Social

The social area is the foundation's largest funding area, where we particularly prioritise support and resources for children living in families with domestic violence, and Mary Elizabeth's Hospital.

'A childhood free from domestic violence'

In 2023 we launched a long-term systemic initiative designed to bring together all the key players in the field. Our ambition of 'A childhood free from domestic violence' is to prevent domestic violence against children, mitigate its consequences when it has happened, and stop the violence from being passed down from one generation to the next.

Mary Elizabeth's Hospital

In 2016 we entered into a partnership with the Capital Region and Rigshospitalet to create a ground-breaking hospital for children, young people, expectant mothers and their families. The hospital is scheduled to welcome its first patients in 2026.



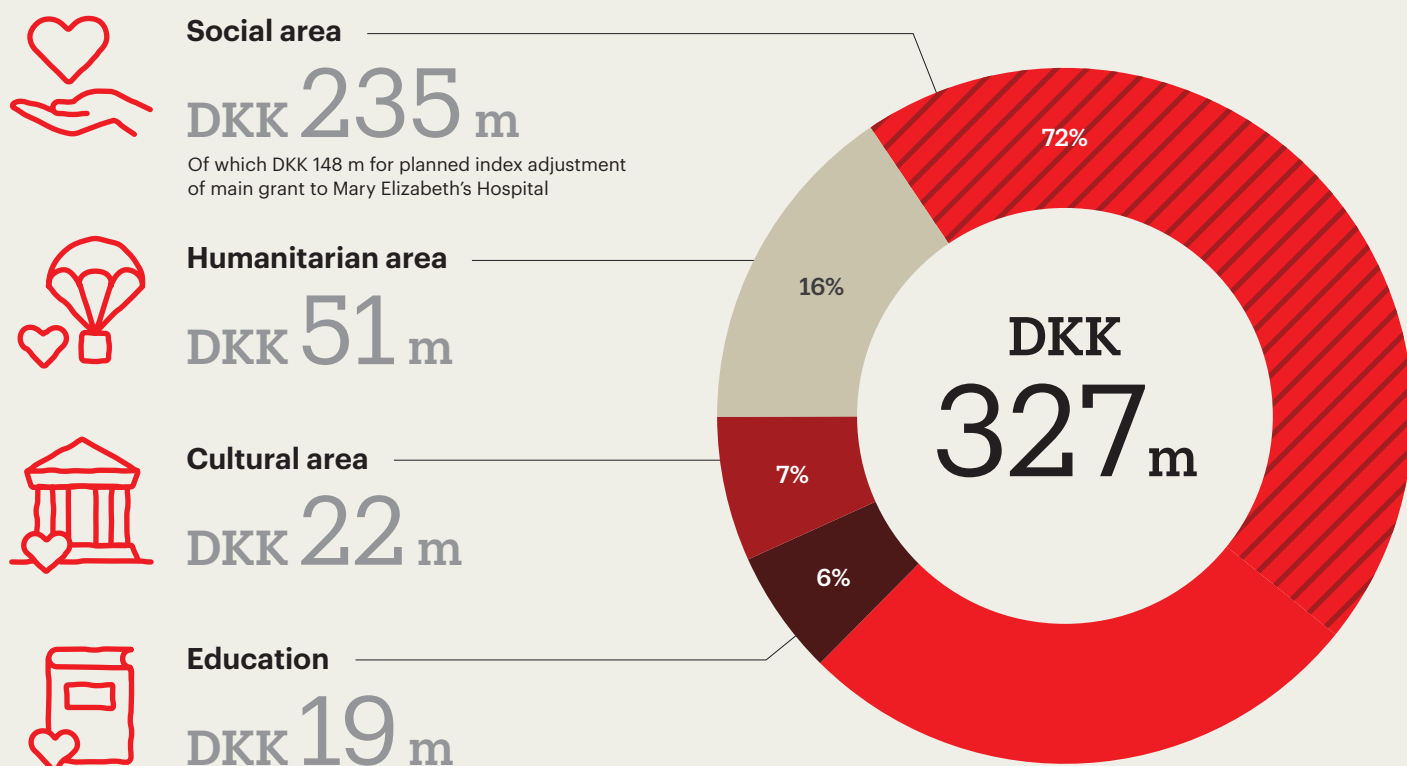
Humanitarian

We primarily support humanitarian work based on two funding pools in ongoing co-operation with partners. The funding pools both address the acute needs that arise in connection with man-made or natural disasters.



2023 in figures

Level of grants per funding area in 2023



Approved applications

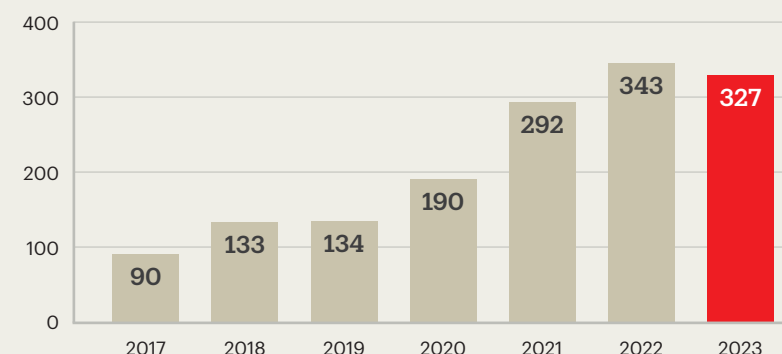
280



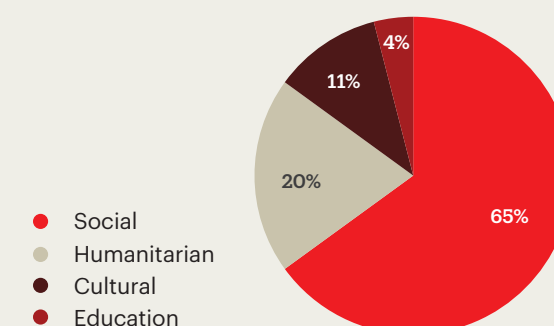
Number of applications

637

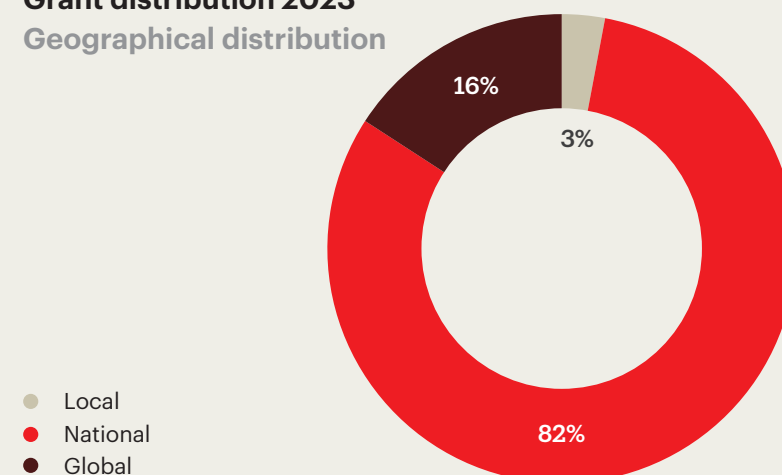
Level of grants 2017–2023 DKK m



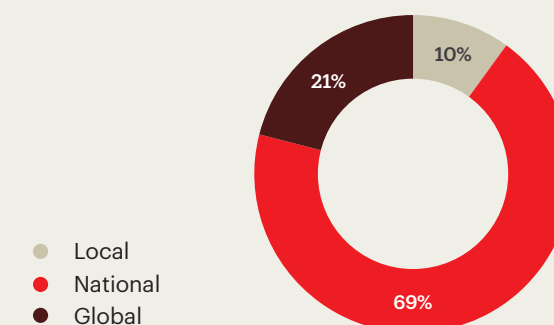
Average grant distribution 2019–2023



Grant distribution 2023 Geographical distribution



Geographical average 2019–2023



The foundation's resources

Common to all the grants from Ole Kirk's Fond is the fact that they are made possible by the profit that the employees of the LEGO Group and KIRKBI help create. The total grant sum is primarily made up of funds from the LEGO Foundation and from the Kirk Kristiansen family's holding and investment company, KIRKBI, as well as investment return from the original capital of Ole Kirk's Fond. Together we make a difference for children and their families.

In 2023, Ole Kirk's Fond received DKK 366 m from the LEGO Foundation and DKK 10 m from KIRKBI. The foundation's administrative costs are borne by KIRKBI.

Funds from the LEGO Foundation
(25% ownership of LEGO Group)

Funds from KIRKBI A/S
(75% ownership of LEGO Group)

Investment return
from original capital

Ole Kirk's Fond

We support projects and enter into partnerships, where working together makes us stronger, enabling us to improve the quality of life for children and their families.

Social area

Social initiatives represent on average $\frac{2}{3}$ of the total grants and are the foundation's largest funding area.

The social area holds a place of special importance in Ole Kirk's Fond and it is the largest funding area. Here we focus on projects which help vulnerable children – without forgetting our widespread, preventive efforts to strengthen children's well-being and opportunities for development in general.

In addition to the theme of 'Children living in families with domestic violence', which is the main priority of the foundation, we also work in four other areas:

- 'Children living in families with addictions'
- 'Children of parents suffering from mental illness'
- 'Babies and toddlers in vulnerable families'
- 'Children and young people who are not thriving'

Here, initiatives and long-term solutions are developed in cooperation with others – together we are stronger.



Integrating refugee families into Danish leisure-time activities with DRC Danish Refugee Council

DRC is behind the 'Well-being through leisure communities' initiative to help refugee families get better integrated into leisure associations and activities in Denmark. In part, this involves counselling and guidance of volunteer trainers, local sports associations and, not least, parents, so that they become more capable at supporting their children in participating in leisure activities.

 DKK 4,500,000

Preventing mental suffering, with Kirkens Korshær (DanChurchSocial)

The 'Family groups' project aims to prevent and address mental suffering in children aged 0–3 living in vulnerable and socially disadvantaged families. This initiative starts with the parents, who need to be supported in developing their parenting skills and generally coping with life in a safe environment on an equal footing with others.

 DKK 5,108,800

'Fri af Misbrug'

The organisation working to combat addictions, 'Fri af Misbrug', offers free, confidential and caring counselling to families with children where a parent has alcohol or substance abuse problems. 'Fri af Misbrug' helps mothers and fathers to create a safe childhood for their children. To support this important work, the foundation is helping the association with capacity building. Business development and increased fund-raising are two ways of accomplishing this.

 DKK 5,000,000

GAME for vulnerable children and young people

GAME aims to create lasting social change through street sports such as street basketball, street football, dance and parkour for children and young people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods throughout Denmark and in street sports centres in Copenhagen, Esbjerg, Aalborg and Viborg. Young volunteer GAME Playmakers are being trained as leaders and role models who organise the local street sports initiatives.

 DKK 2,500,000

New Danish centre of excellence at Copenhagen University

The establishment of a national centre of excellence in the field of young children will focus on early intervention and family research, including quality assurance of uniform and nationwide early detection and action in relation to young children.

Poor well-being in young children can have consequences in terms of their physical and mental health as well as lead to social problems later in life. Therefore, early detection of failure to thrive and effective preventive interventions are of crucial importance.

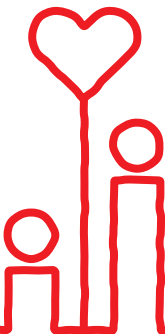
 DKK 12,497,000



Grant recipient	Grant approved for	Amount (DKK)
University of Copenhagen	Establishment of a national centre of excellence, the Centre for Early Intervention and Family Studies	12,497,000
ADHD Centre	Operational support for the Centre	6,230,000
Kirkens Korshær (DanChurchSocial)	Family groups: Prevention of mental suffering in children aged 0–3 in vulnerable families	5,108,800
‘Fri af Misbrug’	Capacity building of family counselling	5,000,000
‘Foreningen til Støtte for Mødre og Børn’ (support association for mothers and children)	Grants for vulnerable families with children	4,950,000
DRC Danish Refugee Council	The ‘Well-being through leisure communities’ initiative for children of other ethnic backgrounds	4,500,000
Danish People’s Aid	Christmas aid for financially challenged families	4,000,000
The Danish National Center for Grief	Identifying and supporting children and young relatives	3,979,000
Social work of the YMCA	Go Gaming: Leisure communities for vulnerable young people	3,000,000
Sisters against violence and control	‘Standing together for a life of freedom’ – prevention of social control among young girls	3,000,000
Danish Cancer Society	‘Knæk Cancer’ (stop cancer)	3,000,000
LOKK – National organisation of women’s shelters	Development of industry standard model for working with children at women’s shelters	2,595,000
GAME	Sports and leisure communities to promote well-being for children and young people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods	2,500,000
Center for Familieudvikling (family development centre)	Preliminary study on public education efforts	2,050,000
Danish People’s Aid	Holiday support for vulnerable families with children	2,000,000
Børn og Unges Trivsel (well-being of children and young people)	Project UNIK for children and young people who are not thriving	1,996,000
Mary Fonden	Update of the ‘Kammagiitta’ program (anti-bullying in Greenland)	1,670,000
Save the Children Denmark	Media competition for schools 2024	1,433,910
Mothers’ Aid foundation	Christmas aid for vulnerable families with children	1,400,000
Justitia	Legal investigation of reported concerns in families living with domestic violence	1,341,900
Fonden for Socialt Ansvar (social responsibility foundation)	‘Dads matter’ – a parental leave support initiative for fathers	1,033,500
Danish People’s Aid	Starting school support for financially challenged families	1,000,000
Danish Red Cross	Christmas aid for financially challenged families	1,000,000
The Salvation Army	Christmas aid for financially challenged families	1,000,000
Danish Red Cross Youth	Holiday camps for vulnerable children and young people	924,000
‘Lev Uden Vold’ hotline (life without violence)	Mapping of municipalities’ practices regarding children living in families with domestic violence	783,600
ADHD Centre	Implementation of ‘Invest in Play’	780,000
Blue Cross Denmark	Holiday camps for vulnerable children and young people	700,000
Ordkælv Forlag (non-profit publisher)	Book project – ‘Young people’s voices for a childhood free from domestic violence’	693,000
Blue Cross	Christmas aid	600,000
The Danish Mental Health Foundation (Psykiatrifonden)	Counselling – developing counselling with a special focus on children and young people	500,000
Danish Red Cross	Holiday support for vulnerable families	500,000
Save the Children Denmark	Preliminary project to develop a simulation tool for practising conversations with children	500,000
Landsforeningen Talentspejderne (Danish association of talent scouts)	Mentoring programme for vulnerable young people	225,000
Mellemfolkeligt Samvirke (ActionAidDenmark)	Communities spanning: Activities for children and young people from disadvantaged neighbourhoods	150,000
Danish Childhood Cancer Foundation	Coherent early intervention for pre-school children with cancer and their families	150,000



Grant recipient	Grant approved for	Amount (DKK)
Danish People's Aid	Confirmation support for financially challenged families	150,000
Børnesagens Fællesråd (joint council for children's affairs)	Leisure and educational grants	150,000
Børnesagens Fællesråd	Christmas aid	150,000
Børnesagens Fællesråd	Confirmation aid	150,000
Fonden for Socialt Ansvar (social responsibility foundation)	Certification of new study teams and development of online teaching materials	150,000
KIT (integration service of the churches)	Christmas aid for financially challenged families	150,000
The Danish Center of Psychotraumatology, SDU	Validation of screening and assessment tools to identify complex PTSD	150,000
HjerteRum (young women's fellowship)	Activities for vulnerable girls	150,000
Pårørende Netværket – Misbrugsportalen (network for relatives – the addictions portal)	Effort targeted families living with addiction	150,000
Parasport Denmark	Tumbling Stars – sports programme for children with disabilities	150,000
Forælder Fonden (Parents' Foundation)	Counselling and support for vulnerable single parents	150,000
Blue Cross	Stjernestunder (magnificent moments) – aftercare for vulnerable children	150,000
Diversity Works	Developing and operating 'Diversity Works', for children and young people	150,000
CEFO – parenthood centre	FIF for childbirth and parenting – extra grant for evaluation of the project	100,000
DrugRebels association	Roadshows in schools and colleges	96,000
KoloFRI foundation	Shelter for respite care	75,000
Pårørende Netværket – Misbrugsportalen (network for relatives – the addictions portal)	Christmas aid – and the Christmas line for financially challenged families living with addiction	75,000
LOS – national social services organisation	Christmas presents for children in care	55,000
Veteranskytterne (Danish Wounded Warriors)	Summer camp for ex-services families	40,000
National camp for children and young people with hearing loss	National camp for children and young people with hearing loss	40,000
Børn & Unges Mærkesager (children & young people's key issues)	Nonfirmation/confirmation food for vulnerable families 2023/2024	40,000
The association for the Children's Camp on Langeland	Operation and maintenance of Søgård Hovedgård	35,000
Festivand	Festival for developmentally challenged young people	30,000
The 'Settlementet' Foundation in Vesterbro	Counselling and support for vulnerable families	28,000
Fonden Menighedsplejen i Danmark (church care foundation)	Christmas aid for single parents facing financial challenge	25,000
The Danish Dwarf Association (DVF)	Covering travel expenses for the needs of less-well-off families	25,000
LOKK – National organisation of women's shelters	Establishment of cooperation with the Agency of Family Law	25,000
Christian IX 24-hour care centre	Learning café and activity space	25,000
Danner	Establishment of cooperation with the Agency of Family Law	25,000
Nørremarkskirkens Menighedspleje (church aid)	Christmas event for vulnerable families	20,000
Koglen secure care institution	Sensory garden for vulnerable young people	15,000
Støtteforeningen Hjælp til Hjælp ('help to help' support association)	Christmas aid for vulnerable families	10,000



Long-term initiatives in the social area

In many cases, the foundation’s grants span several years, with results gradually becoming apparent during the grant period. Here are three examples of initiatives that we have been particularly engaged in during 2023. All initiatives are based on long-standing cooperation.

Focus on children of parents with mental illness

‘Ask more – for less on your mind’ is a partnership with The Danish Mental Health Fund (Psykiatrifonden) and Children’s Welfare (Børns Vilkår), established in 2021 with the overall vision of supporting children whose mother or father has a mental illness. The partnership works with structural changes in society and taboo-busting campaigns so that children growing up in families with mental illness get the right help. In 2023, the partnership published a report which points to the need for professionals to take a consistent, systematic approach to children who are relatives of parents with mental illness. 2023 was also the year when the partnership launched campaigns encouraging adults to get involved in children’s lives and ask how they are feeling.

♥ Read more at www.sporgmere.dk

‘Shortcut – to your child’s digital life’

Back in 2020, the foundation entered into a major venture with the Danish Consumer Council THINK to establish an agency with the aim of developing and managing initiatives to equip parents to better support and guide their children in navigating digital media.

In 2023, this resulted in the launch of the one-stop portal Genvej.org, which contains tailored knowledge, good advice and specific tools to help parents support their children’s digital lives and all that this can entail in terms of both digital challenges, involving anything from bullying to data harvesting, positive digital communities and learning arenas. Save the Children Denmark, Children’s Welfare, the Mary Foundation and The Media Council for Children and Young People are knowledge partners in the project.

♥ Read more at www.genvej.org



More people living with grief being offered help

Since 2014, we have been working with The Danish National Center for Grief on the development of care manuals for children and young people, being proactive about detection, and offering specific therapy sessions for children and young people who have lost a parent or are living with a seriously chronically ill parent.

Thanks to a grant from the foundation in 2022, the centre was able to open a new branch in Vejle in June 2023. This was an important milestone in a long-standing venture, which specifically means that grieving children, young people and their families in the Southern Denmark Region now have local access to counselling and treatment.

♥ Read more at www.sorgcenter.dk



'A childhood free from domestic violence'

In spring 2023, Ole Kirk's Fond launched a new, long-term systemic programme: 'A childhood free from domestic violence'. This independent programme will bring together a large number of players across welfare areas and disciplines with a common goal: that fewer children in Denmark grow up with violence impinging on their lives.



Ole Kirk's Fond has launched this programme because today, on average, two to four children in each school class in Denmark experience domestic violence. At the same time, as a society, we identify and help only one in ten children living with domestic violence. Children who grow up with domestic violence experience great loneliness, have a greater risk of self-harm, abuse and crime, and a higher suicide rate. Ole Kirk's Fond wants to help change this through the new programme.

A difficult problem to solve

Children exposed to domestic violence impact society across sectors. Therefore, part of the solution lies in creating much greater cooperation across disciplines and sectors such as the police, municipal administrations, health services, the judiciary and many more stakeholders.

Ole Kirk's Fond has committed to contributing to 'A childhood free from domestic violence' for at least ten years.

"It isn't easy to tackle a problem of such complexity as 'children living with domestic violence'. So, we realise we are in this for the long haul," says Karin Skjødt Hindkjær, managing director, Ole Kirk's Fond.



Children who grow up in domestic violence thrive less well than other children. This applies whether or not the children are directly victims of violence or witness violence within their families. The more violent episodes a child is exposed to in childhood, the greater the risk of profound mental suffering later in life.

Line Rasmussen
Project Manager, social area, Ole Kirk's Fond

Not enough being done to help children living with domestic violence

Even though there are currently many initiatives working with children who are living with violence, it has not been possible to get to grips with the problem. One of the reasons is that most of the current interventions only involve help to mitigate the consequences of violence. Very few initiatives are about preventing violence from occurring or escalating, if it is present in a family.

"Besides needing much more in the way of preventive initiatives, we also need to identify more of the children living with violence than we do today. As a society, we must do better when it comes to providing rapid help and protection. One way to stop and prevent more cases of violence is also to provide help to the perpetrator, just as we help addicts to get clean from substance abuse," says Line Rasmussen, project manager, Ole Kirk's Fond.

Programme launch

Ole Kirk's Fond launched 'A childhood free from domestic violence' on 1 March 2023. Initial preparatory work involved listening to the stories of children and adults who have experienced or continue to experience domestic violence. And listening to the skilled employees in municipalities, NGOs, the police, healthcare etc., who go to work every day to make a difference to children experiencing domestic violence.

When the initial structures were in place, the people working with the programme and a large number of leaders in government, municipalities, regions, police, healthcare and NGOs came together for the first stakeholder meeting. Based on research and insights from practice, the stakeholders held preliminary discussions on the root causes of violence, retention mechanisms and how to use this knowledge to devise better solutions for children living with domestic violence.

"We must break the circle of violence – and no one can solve that problem alone. Therefore, it was good to experience different professional groups involved with children exposed to violence thinking beyond the boundaries of their own field and professionalism in order to understand the other stakeholders. It is only through joint, coherent efforts across sectors that we will be able to provide better help to children living with domestic violence," managing director Karin Skjødt Hindkjær explains.



Mary Elizabeth's Hospital

Rigshospitalet for Children,
Teens and Expecting Families



Ole Kirk's Fond, the Capital Region of Denmark and Rigshospitalet have joined forces to create a ground-breaking hospital, where new ideas will be implemented to form a cocoon around the family's life and needs at a vulnerable time. With world-class research and highly specialised staff, the resident children, young people and expectant mothers will receive treatment at the highest international level – and all in an atmosphere in which play and cohesive care enhance quality of life before, during and after a hospital stay.

Progress in 2023

Construction progressed quickly and safely in 2023. A fast pace has been maintained since the foundation stone was laid in spring 2022. One storey every six weeks and then the shell was there, ready for a topping-out ceremony in June 2023. The façade cladding has also been fitted all around. This was a key construction milestone, achieved through good cooperation between contractors and project management, as well as a huge effort by the approximately 200 tradespeople working on the construction site daily. The hospital is still on schedule to open to patients in 2026.

A coherent experience for users

The partnership is committed to developing a ground-breaking user experience at Mary Elizabeth's Hospital, based on treating the needs of the whole person. The aim is to ensure that patients and their families experience a safe and coherent patient pathway, and that the staff have the best possible conditions for success.

The user experience is not just about the physical setting and environment. It is also about the culture being created in the new hospital, the way staff work and their approach to families.

One focus of the Mary Elizabeth's Hospital is to ensure a playful approach to children – to explore together how aspects of play can support a positive, holistic hospital experience. It is essential to integrate play into as many aspects of the hospital experience as possible, focusing on the child's needs. Because even though children are ill, they still play and still need a setting that is conducive to play.



The topping-out ceremony in 2023 was an important milestone in the project, and together with our partners it was a welcome opportunity to pay tribute to the tradespeople and the enormous efforts expended on the building day by day, and to celebrate successful cooperation.

Lars Hyldgaard Olesen
Mary Elizabeth's Hospital Programme Director, Ole Kirk's Fond



Topping-out ceremony for Mary Elizabeth's Hospital

Excavators and construction cranes have barely stopped, and tradespeople and construction workers on the site have had just as much to see to since the foundation stone was laid last spring. It therefore came as a well-deserved break when construction halted briefly on 7 June 2023 and the gates were opened to the guests invited to celebrate the impressive efforts of the tradesmen, and collaboration with the contractors and other partners.

In addition to tradesmen, business partners, staff and representatives of the partners, H.M. Queen Mary also participated in the topping-out ceremony alongside currently and formerly hospitalised children and families.

Humanitarian area

We primarily support humanitarian work based on two funding pools that we continuously replenish. The funding pools both address the acute needs that arise in connection with man-made or natural disasters.

The principles behind the funding pools

The basic principles behind both funding pools are speed and agility. The funds can be activated at very short notice for acute and life-saving humanitarian aid. The preconditions for quick action are a solid cooperation agreement, a high degree of trust and regular, close dialogue between us and our partners.



The Acute Funding Pool

Is activated during humanitarian refugee crises. The funding pool was established together with the Danish Refugee Council.



The Disaster Funding Pool

Is activated during humanitarian crises in the aftermath of natural disasters. The funding pool was established together with the Danish Red Cross.

In 2023, the foundation contributed DKK 15 m to the pool.



Libya

Floods
DKK 2,000,000



Floods
DKK 1,000,000



Sudan

Civil war
DKK 3,900,000



Central African Republic

Civil war
DKK 2,900,000



Türkiye & Syria

Earthquake
DKK 4,500,000



Earthquake
DKK 3,000,000



Nepal

Earthquake
DKK 1,000,000



Myanmar

Cyclones
DKK 1,200,000



Yemen

Floods
DKK 1,400,000



Danmarks Indsamling 2023

Ole Kirk's Fond has supported Danmarks Indsamling in co-operation with the LEGO® Group for many years. In recent years we have involved KIRKBI and LEGO® employees in the collection effort in the form of activities which trigger a donation. Our employees' enthusiastic engagement meant that we were able to donate a total of DKK 3,006,300 to Danmarks Indsamling in 2023. The money goes to a wide range of Danish humanitarian organisations, all working to distribute aid to some of the world's most vulnerable children and their families.

Other humanitarian efforts in 2023

Extra emergency aid to the people of Ukraine

The war between Russia and Ukraine continues to call for humanitarian aid and support. On the anniversary of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, Ole Kirk's Fond therefore donated an additional DKK 20 m to be distributed between the two existing partners of the foundation, DRC Danish Refugee Council and the Danish Red Cross, for their relief efforts in Ukraine.

Humanitarian aid to the Middle East

Due to the acute humanitarian crisis that arose in the wake of the escalating conflict between Israel and Hamas, Ole Kirk's Fond decided to grant DKK 10 m to the foundation's permanent partner, the Danish Red Cross. The funding has been used in collaboration with the Palestine Red Crescent Society, the International Red Cross and Magen David Adom.

Cultural area

We support cultural projects benefiting many people, and prioritise initiatives that involve children and young people – and projects that provide a good framework for communication and positive interaction.

In the cultural area, both higher and lower funding was granted in 2023. For the majority of the projects, the common denominator is that they are projects that bring children and young people together in communicating stories and topics relevant to society as well as other common interests involving music and culture, for example.



Grant recipient	Grant approved for	Amount (DKK)
The Danish Bible Society	New authorised translation of the Bible	5,000,000
Dansk Skoleskak (Danish Scholastic Chess Federation)	Establishment of the House of Chess	4,000,000
Deep Forest Art Land – Skovsnogen	Establishment of classrooms and teaching rooms	3,000,000
YMCA and YWCA in Denmark	Children's Folk High School in Kolding and Amager	2,800,000
DKM (the Danish Church Media Centre)	Anchoring the 'Children's Service' initiative throughout Denmark	930,000
Viborg Museum	Additional grant for the 'When God learned to speak Danish' exhibition	150,000
Foreningen Lege- og aktivitetspark Andekæret (Andekæret play and activity park association)	Establishment of an activity park	150,000
HEART – Herning Museum of Contemporary Art	Exhibition featuring Alfons Åberg	150,000
The Workers Museum	Exhibition and teaching	150,000
The Danish Architecture Centre	'Aware' exhibition	150,000
The Danish Welfare Museum	Exhibition and communication materials for 'Young voices on the fate of people in the poor house'	150,000
Dortheasminde Children's Farm	Recreational area for families	100,000
ArtWeek Kerteminde	ArtWeek Kerteminde 2023/2024	100,000
Dressurens Venner (friends of dressage)	Dressurens Venner Cup for children and young people	70,000
Danish String Quartet	DSQ Academy 2023	60,000
Anmo Film & Media	Documentary – 'Drømmen om opera' (the dream of opera)	50,000
Danish Schools of Music and Culture	Music school days at Tivoli 2024	40,000
JazzDanmark	The Jazzdalen 2024 summer festival for children and young people	25,000
Grundtvig Church	Hymnals for worship services in Greenlandic	15,998
Landsorganisationen Musik & Ungdom (National Music & Youth organisation)	Vesterlund Music Course 2024 for children and young people	15,000
The Hans Christian Andersen Parade players' association	Cultural project for vulnerable children and young people	10,000

Construction of The Shelter in Deep Forest Art Land

Deep Forest Art Land is an excursion spot that makes art and nature accessible to the many people, as families, friends and school groups etc. can go on an excursion to this area.

The construction of a new gathering place – The Shelter – intended for the school service at the site, etc. The Shelter will consist of an open workshop and multi-rooms, outside and inside, with space for creating and experimenting. Here children and young people can meet and work with art and nature in a non-committal and non-performance-promoting environment that will help promote reflection and dialogue about art.

 DKK 3,000,000



Establishment of Skakkens Hus – hjernens motionscenter® (the house of chess – fitness centre for the brain) with Dansk Skoleskak

The establishment of the House of Chess reflects the desire to create a place where children and young people – and multi-generations – can meet physically with a common interest in chess to become part of a community where learning through play is the focal point. The initiative will help to promote well-being and education of children and young people through activities and communities – not least for vulnerable, reflective children and young people. The House of Chess opens in 2024.

 DKK 4,000,000

Education

We support training and educational initiatives that bring children and young people together around communities, dissemination and shared interests.

This was also true of 2023, when the foundation supported a few major national projects as well as a number of smaller projects on themes of interest to selected groups of children and young people.

The foundation also has a long tradition of supporting students of educational theory and practice, who will be travelling abroad to work with children in an educational setting that differs from Danish parameters.

In 2023, the foundation awarded a total of 120 study travel bursaries to young students of educational theory and practice from all over Denmark through collaboration with University College South Denmark and by awarding grants directly to the students.



Language camp 2024 for young language enthusiasts at Hjørring Gymnasium

For the past 10 years, STX & HF in collaboration with Aalborg University has held a nationwide talent event for upper-secondary school students who are particularly keen on and proficient in languages. At the language camp, they get the opportunity to meet other young people who also love languages, practise using spoken languages in different authentic situations and, in encounters with other exciting language profiles, stay inspired for a future in languages.

 **DKK 20,000**

Cooperation with the National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark (Danmarks Idrætsforbund) on the School Olympics 2025–2028

With support from Ole Kirk's Fond, the School Olympics final was held in the Capital of Children – Billund – with more than 7,000 participating school pupils in classes 4–8 from all over Denmark. Almost 500 volunteers, including local school

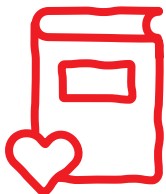
pupils, pensioners and LEGO employees, helped ensure a good experience for the participating children. Billund's last year of hosting the finals is 2024.

The foundation has chosen to continue financial aid for the School Olympics in the period 2025–2028 and thus to continue to support this project, where sport and positive communities are the focal point for creating good experiences for children and young people from all over Denmark.

 **DKK 12,000,000**



Grant recipient	Grant approved for	Amount (DKK)
National Olympic Committee and Sports Confederation of Denmark (Danmarks Idrætsforbund)	School Olympics 2025–2028	12,000,000
JP/Politikens Hus	Media competition for schools 2025–2027	3,500,000
Maternity Foundation	Safe Delivery Programme – training of healthcare professionals	2,600,000
LøkkeFonden	Boys' Academy 2024–2026	2,250,000
Students of educational theory and practice	120 student travel bursaries (@ DKK 5,000)	600,000
University College South Denmark	Scholarship scheme for students of educational theory and practice at UC SYD	110,000
UWC Danmark	2023–2025 cohort being sent out	100,000
Sommerskole Tasilaq	Summer school for Greenlandic children	25,000
Hjørring Gymnasium and HF	Language camp 2024	20,000
The Technical University of Denmark (DTU) Bioengineering	Biotech Academy Camp 2023	20,000
Skanderborg Deanery	Educational materials for pupils with autism	20,000
Polit Case Competition	Case competitions about economic issues	20,000
International Medical Cooperation Committee	Training seminar for volunteer teachers	19,800



Locally



We support local people who are keen to contribute to our community through their ideas, enthusiasm, and local involvement, to benefit the many, particularly children and young people, in and around Billund.

In 2023, the foundation allocated grants to a wide range of projects locally. The common feature of many of the grants is that they are given to projects that support culture and leisure in local communities. In addition, the foundation supported many projects during 2023 that help create a positive environment and experiences for local people who are vulnerable or disadvantaged.

Renovation of Foreningshuset Kærhuset

After 40 years of use, Kærhuset in Billund is in need of interior refurbishment to help give its many users the best possible setting. In that way the centre can continue to be a local gathering point for activities for children, young people, family clubs and voluntary associations – and hopefully also create new activities for the people of Billund.

 **DKK 2,567,350**

Focus on young people with disabilities in Frivilligcenter Billund

The Frivilligcenter Billund project wants to pave the way for more young people with disabilities and mental vulnerabilities to take part and engage as volunteers in local clubs and associations in a safe environment. A local project worker will therefore serve as the link between STU schools (special youth education) and local clubs and associations in Billund Municipality.

 **DKK 572,000**

Grant recipient	Grant approved for	Amount (DKK)
Kærhuset Billund	Centre refurbishment	2,567,350
Stenderup-Krogager Leisure and Cultural Centre	Extension of Teglgaardshallen	1,500,000
Grene Parish Council	Employment of a singing teacher for the church's choristers	780,000
Frivilligcenter Billund	'Volunteering together' – involving young people with disabilities in voluntary associations	572,000
Café Jydepotten	Child and family work for vulnerable people	187,200
Café Parasollen	Grants for the recruitment of a social worker for drop-in centre	150,000
Børnenes Univers Grindsted	Equipment for the daycare centre's playground	150,000
Lindegården	Camp fire hut for people with reduced functional capacity	150,000
Billund Kulturskole (cultural school)	Activities for LEGOLAND Billund Garden	150,000
Det Flyvende Teater	'DER ER IKKE MERE KAGE' (there is no more cake) performance	150,000
Talent Billund	Cultural activities for children as part of the 'Talent Billund' project	150,000
Randbøl-Nørup Parish Council	Interior restoration of Randbøl Church	150,000
Museums of Billund Municipality	Preliminary study on the 'Mark Mobile' dissemination project	145,000
Billund Erhverv (business)	Billund 'Career Tour' – information days for young students	145,000
Billund Handelsforening (trade association)	Billund shuttle service	125,000
Østbyens beboerforening (residents' association) – Grindsted	Establishment of an exercise area	100,000
Grene Parish Council	Choir trips for the church's choristers	100,000
Odense Jazz Orchestra	Kahoot concerts for children in the Southern Denmark region – including Billund	90,000
Billund Sports Association	Renovation of the stadium and changing rooms	80,000
Billund Sportsrideklub (sports riding club)	Purchase of vaulting horse for the children and youth section	75,000
Lynghedeskolen	Sensory space for pupils with special needs	66,759
Café Jydepotten	Summer holidays for families with children	60,440
Fonden Huset Mølgaard foundation	Purchase of medical auxiliary equipment	56,250
Café Jydepotten	Christmas aid for families with children	52,550
Vejen Kunstmuseum (art museum)	Lyrics and performance with local history narrative	50,000
Grindsted Skyttekreds (shooting association)	Renewal of kitchen and toilet facilities	50,000
Action Kids – children in motion	Testing of movement concept in daycare centres in Billund Municipality	42,500
Grene Parish Council	Church events	40,000
Relay for Life Billund	Tent hire for the Relay for Life	35,000
Billund Sports Association	Installation of benches at the club's padel courts	34,975
Youth Department, Billund Municipality	Summer holiday trip for vulnerable young people	31,054
Esbjerg and Varde respite care	Respite care for relatives of the seriously and terminally ill	30,000
Bindeballe Købmandsgårds Fond	Purchase of furniture for the café	30,000
Lynghedens Lykkebørn	Exercise clothes and equipment for children with special needs	26,250
'Welcome to Billund' flag	Flag at the approach roads to Billund	26,000
Lindegården	Concert for vulnerable local people	25,000
WeCare support association	Christmas aid for vulnerable families with children in Billund Municipality	25,000
Billund Kunstforening (art association)	Transport of artworks	15,000
Brugerrådet Lindegården (users council)	Purchase of defibrillator	14,000
De Rullende Tognørder ('the rolling train nerds')	Establishment of heat source in the train club premises	14,000
Friends of Billund Nursing Home	Activities for the residents of the nursing home	10,000
Prison Service, Vejle Arrest	Christmas presents for prisoners' children	10,000
Grene Parish Council	Parish collection for the benefit of Folkekirkenes Nødhjælp (DanChurchAid)	10,000



Ole Kirk's Fond

Koldingvej 2
DK-7190 Billund
+45 2687 0000
olekirksfond.dk

