



Building an inclusive generation together

Summary of the 2024 annual report

Foreword

Half of children with a disability do not play sports at a club or association. At the same time, these are important social meeting places, especially for children who are often excluded. With your support, we made more and more sports clubs inclusive in 2024. At these locations, children with disabilities can participate in a variety of activities including ice skating, athletics or dancing.

We are also active in the field of playing and learning. In this way, we bring hundreds of students from special and regular education into contact with each other to play together. And thanks to the 16 new 'Samen naar School' classes, even more children with disabilities can attend a regular neighbourhood school. The themes of sports, play and learning coincide beautifully in our new project 'the First Inclusive Generation'.

These great results were achieved under my predecessor Henk-Willem

Laan, from whom I am taking over.

My thanks go to our children's ambassadors, children's council members, donors, volunteers, participants in the 'Mega Wandel Marathon', charity lotteries and many others who make this possible. I hope that we can continue this important work with you next year.

Rebecca Gerritse

Managing Director

Stichting het Gehandicapte Kind



2024 in brief

11,100 children with disabilities play, play sports or learn together with peers without disabilities. They experience, sometimes for the first time in their lives, that they completely belong! With our partners, we realised **54,500** of these **'together experiences'** this year.

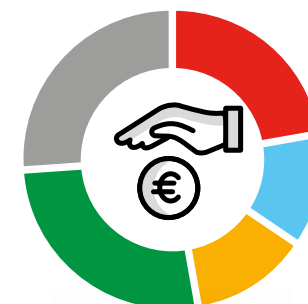
Where does the money come from?

● Private donations	€ 2,832,000
● Inheritances	€ 1,043,000
● Collection	€ 1,120,000
● Mega Wandel Marathon	€ 218,000
● Companies	€ 85,000
● Grants	€ 651,000
● Charity lotteries	€ 1,060,000
● Funds	€ 871,000



How is the money spent?

● Playing together	€ 1,215,000
● Exercising together	€ 682,000
● Learning together	€ 707,000
● Living & growing up together	€ 1,487,000
● Information/education	€ 1,447,000



Want to know more?

For the full annual report, visit

www.gehandicaptekind.nl/over-ons/publicaties

Playing Together

By playing together, children lay the foundation for living together. However, many children with disabilities play alone every day, often because playgrounds are not accessible, or because they do not feel welcome. With your support, we can change that. We make playgrounds accessible and we organize play activities for children with and without disabilities. Above all, we encourage an inclusive play culture in which everyone participates.

Thanks to
you, **17,000**
children can
play together



“Milan is left alone”

When neighborhood children go to play in the playground around the corner, Milan (9) is often left alone, says his father Jacco. The playground equipment is in sand, which Milan in his wheelchair cannot access. “When I see that Milan is not asked to the playground, my heart breaks. Other children often don’t even know that they are excluding him, it doesn’t happen consciously. The hardest thing for me is that Milan has resigned himself to the fact that he can’t play. No child should do that, should

they? Every time this happens, I see his self-confidence crumble slightly.”

“If the playground had a paved surface instead of sand, Milan would be able to keep up with the neighbourhood boys. Then they can get to know each other, from an early age. Every municipality in the Netherlands should have an accessible playground, so that children with disabilities can participate with the rest.”

[Read Milan’s story in full »](#)



Exercising Together

Sport is essential for a child's development, not only physically but also socially. Unfortunately, many children with disabilities do not play sports at their local sports club. This is often due to several reasons, for example, because the club is not accessible, because the trainers do not know how to deal with a disability, or because the child does not feel welcome. With your contribution, we help sports clubs to better welcome children with disabilities. For example, by skating, running and dancing together.

Thanks to you, more than **10,000 children** can play sports together

Our inclusive breakdance classes allow every child to participate in their own way.



“Finally there is a sport for Keet”

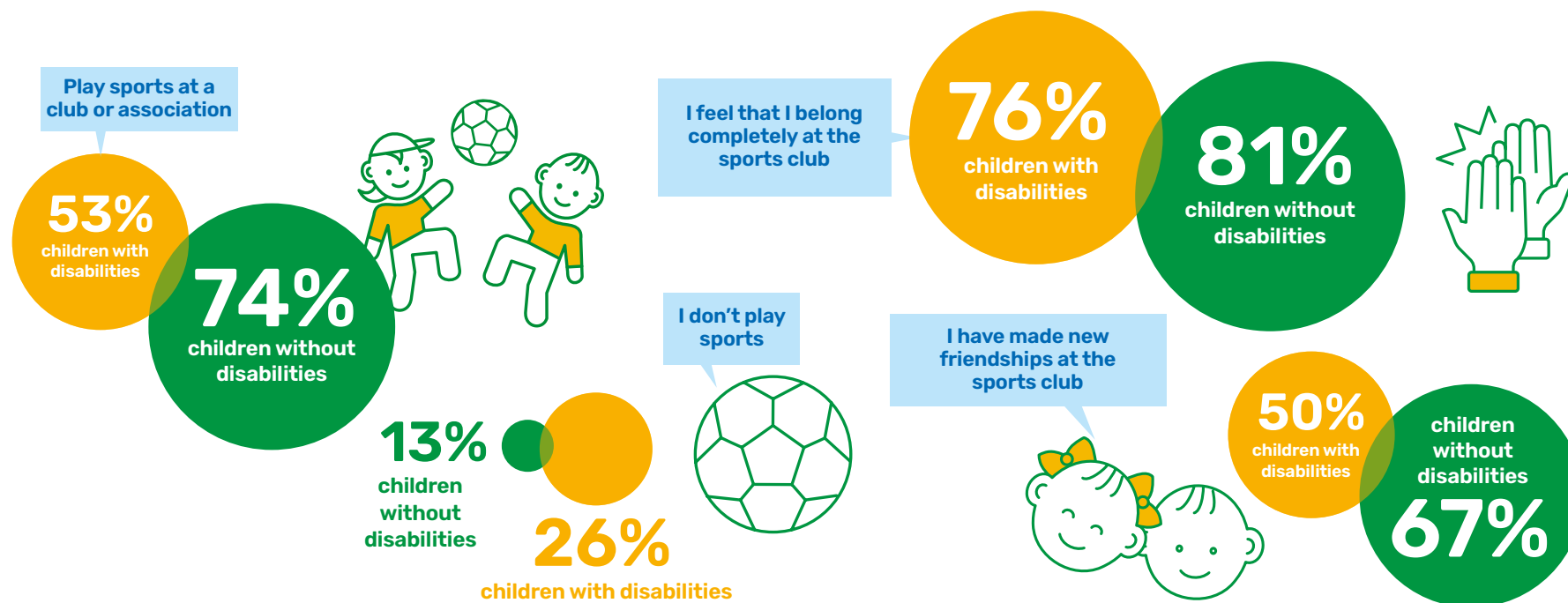


The cheerful Keet (8) was born with cerebral palsy, which causes her to drag her left leg. “Keet can walk without an aid, but is slower than other children,” says her mother Sissy. Because she is at a specialised school, she has no friends nearby to meet up with. Exercising together is all the more important, Sissy believes; it gives you the feeling of belonging.

“I had read in the newspaper that Frame Running is offered at our athletics club. I thought: finally there is a sport that Keet can participate in and where what she can do is taken into account. She is very passionate and is getting better and better at it.” For Keet, Frame Running means more than just sports. “She always looks forward to training. She has already made friends there. It's nice that they train at the same time with peers without disabilities, that's how they meet each other.”

[Read Keet's story in full »](#)

Research: half of children with disabilities do not play sports at a club or association



In the Netherlands, only 53% of children with a disability play sports at a club or association, compared to 74% of their peers without a disability. This is evident from our annual survey of children with and without disabilities. Sports clubs play a crucial role in the development of children and are an important social meeting place. For example, in the study we see that 76% of children with a disability who do play sports at a club feel fully accepted, and that 50% have made new friendships there. If children with disabilities do not play sports, it is often because there is no accessible sports club nearby. That is why we are committed to making sports clubs more inclusive, so that every child can play sports in their own neighbourhood. For all research results, see the [infographic](#) and the [research report](#).

As a sports administrator and as the father of a son with a disability, I know from experience how great the power of sport is. Sport not only promotes vitality and fun, but also connectedness and inclusion. Too many children with disabilities are still on the sidelines and that is why we have to remove barriers – often literally.

Marc van den Tweel
General Director NOC*NSF





“Zhen also wants to be involved”

Zhen (12) has autism and an intellectual disability. Because she could not go to a regular school, she went to a day care centre. But she did not receive any education there, while her parents expected her to be able to develop. Then they came across Samen naar School on their journey; just what Zhen needed!

“We trust what the children can do, we don’t assume the disability. And that works,” says

teacher Annemarije. She sees how Zhen is developing: she is less likely to be overstimulated, has become more independent and her language use is improving. Zhen is also increasingly looking for a connection with the other children on the playground: “In the beginning we had to make distance between us and her, but now she stands with the other children herself. Zhen now has the desire to belong.”

[Read Zhen’s story in full »](#)

Learning Together

Imagine: never a play date in the neighbourhood, never being invited to a party. That is the reality for many children with disabilities. They go to a special school far from home – or even not at all – and therefore hardly meet peers in their neighbourhood. We must not allow that to happen. That is why we help to set up ‘Samen naar School’ classes and bring students with and without disabilities into contact with each other.

Thanks
to your
support,
14,094 children
can learn
together



Living & Growing Up Together

Some initiatives do not fall directly under playing, learning or sports, but they do ensure that children with and without disabilities can grow together. Think of overarching projects such as the First Inclusive Generation. Or the Changing Places Toilets, which make it possible for families with a growing disabled child to experience a day out together.

Thanks to your support, **13,500 children** can experience together



The First Inclusive Generation

Children with and without disabilities who naturally grow up together: we will put that ideal into practice in the municipality of Deventer over the next three years. With the municipality, the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport and local organisations, we are going to make the very first inclusive generation possible. With schools, sports clubs, playgrounds, parents, children and other stakeholders, we will experience what it takes to play, play sports, learn and engage in culture together from an early age: to live together. After three years, we will also apply our lessons from the Deventer testing ground in other municipalities.



The First Inclusive Generation project will be officially opened on December 2, 2024 by State Secretary Vicky Maeijer of Long-Term and Social Care, together with children from Deventer.



I think it's important that we can play sports, play, learn and much more together. I don't like the fact that children are excluded. I know how they feel, because I've experienced that very often.

Thomas
Child Ambassador

Thanks to our friends

We are able to complete our work for children with disabilities thanks to the many people and organisations that support us. Nearly 35,000 people did so in 2024 with a donation, including many loyal authorisation donors; they form the backbone of our work.

We are also thankful for the people who organise a fundraising campaign, help as a (collection) volunteer, participate in charity lotteries, run the 'Mega Wandel Marathon' or include us in their will. And then there are the companies, ministries, funds and other organisations that support us. Thank you very much!



Child Ambassadors

Our children's ambassadors are indispensable to make known why our work for children with disabilities is so important. Art (12), Feline (14), Thomas (12) and Vesper (12) regularly tell their stories in the media. In the Week of the Disabled Child, they draw attention to our research into sports participation, for example in Hart van Nederland and the Telegraaf. This year, they will also make their voices heard in politics in The Hague. They will speak with ministries about the implementation of the UN Convention on Disability and present the Children's Coalition Agreement together with representatives of other charities.



Our children's ambassadors Thomas, Feline, Vesper and Art



In Memoriam: Rick Brink (1985-2024)

Very unexpectedly, our colleague Rick Brink passed away in May 2024. He was at the cradle of, among other things, the SamenSpeelAkkoord and the First Inclusive Generation. We are grateful to Rick for everything he has meant to us and to children with disabilities.



Colophon

Text and editing: Mariël Verburg Text & Communication
Translation: George William Janes
Image: Bertil van Beek, Henri van der Beek, Paul Remmelts, iStock, Masja Stolk, Stephan Tellier
DTP: De Indruk

We are supported by:



**VRIENDEN
LOTERIJ**



**Stichting het
Gehandapte
Kind**

Nederlandse Stichting voor het Gehandapte Kind
Wibautstraat 212-214 - 1091 GS Amsterdam - 020-6791200
www.gehandaptekind.nl - info@gehandaptekind.nl

