



Friends for life

Summary annual report 2022



Stichting het
Gehandicapte
Kind

Preface

Dear reader,

"Every time I go for a walk with Jayden, I try to think of a route to avoid playgrounds. Because I see that it saddens him that he cannot participate." This statement by Jayden's mother Samantha, clearly reflecting Jayden's loneliness, touches me deeply.

Unfortunately, our index survey shows that Jayden is not the only one: 1 in 5 children with disabilities have no friends. And only half of them are invited to children's parties. This is not just because of inaccessible playgrounds; children like Jayden are also left out at many schools and sports clubs.

Thanks to our volunteers and donors, we will again be able to work on concrete solutions in 2022. Like De Grote Samenspeeldag, a day when children with and without disabilities experience the joy of playing together. And the Samen Schaatsen Elfstedentoer: here, children with disabilities – often for the first time in their lives – also join in the ice fun. That's the reason why we do it: no child without friends!



Thank you very much for your support!

Henk-Willem Laan
managing director
Stichting het Gehandicapte Kind

2022 in brief

6,498 children with disabilities play, do sports or learn together with peers without disabilities by 2022. They experience, sometimes for the first time in their lives, that they belong. With our partners, we are realising **44,098** of these **'together experiences'** this year. This is possible thanks to almost 45,000 donors, volunteers and other friends. Together, we raised whopping **€ 6,851,000** this year.

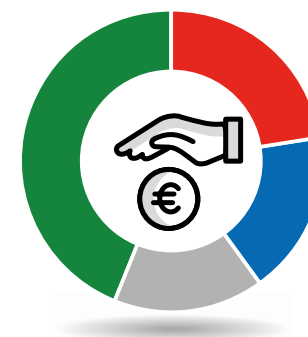
Where does the money come from?

Private donations	€ 2.387.000
Inheritances	€ 1.062.000
Collection	€ 1.078.000
Mega Wandel Marathon	€ 98.000
Companies	€ 23.000
Grants	€ 261.000
Charity lotterie	€ 917.000
Service clubs and funds	€ 1.025.000



How did we spend the money?

10,000 collaborative learning experiences
7,752 collaborative sports experiences
7,000 collaborative play experiences
19,346 other together experiences



Want to know more?

For a complete annual report, see
www.gehandicaptekind.nl/over-ons/publicaties

Playing Together

Playing together is a life necessity for children: it is not only fun but also important for their development. But many children with disabilities play alone. For example, because playgrounds are not accessible to them, or because they do not feel welcome there. With your support, we make playgrounds accessible and organise collaborative play activities. And are working towards a culture where 'inclusive play' is the norm. So that no child has to play alone anymore.

Thanks
to you,
7,000
children
can play
together

"Luuk misses the interaction with friends"

Luuk (10) attends special education. Because the school is far away, his classmates live scattered around the region, says his mother Esther: "It takes some organisation to arrange a play date for Luuk". Luuk's little brother Noud does go to school nearby. The children seek each other out and play in the playground. "Luuk is realising more and more that he never had that, he regrets not having that spontaneous interaction with friends."

Luuk cannot play well in the nearby playgrounds either. Play equipment is in sand or wood chips, which he cannot get through with his wheelchair. Also, equipment like swings or slides are often unsuitable for children with disabilities. Esther: "We lift him on the swing. But of course, it is more fun if he can participate himself, instead of always being helped or watching other children play".



Sports Together

When peers play sports, children with disabilities are often on the side lines. The local sports club is poorly accessible to them, the offer is not appropriate or they do not feel welcome. Your contribution will help clubs become socially and physically accessible, introducing adapted sports such as Frame Running and Frame Skating. This way, every child can participate in sports as well as belong to the club.

Thanks
to you, **7,752**
children
can play
sports
together



“Now Amy is also enjoying the ice fun”



Amy (11) lives in Friesland. Her mother and brother have the skating virus: whenever there is ice, they strap on their skates. But Amy, because of her disability, cannot simply go skating. Mother Boukje: “Amy wants to play along with other children, but that is becoming increasingly difficult. Children of her age are increasingly going to sports independently, but Amy cannot. That does frustrate her”.

So the fact that she could compete in Frame Skating this year came at just the right time. Boukje: “Amy thought it was wonderful. There she was, in the skating temple of the Netherlands. On a skate frame, with spikes under her feet. They pushed her onto the ice and away she went. I saw her facial expression: she is smiling, loving it, beaming. And it’s fun with the other children; she skates a lap with one and chats with another. That is so beautiful to see”.



“Emir is now out of isolation”

Emir (9) has autism and an intellectual disability. Several schools could not offer him what he needed. This left him unhappy at home, says his mother Sultan. “He no longer had a daily routine, was always tired. He no longer made contact. It was literally about survival every day.” Until Sultan established a Samen naar School class. I heard about these adapted classes in a regular primary school through word of mouth. I thought: “that’s what I want for Emir!” As far as the location goes, she did not have to think long.

That had to be the school Emir’s brother and sister attend. A long road followed with a lot of figuring out, arranging things and persevering. Since Emir returned to school, he has been smiling again. Contact with other children makes him happy. “When he sits in the sandbox with classmates, I can see he is enjoying himself. But activities with students from the other classes also give him energy. For example, they come to read aloud or do puzzles. All the children love this! Our family has future prospects again.”

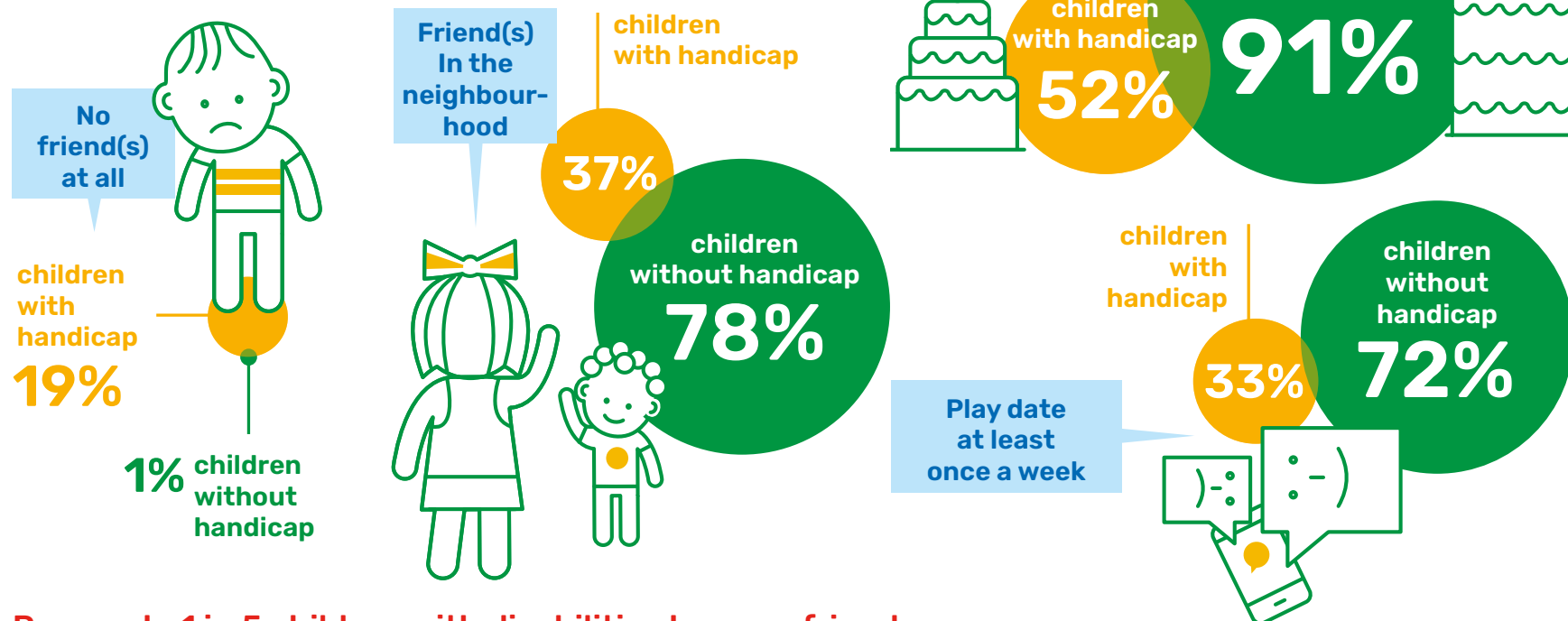
Learning Together

Many children with disabilities attend special schools far from home. Or they don’t go to school at all. As a result, they hardly ever meet other children from the neighbourhood. With your help, we make sure that they can attend the regular neighbourhood school. For example, by establishing Samen naar School classes. And by helping schools connect children with and without disabilities.

Thanks
to you,
10,000
children
can learn
together



Friendships



Research: 1 in 5 children with disabilities have no friends

In our annual index survey, we ask children with and without disabilities aged 6 to 18 how they experience their lives. Among other things, we ask how many friends they have and how often they meet up with them. Interestingly, 1 in 5 children with disabilities reported having no friends at all. Among children without disabilities, it is only 1 in 100. Also, 1 in 2 children with disabilities are never invited to children's parties. Among children without disabilities, it is 1 in 10. Almost three-quarters of children

with disabilities report that they would like to have more friends in the neighbourhood and meet up more often.

The harrowing outcomes underline the importance of our aspiration: that children with disabilities get to participate in society by playing, doing sports and going to school together with their peers. For more survey results, see the [infographic](#) and the full [research report](#).

Thanks to our friends

We can do our work for children with disabilities thanks to the many people and organisations that support us. This year we received donations from as many as 33,387 private individuals. Of them, 24,015 are loyal recurring donors; they are the backbone of our work.

We also rejoice in the many people who organise fundraising activities, help as (collection) volunteers, play for us in the charity lotteries, participate in the Mega Wandel Marathon or include us in their wills. And then there are the companies, ministries, funds, service clubs and other organisations that support us.

Together, we get closer to our goal: No child without friends!

Week of the Disabled Child



In the Week of the Disabled Child (14–19 November) we published the results of the index survey. Our child ambassadors Joël, Pauline and Hüseyin talked to minister Conny Helder (Long-term Care and Sport). They spoke with her on the topic of friendships and loneliness and handed over the research report.

Various media covered the research during this week, including the Telegraaf, Kidsweek, Trouw, Hart van Nederland, Editie NL and the [NOS Jeugdjournaal](#). We were also guests on the talk show Spraakmakers on NPO Radio 1 and on TV programme Koffietijd.

Even after my death

“For years I have worked as a supervisor of children with disabilities. I see that they can do much more if given the right guidance and opportunities. Not looking at what cannot be done, but what is possible. That’s the way I am. That is why I support Stichting het Gehandicapte Kind, because I know how important it is for children to be able to participate. Supported in life and supported one last time after my death.”

Annemieke has included Stichting het Gehandicapte Kind in her will.





Colofon

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