

For immediate release

20 Years of the Koehler Works Council's Christmas Tree Initiative

- **Koehler Group employees make Christmas wishes come true**
- **For two decades, the Koehler Group works council has been organizing its Christmas Tree Initiative**
- **100 gifts were given out to people in need**

Oberkirch, 12/17/2024 – This December marks the twentieth year that the Koehler works council from Oberkirch, Kehl, and Willstätt has put together its Christmas Tree Initiative. For these two decades, and together with charities Caritas and Diakonie, the team has collected Christmas wishes from those most in need in the region so that Koehler Group employees can make them come true. This time, 100 gifts were given by the Works Council to Claudia Ebert and Fabian Bühler from Caritas and Doro Steurer-Braun and Cordula Rettig at Diakonie.

100 Christmas wishes made a reality in line with longtime tradition

As already implied, the Christmas Tree Initiative has been an inseparable part of the Koehler Group's activities at its Oberkirch, Kehl, and Willstätt sites for twenty years now. The initiative was co-started in 2004 by Chairman of the works council at the Koehler Group Thomas Lampart, and this year will be the last time in which he is in charge of seeing it through. When asked, he is quick to mention that seeing so many co-workers ready to help and bring a bit of happiness to people in the Renchtal region has always been a source of joy over the years. The wishes of people in need are rarely published, and so there are scarcely any records following up on them. But what started 20 years ago with traditional wish lists on a tree has now been modernized, with wishes being digitally published so that a much larger number of employees can take them up.

Some of these wishes are things that go without saying for most of us, but that are an outsize investment for people in need. Accordingly, wishes this year ranged from hygiene and personal care products, to toys, to underwear and kitchen utensils.

Koehler Group employees left the corresponding gifts with the works council, which in turn gave the collected packages to Caritas and Diakonie. Thomas Lampart is happy to announce how proud he is of the entire thing: "We're absolutely delighted that in this, the twentieth instance of this incredible initiative, the Koehler Group's employees once again stepped up to the plate. For many of them, doing some good for those in need is simply a vital part of the Christmas season. I'm extremely happy to see that this community spirit is still clearly very much in evidence today." In the coming days, Caritas and Diakonie helpers will be distributing the gifts to the people who wrote their wish lists. And as previously mentioned, everyone involved participated with a tremendous amount of commitment this year as well, with the reason

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behind this being clear: There is nothing nicer than bringing joy to other people in the lead-up to the season.



Figure: Diakonie and Caritas picked up a large number of gifts from the Koehler Group works council. From left to right: Cordula Rettig (Diakonie), Thomas Lampart (Works Council Chair), Martin Spraul (Group Works Council Chair), Renate Roth (Works Council), Claudia Ebert (Caritas), Fabian Bühler (Caritas), Doro Steurer-Braun (Diakonie), Sabine Seebacher (Group Works Council Deputy Chair)

Source: Koehler Group

About the Koehler Group

The Koehler Group was founded in 1807 and has been family-run from that moment to the present day. The group's core business activity lies in the development and production of high-quality specialty paper. This includes—among others—thermal paper, playing card board, beverage coasters, fine paper, carbon-less paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation paper, and also innovative specialty paper for the packaging industry. In Germany, the Koehler Group employs around 2,500 people across five production sites, with three additional sites in the USA. The group operates internationally, with an export share of around 70% in 2023, and brings in an annual turnover of around 1.1 billion euros.

As an energy-intensive company, Koehler invests in renewable energy projects such as wind energy, hydropower, photovoltaics, and biomass with its Koehler Renewable Energy business unit. The Koehler Group has set a goal of producing more energy from renewable sources by 2030 than is required for its paper production operations.

With its Koehler Innovative Solutions division, the Koehler Group is collaborating with start-ups to promote innovations in the core business segments “paper” and “renewable energy”.

Find more information at: <https://www.koehler.com>

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