

**For immediate release**

**Koehler Christmas Tree Initiative: Employees Make the Wishes of People in Need Come True**

- **Christmas wishes were attached to a Christmas tree**
- **110 people in need were treated to a surprise**
- **Unique initiative by the Koehler Works Council**

**Oberkirch, Germany, 12/16/2022** – This year, the local Koehler Group Works Council for Oberkirch and Kehl organized its 18th “Christmas Tree Initiative” in collaboration with the charities Caritas and Diakonie. This unique initiative involves collecting Christmas wishes from those in need around the region. The wishes, which are written down on pieces of paper, were symbolically presented by Anke Endress and Carmelo Scalisi from Caritas and Dietmar Seiler-Fritsch and Petra Berger from Diakonie just before the start of Advent. For the local works councils and Koehler employees, who eagerly await the launch of the Christmas Tree Initiative each year, this marks the start of the Advent period.

**Koehler Employees Make 110 Christmas Wishes Come True**

As was the case in the previous two years, the wishes were published in digital format on the intranet of the Koehler Group. This was introduced out of necessity at the height of the pandemic and has since become standard procedure. Now that all our colleagues in Kehl and Oberkirch can view the wishes, it is easier for them to participate in this fantastic initiative.

In previous years, 100 Christmas wishes were fulfilled. This year, there were a greater number of people in need, so the number of wishes was increased to 110 in order to give more people a little surprise this Christmas. Koehler employees were able to select whatever wish they wanted to fulfill, and it took only three days for all the wishes to be claimed. The gifts requested included warm clothing, toys, food packages, and cosmetics—all items that many of us take for granted, but which represent a major investment for people in need.

Within two weeks, all of the gifts had been gathered in the office of the Works Council and were proudly handed over to Caritas and Diakonie. Group Works Council Chair Martin Spraul was thrilled with the success of the initiative: “Many Koehler employees once again contributed to a successful Christmas Tree Initiative this year, and the wishes were all claimed in record time.” Now, a hard-working team of helpers will be responsible for distributing the gifts to the respective families, a task they perform with great pleasure and dedication. After all, there is no greater gift than seeing the smiles on recipients’ faces, which is why the Koehler Christmas Tree Initiative brings joy to all those involved.

**Koehler Holding SE & Co. KG**

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*Figure: The local Works Council for Oberkirch and Kehl hands over the wrapped gifts to Caritas and Diakonie. From left to right: Petra Berger, Diakonie, Thomas Lampart, Works Council Chair, Sabine Seebacher, Group Works Council Deputy Chair, Anke Endress, Caritas, Martin Spraul, Group Works Council Chair, Renate Roth, Assistant to the local Works Council, Dietmar Seiler-Fritsch, Diakonie, Gebhard Müller, Deputy Works Council Chairman, Carmelo Scalisi, Caritas / Source: Koehler Group*

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## 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, drinks coasters, fine paper, carbonless paper, recycled paper, decor paper, wood pulp board, sublimation papers, and also innovative specialty papers for the packaging industry since 2019. 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 70% in 2021, and brings in an annual turnover of around 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.

In addition, with its Koehler Innovative Solutions business unit, Koehler is dedicated to developing new business areas outside of special paper production and energy production.

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

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