

Growth – evolution – expansion - specialisation

# From a poorhouse to a professionally-nursing complex

The History of the  
„Stiftung Altenheime  
Backnang und Wildberg“



# Foundation “Homes of Charity”

- In the 19th century there was great poverty and desperation in Württemberg because of the industrial revolution, which took place throughout Europe.
- In 1864 King Karl of Württemberg and his wife Queen Olga saw the desolate situation of their citizens.
- The royals decided to put money aside for charity. They founded a house for homeless senior citizens.
- The first chairman was the Very Rev. Karl Gerok, superintendent of Stuttgart
- The first home for elderly people was built in 1865 in Wildberg in the Black Forest and a few years later in 1873 another in Esslingen near Stuttgart.



# The creation of the Staigacker

- The changes in Esslingen in those decades made it necessary to find an alternative because of the rising number of old people
- 1902 the foundation bought the area of the “Staigacker”, an old farm including a guesthouse.
- Within two years after the purchase the foundation built the great main building, which can be seen from a large distance due to its size



# Living in the old Staigacker

- The inhabitants had to work hard on the fields of the “Staigacker”, in the home as well as the nursery
- There were rooms for 6-8 persons
- The inhabitants had to care for each other, because there were no nurses.
- The leader of the home was called “home father” and his wife was the “home mother”



# Development Staigacker

- The wars, inflation and changes in politics and the society made life in the „Staigacker“ difficult
- With the help of God the homes survived
- After the Second World War many old people have taken refuge in the Staigacker



# The first intensive care station in the nursing home

- In 1950 the first intensive care station was opened
- The persons were supported by nurses, deaconesses and deacons
- New jobs were created and new challenges emerged in caring for the inhabitants



# Gradual changes in 20th century

- Many homes for old people established
- In the 1960s the foundation for the welfare state was laid. Socially disadvantaged people were supported by laws
- The main goal of helping impoverished and unemployed people was no longer necessary
- Now there are people of all social ranks
- Focus on the new group of socially and physical disadvantaged persons
- Another focus is put on caring for people with special diseases



# Nurse for old people/ aged care work



- Nursing College since 1986
- Each year 25 young trainees learn to serve old people
- Subjects:
  - Protestant religion
  - German
  - Duties and concepts of health care
  - Assistance by daily life organization of elderly citizen
  - Jurisdiction
  - The business of aged care



# Specialization

- Physiotherapy
- Occupational therapy
- Socio-cultural events
- Integration in common weal
- Co-operation with the Senior council of Backnang





# Expansion



- Thanks to its good reputation, the city council of Backnang confided the Bürgerheim to the foundation Staigacker (1991)
- The foundation built an new home for 48 elderly people (1996)
- In the neighborhood of our old peoples home there where built 51 cared apartments (1997).
- The inhabitants can use the nursing care services like meels, nursing care and domestic work





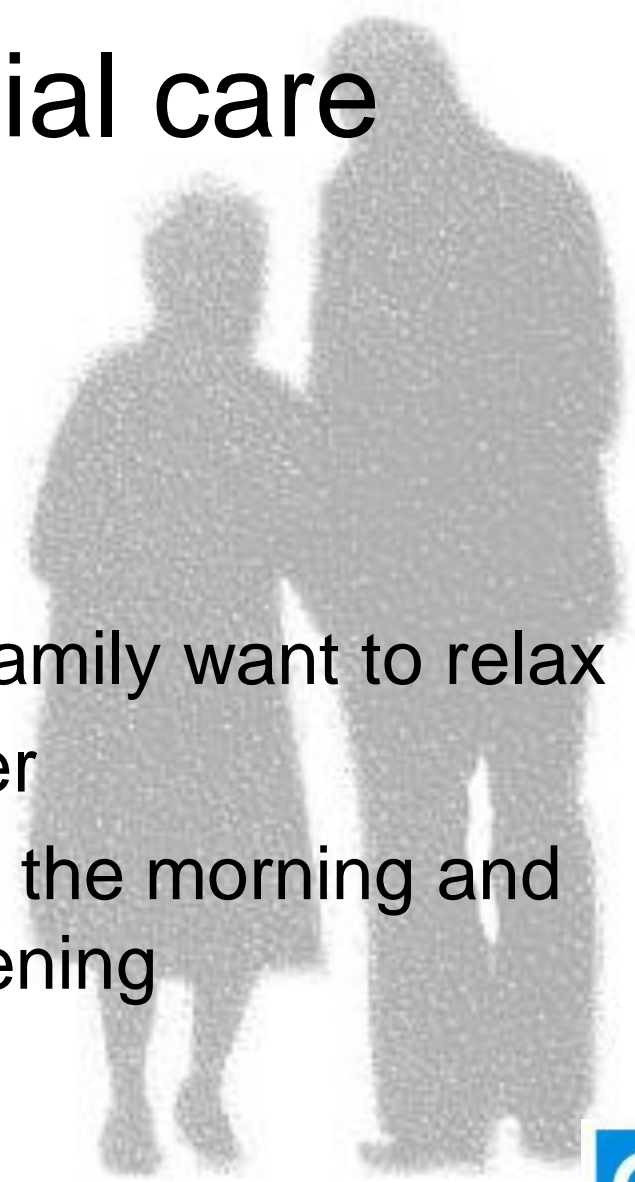
# Service for out-patients

- The protestant church of Backnang confided the care for patients still living at their homes to our foundation (1998)
- Nursing
- Home help
- Meals on wheels (2001)



# Semi-residential care

- Short term care (1993)
- Day care (2007)
  - If caring members of the family want to relax
  - To test the service we offer
  - We pick up the persons in the morning and bring them back in the evening





# More expansion



- Thanks to the financial help from the state of Baden-Württemberg, the district „Rems-Murr“ and the town council of Backnang the foundation was able to renew the main building of the Staigacker (1999-2001)
- „Pfleigestift Am Langenbach“, a senior nursing home (2008)
- Plannings for a senior nursing home in Wildberg (2010)



# Protected area/ geronto psychiatry



- A special closed living area for those with dementia.
- Confused people who dash away
- Closed garden with an endless way
- Special program for each day
- Small groups with an ambient atmosphere
- Specially trained staff
- Special activities to train the physical and mental skills
- Working in nursery and in the kitchen are able to train the sense of hearing, touch and smell
- Cooperation with the occupational therapy and day care
- The placement of a senior in a closed area must be permitted by judiciary (§1906 BGB)



# Building of the Johannes-Brenz-Haus (2008)

- A home for young people diseased with multiple sclerosis
- The activities are related to the person's age
- Physiotherapy, occupational therapy and drawing therapy
- Created in cooperation with patient organizations



# Pflegestift Am Langenbach

- Only single rooms
- Care service near by the old location
- Integration in common weal by senior afternoons and church services
- Cafeteria as a meeting place for all senior citizens
- A old people's home in combination with cared apartments



# Upcoming challenges

- To be able to support intensive nursing patients
- Growing number of patients with Alzheimer's disease and dementia
- To satisfy the individual needs of the inhabitants
- An increasing tendency of individualization makes it necessary to offer rooms inhabited by only 1 person
- Differentiated social services, offers throughout the day fitting the individual needs of the inhabitants

