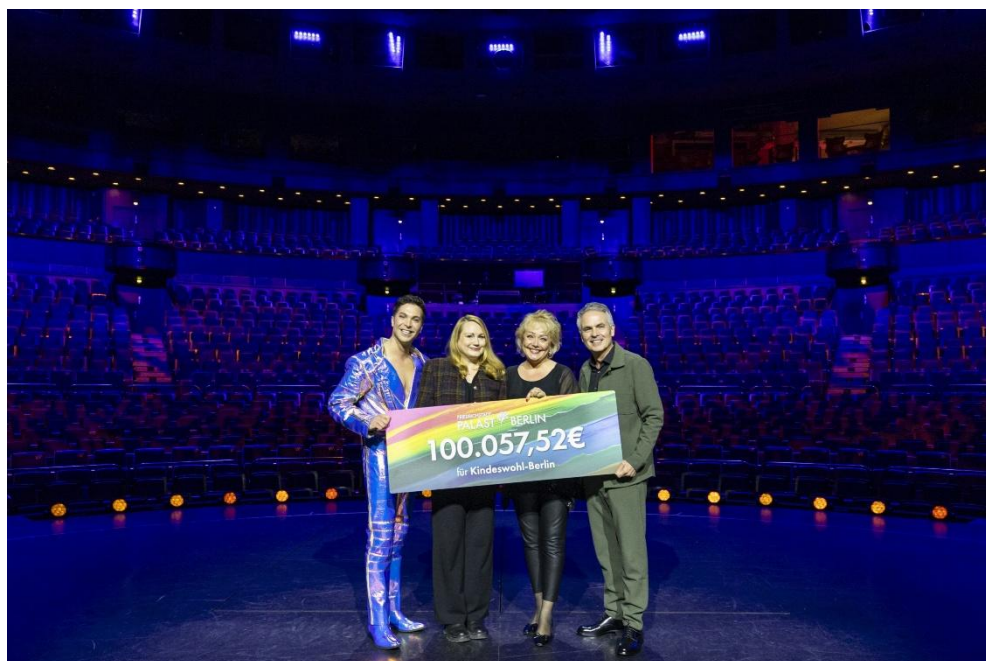


PRESS INFORMATION

Christmas appeal: Friedrichstadt-Palast guests raise €100,057 for Kindeswohl-Berlin children's charity

Berlin, 19 January 2026



From left to right: Berndt Schmidt (General Director, FriedrichstadtPalast), Susanne Ferjani (Managing Director, Kindeswohl-Berlin), Natascha Lecki (Management Team and Director of Marketing, Sales & PR) and Julian David (soloist in *BLINDED by DELIGHT*)
FriedrichstadtPalast | Photo: Fabian Starosta

At the Palast, Christmas always means fundraising for a good cause. Traditionally, it has collected donations for children who live in the Berlin-Brandenburg region. This year's campaign raised a fantastic €100,057.52 – a six-figure sum for the first time. General Director Berndt Schmidt, Natascha Lecki and Julian David handed the donation cheque over to the Managing Director of Kindeswohl-Berlin children's charity, Susanne Ferjani. The welfare organisation supports children, young people and families living in Berlin and Brandenburg who are facing challenging life situations with a whole range of inpatient and outpatient services.

In the run-up to Christmas, the cast of the *BLINDED by DELIGHT* Grand Show teamed up with the Palast's guests to support a good cause. After every performance, cast members took to the stage to draw the audience's attention to the fundraising campaign and many of them, including almost all of the Grand Show's acrobats, then stood at the exits with collection boxes. Thanks to the artists' great commitment and the guests' generosity, these were filled up night after night. Last Friday, Berndt Schmidt and Natascha Lecki represented theatre management and soloist Julian David

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represented the Grand Show's cast at handover of the donation cheque to Susanne Ferjani from Kindeswohl-Berlin.

The charity has worked since 2003 to help children, young people and families in need of support, protection and encouragement – true to its motto of 'Protect children, support parents'. With its inpatient and outpatient offers, it provides invaluable assistance to people facing challenging family situations. Families and young people are able to find security, support and new prospects in the more than 260 places in lovingly designed residential groups, foster families and assisted living facilities for families.

General Director, Berndt Schmidt: "Great hardship exists the world over and even here in wealthy Germany, there is a lack of resources. Countless children and young people in our region urgently need support and encouragement. Many thanks to our generous guests for raising this huge amount, but also to our cast. Despite still being sweaty from their performances, they got involved every evening for this good cause."

Susanne Ferjani, Managing Director of Kindeswohl-Berlin: "Our heartfelt thanks to the Palast and to all of the artists involved. In December, the audience didn't just applaud – it also gave the gift of a future. When a room full of people chooses social responsibility, entertainment becomes a statement. Every euro donated is a clear stand against marginalisation, loneliness and the struggles people face in early life. These donations from the public are a pledge to children and young people and above all mean for them that they are seen, are not alone and can dare to hope. THANK YOU!"

After the Palast's annual appeal had to be paused between 2020 and 2023 due to theatre closures and social distancing during the Covid-19 pandemic, the fundraising campaign could once again take place in 2025 – for the second year in a row. The Palast's guests have been donating to regional charities since 2010. After this eleventh year of fundraising, the grand total raised amounts to a fantastic €965,210.

For those who would still like to make a donation to Kindeswohl-Berlin gGmbH:

Donation account at the Bank für Sozialwirtschaft.

IBAN: DE60 3702 0500 0003 2405 01

Learn more about Kindeswohl-Berlin: www.kindeswohl-berlin.de

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Image: www.picdrop.com/friedrichstadt-palast/nq82yKkYye

More information about the Palast: www.palast.berlin

The Palast is owned by the city of Berlin.

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