

FASD Deutschland e.V. - An Official Member of the Sunflower Community

Bespoke Sunflower lanyards with a card holder and German text now available



FASD Deutschland e.V. is a German non-profit volunteer organisation with roots in the patient advocacy sector. The organisation aims to improve the lives of individuals with FASD (Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder) and help reduce the number of alcohol exposed pregnancies.

FASD is the umbrella term used to describe a pattern of birth defects related to alcohol exposure before birth. This can result in impairments of a physical, cognitive or behavioural nature. There is no cure for FASD. Children born with FASD become adults with FASD.

Numerous factors make diagnosis difficult. Not everyone displays the same symptoms or conditions. Some may be apparent at birth; others are not identified or recognised as being symptomatic of FASD until later in life - if at all. FASD is still not well-known, even within the healthcare system, among service providers etc. Evaluation and diagnosis involve an interdisciplinary team and take time, making this process expensive.

Experts working in the field of FASD frequently refer to this disorder as an "invisible disability" as it is often totally "missed" or incorrectly diagnosed.

In our experience it is "being invisible" that gives rise to the greatest challenges facing those whose lives are affected by FASD. If we can't see something, it doesn't exist for us. We are generally not aware of individuals who live with an invisible disability or condition and struggle in everyday situations that others take in their stride.

Undoubtedly, this applies to all disabilities or conditions that are not obvious at a glance, not just to FASD.

The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme Limited press release "How do we measure the amount of hidden disabilities? ... by making the world's longest lanyard" in December 2022, left a lasting impression on us. We could immediately relate to the idea of making the invisible visible.

The budget for 2023 was already exhausted (our organisation is funded by membership fees, donations and sponsors). Yet, we didn't want to let this opportunity pass, especially as some of our adult members who live with FASD thought it was a fantastic idea and urged us to find a sponsor.

Thanks to the generosity of "The Paritätische, Lower Saxony", an association "committed to the idea of social justice: equal opportunities, the right of every human being to live a life of dignity in which they can develop freely" (<https://www.der->

paritaetische.de/verband/englisch/) we were able to purchase our first Sunflower lanyards at short notice.

The funding provided by "The Paritätische, Lower Saxony" covered not only the total costs of the first order but also postage and packing materials for distribution within Germany and the membership fee for one year. This includes access to media packages, training videos etc.

We are proud to be the first volunteer organisation in Germany to become an official member of the global Sunflower community! Many partners to the Sunflower scheme are international businesses, airlines and airports such as the Berlin Brandenburg Airport BER in Germany.

Bespoke Sunflower lanyards including a card holder and a card printed in German are available from our registered address on request. There are no charges for postage and packing within Germany.

Write an email to info@fasd-deutschland.de with full details of your name, address and number of lanyards required. Since numbers are limited, group orders or larger quantities will be subject to approval and availability.

The text is written in inclusive plain language, reflecting our stance. The wording has been deliberately chosen to apply to all invisible disabilities and conditions. It is also in line with the policies of The Hidden Disabilities Sunflower Scheme Limited. The Sunflower design is subject to copyright and trademark protection - only authorised members are allowed to distribute the original products and ensure quality standards are adhered to.

We are convinced that this discrete symbol will generally help raise the public's level of awareness for people with an invisible disability or condition. On a personal level, it means that Sunflower wearers will be able to overcome situations that are otherwise overwhelming, difficult or maybe even impossible.

Positive experiences help to increase self-confidence which leads to an increased level of participation. Barriers are broken down, including those that exist in people's minds.

Everyone profits from an inclusive society!

Help spread the news about the Sunflower lanyards available from FASD Deutschland e.V.