

## **October 2021**

### **Update Johanniter Nederland**

During COVID-19, most of the activities of Johanniter Netherlands stopped. The volunteers at care institutions could not do their jobs and the Johanniter holidays were cancelled.

We tried to focus on what was possible within the restrictions.

To alleviate the loneliness and isolation of our holiday guests, a call service has been set up. Guests who appreciate this are regularly called by a volunteer. We also regularly sent them mail or small gifts.

Volunteers also had a difficult time. Our efforts were mainly aimed at letting them know that they are not forgotten. We did this through letters, postcards, e-mails and goodies sent by post.

We organized an online Christmas celebration for our entire internal and external community. We wanted to create a sense of belonging despite the physical distance.

Even before COVID-19, Johanniter Nederland had the wish to start a new activity. In 2021, together with an external consultant, the possibilities for a 'Johanniter House' were investigated. The first investigation has been completed and we will soon be entering a second phase.

Johanniter Nederland has received a substantial subsidy from the Dutch government to revive its volunteer work after COVID-19. The subsidy is used for a project that ensures that the organisation has enough 'holiday volunteers' to secure the holidays organised by Johanniter Nederland, and if possible, to expand future offers.

Johanniter Nederland uses this subsidy to recruit young volunteers through various channels such as social media, its network and contacts with higher education institutions in order to deploy interns during the Johanniter holidays. The provided subsidy will be additionally used to develop a mobile app for current and new holiday volunteers. Within the mobile app, social functions, support, administrative and educational functions will be integrated.

[www.johanniter.nl](http://www.johanniter.nl)