

## Press release

2nd of June 2015



Toni Kroos Stiftung

### Toni Kroos Foundation established

An important day for world cup champion Toni Kroos: Today the 25 year old mid field player from Real Madrid publicly launched the Toni Kroos Foundation in Cologne. The foundation was started on 13 May 2015.

It solely pursues charitable purposes and is aiming to offer support to children and young people with serious health problems as well as their families. The support in reality translates into helping the children achieve their wishes and dreams, special treatments which are not covered by the health insurance companies, free-time offers for the siblings as well as helping to lighten the day-to-day burden of the parents. Toni Kroos said: "In today's society, families with a child who is seriously ill in many respects do not get the help they need - a strong shoulder to lean on who helps them in their time of need. Many parents have to balance visits to the hospital or hospice with their daily activities, their other children and also treatments. In this situation the parents often reach the end of their tether. Often the diagnosis comes suddenly and their lives change so quickly that already right at the beginning they are drained psychologically and financially. And this is exactly the gap I want to fill with my foundation."

The children's hospital in Amsterdamer Strasse in Cologne and the children's hospice Regenbogenland in Düsseldorf are the two projects which the Toni Kroos Foundation is currently supporting and will continue to do so with specific goals in mind. The foundation's management board consists of Toni's wife, Jessica Kroos, Mariko Nakanishi as a contact for the foundation's affairs and Günter Liebherr, tax consultant and managing director of aktiva Steuerberatungsgesellschaft mbH. The members of the supervisory board are Professor Michael Weiß (medical director and principal consultant of the children's hospital in Amsterdamer Strasse), Axel Döhner (director BW Bank) and Volker Struth (CEO of Sports Total GmbH).

Toni Kroos has been able to recruit several famous names for his cause: of course his brother Felix, 24 year old mid field player from SV Werder Bremen, Hartmut Engler, lead singer of the band PUR and a friend of Toni Kroos for many years. Additionally Patrick Helmes, former Bundesliga professional and new assistant trainer of the U 21 team at 1. FC Köln, and the canine guru (VOX) and author Martin Rütter will also support his foundation. Toni Kroos' wish to start a foundation was sparked in December 2014, after visiting the Universitario La Paz hospital in Madrid with a delegation from his team, Real Madrid: "I knew straight away that my foundation had to help ill and seriously ill children and their families. The joy on the children's faces and the parents' reactions really left a mark on me. I want to make these kids' wishes come true and help them realise their dreams and also financially assist with treatments or therapies which are not covered by their insurance. The special thing about my foundation is that I also really want to help the children's families who also are also bearing an incredibly heavy burden." Toni Kroos himself has one son.