

## The Körber Stiftung “Zugabe Prize” The Award Winners of 2020

**March 31<sup>st</sup> 2020.** For the second time the Körber Stiftung, a non-profit foundation based in Hamburg, Germany, is awarding four founders older than 60 for social entrepreneurship. The award winners have been announced today: Elke Schilling, Dr. Gerhard Dust, Dr. Bernd Krahl and Dr. Thilo Bode are all distinguished by three features: All are over 60, all established their businesses at an advanced age, and all serve society in special ways. The award winners will get a prize of EUR 60,000 each.

**Elke Schilling** (75) is the founder of “Silbernetz e.V.”. Following an UK pilot project, Elke Schilling has successfully created a German phone hotline to connect elderly people and fight loneliness. Hereby, the hotline is following a threefold approach: Offering immediate help via phone, creating friendships and informing about events and possible activities in the neighbourhood. In March 2020, “Silbernetz e.V.” has become a nationwide project and in times of the Corona virus it helped a lot of elderly people to leave loneliness behind

**Gerhard Durst** (68) is the founder of “PolyCare Research Technology GmbH & CO KG” – an organisation which provides a unique and sustainable way for low cost housing. The company is using sand, as an the easily accessible commodity, to produce structural housing elements. Therefore, Gerhard Dust and his organization can strengthen local self-help capacities, create jobs and eliminate poor housing conditions. In addition, they offer a fast and efficient resolution following natural disasters. “PolyCare Namibia” has hired 40 local employees and is helping to create affordable housing in African townships.

**Thilo Bode** (72) is the former CEO of Greenpeace and founder and executive director of “Foodwatch e.V.”. “Foodwatch” is an European consumer rights advocacy group founded in 2002 with offices in Germany, France and the Netherlands. The activities include, inter alia, the investigation of manufacturers’ claims in marketing campaigns and on packaging. At the same time, the organization is pointing out legislative deficiencies, putting pressure on policymakers and companies and is mobilizing people. Its goal is to assure consumers rights to adequate food, healthy products and transparent information.

**Bernd Krahl** (72) has created “Ambulanticum Herdecke” in 2012. Having suffered from two strokes himself, he has seen the need for alternative and cross-disciplinary treatment options for patients who officially have reached the end of conventional therapy. “Ambulanticum Herdecke” is a therapeutic centre, in which children and adults, who suffer from multiple sclerosis, paraplegia, severe head injuries or strokes, get comprehensive support in their recovery processes. Innovative technologies and a multidisciplinary team of experts facilitate the best possible treatments for patients with severe health conditions.

### More on the “Zugabe Prize”

Making the world a better place is not dependent on one’s age. In the style of Encore.org and its former “Purpose Prize”, the Körber Stiftung is awarding founders who – by entrepreneurial means – found solutions for the social challenges of our time. They may have founded a company or a social enterprise.

In 2020, 57 founders from all over Germany have been nominated by a Search Committee. In the first round of the nomination process, the jury has chosen nine finalists and finally decided for four award winners.