## **Citizen initiative to give people in need a future.**

In the early 1990s, based on their faith in God and their love for Him, married couple Arie and Ella van Pelt decided to open their home and heart to young people in need. Until about 2008, they constantly had one or two young people in their home. At the time, their problems were often the result of drug and/or alcohol use.

In 2004, they set up Stichting de Overbrugging to cover the costs of taking in illegal young people who needed rehab at a recognised institution such as Stichting de Hoop in Dordrecht.

When the shelter at their home was no longer possible for health reasons, the objective of Foundation de Overbrugging became much broader.

**Objective**

The objective of Foundation de Overbrugging is to provide help and shelter to everyone, young and old, who have become stuck in their lives due to all kinds of circumstances.

Foundation de Overbrugging aims to promote the independence and self-reliance of its clients and to improve their social position and health situation.

The Bridging Foundation aims to create a living environment of tranquillity, structure and safety.

It is an intermediate station from which people can return to society when they are ready.

**Target group**

Foundation De Overbrugging wants to offer shelter and accommodation to anyone who has become stuck.

For others, outpatient help is offered again.

Problems can be very diverse and include the following:

Psychological problems;

Financial problems;

Relationship problems;

Housing problems;

Lack of daytime activities;

Identity

This means that part of the staff is motivated by this foundation

This also means that the atmosphere in the residential facilities is coloured by identity-related norms and values.

However, the client's philosophy of life does not play any role in the hiring policy.

The Christian identity does not mean that dissenters are excluded, but rather emphasises the openness towards others.

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**Working method**

The Foundation's care provision focuses on shelter and care.

In various facilities of the foundation, young people can be temporarily accommodated to live independently with light guidance.

The client's request for help determines the deployment of care needed...,

**Volunteers**

Most of the work within the foundation is done by a large permanent group of volunteers.

In addition, the foundation also employs five professionals

Thanks to the efforts of all these people, we can see that this way of working really pays off. Many clients find a healthy way back into society.

*Foundation de Overbrugging has a Christian identity and is based in Oud-Beijerland in the Netherlands.*