



**THE YEAR
OF JANUSZ
KORCZAK**

2012

**there are
no children,
only people**

[News](#)
[Janusz Korczak](#)
[Year 2012](#)
[Gallery](#)
[Calendar](#)
[Children's zone](#)
[Materials](#)
[Contact](#)

1200 KM CHARITY RUN FOR AN ARCHE (ARKA) IN WARSAW



John McGurk and "Sportler 4 a childrens world eV" met for coffee with Anna Komorowska (Wife of the Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski) in the Belvedere Palace. They participated in the Charity run from Münster / Osnabrück to Warsaw from 30/05/2012 to 05/06/2012 for an arche in Warsaw under the patronage of Lukas Podolski

After seven arduous days and nights, the team is now back home in Osnabrück. Participants were, John McGurk, Sven Kösters, Mark Grace, Olaf Drescher, Klaus Karschewski, Axel Kreutzer, Wilhelm Dembruk, Jonas Rosenfeld, Bastian Dreier, Lena Erfmann, Tim Kösters, Jürgen Rosenfeld, Andreas Crocoll, Andreas Kramer, Marita Ritter, Bernhard Frohne, Detlef Kösters, Hermann Helming, Reiner Mattern, Michael Steins. It was a great experience for all with lots of new impressions and emotions.

Along the entire route, there were always impressive highlights. Beginning with the start signal at FMO (Münster/Osnabrück Airport), by Olympic Show Jumping gold medalist Ludger Beerbaum. The team was accompanied by children from the Paul Moor School Bersenbrück. VFL legend Joe Enochs and Tommy Reichenberger and approximately 30 employees of the company Kikxxl accompanied us towards Osnabrück. From Osnabrück we went over to Wallenhorst, where sponsors have been under way, such as the companies Kuhlmann, Stavermann and the company Porta furniture. From Wallenhorst we went on to Hannover Airport and on to the State Chancellery. Here we were expected by Prime Minister David McAllister with a team of runners. With many good words and wishes it continued on to Altwarmbüchen Porta, Braunschweig Porta, Magdeburg Porta and Potsdam Porta, and the Brandenburg Gate in Berlin. The Deputy Mayor and Senator Frank Henkel's Arche founder Mr. Bernd Siggelkow welcomed here the team and sent the runners off in the direction of Frankfurt / Oder. An unforgettable experience for all, together with the Mayor of the City of Frankfurt / Oder, Mr. Wilke and the Polish Ambassador Dr Marek Pravda with German and Polish flags, we crossed the border at the bridge of friendship in our neighboring country of Poland.

In Swiebodzine the team was amazed at the sight of the Christ-King statue, which they reached early Sunday morning. In Poznan, the runners were sent on their way from the Town Hall in the Old Town towards Warsaw.

The route took them further on via Konin to Rawa Mazowiecka. Here, the team ran the last 80km towards Warsaw with members of the Polish branch of the company Quick-Mix. On the outskirts of Warsaw, the group got a police escort to the German Embassy. The runners were enthusiastically received by the German Ambassador Rüdiger Freiherr von Fritsch, and the embassy staff. At the German Embassy John McGurk proudly presented a check for the amount of 52 800,- € (208 778,- PLN) to the spokesman of the Arche, Wolfgang Buescher

Then we went on to the wreath-laying ceremony accompanied by Ambassador Rüdiger Freiherr von Fritsch at the largest Jewish cemetery in Warsaw at the monument of Janusz Korczak (father of the children's rights). It was a very moving moment for the team and pride filled each and every one of us who took part on this benefit run.

In the evening, the Ambassador invited the team to a reception at the embassy. Where the ambassador and many invited guests took the opportunity and spent a lot of time in conversation with individual members of the team.

During the evening and to our surprise and joy, the team received an invitation from the First Lady of Poland, Anna Komorowska, for the following day at Belvedere Palace.

Over coffee, pastries and fruit Mrs Komorowska listened to John McGurks words about our project, "an arche in Warsaw," and about our volunteer work for disadvantaged children in the world.

For us it was an extraordinary and wonderful project. We are grateful for the high appreciation of our work and look forward to our next challenge.

Gertrud Kusters (CEO Sportler 4 a childrens world eV)

The "Arche" Foundation is responsible for creating social clubs for children and adolescents. Providing assistance and perspectives for development can increase the chances of young people that grow up in a difficult environment. In the new center in Warsaw - with places for 50 children - young people will be able to get help with their homework and spend their free time.



fot. Piotr Mołęcki/KPRP



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