

Freizeit Revue

ONLY FLIPPER AND HIS FRIENDS CAN HELP THESE CHILDREN

Nicolas, Leif-Eric and Albert are special-needs children. However, their parents are not giving up. They have one last hope: Dolphin therapy in Florida

Kirsten Kuhnert took charge and founded "dolphin aid"

The doctors had given up on Tim. The 2 year old fell into a pool. He was revived, but remained in a coma. The night after his accident, his mother had a dream about dolphins that convinced her that the intelligent inhabitants of the sea would help them. After dolphin therapy in Florida, Tim indeed awoke from his coma. Since 1978, Dr.Nathanson has worked with special-needs children and dolphins. But the therapy is expensive: approximately 15.000.00 Euro. Too much for these families. Therefore Kirsten Kuhnert founded an organization:

dolphin aid e.V.
Angermunder Str. 9
40489 Dusseldorf
Tel. 0203/746280
www.dolphin-aid.de

account number for donations: 2000 2200
routing number: 300 501 10
Stadtsparkasse Dusseldorf

This way you can support the therapies for Nicolas, Leif-Eric, Albert as well as other special-needs children.

Leif-Eric

It took seven years until Leif took his first steps. By age 10, he could barely climb two steps. What comes easily to other children, Leif has to work for, explains his mother Petra Bonk. Her son uses gestures to express himself. On his wrist he wears a "talking watch" for the most important words like: "Hello", "Yes", "No" and "I have to use the restroom". Now Leif is 16 years old. He attends tenth grade at the "Waldorf-Schule" in Hamburg. His favorite subject is mathematics. At school he uses a computer. What he types is converted into language. In March, Leif types: "I would love to be able to talk". His mother hopes that maybe he will get a little bit of help from the dolphins.

Albert suffers from a rare genetic-defect

Albert (7) will never laugh and run like other children. This is what his parents Iris Hantel (35) and Key Muschall (37) are being told after an odyssey through various clinics. Their son suffers from Smith-Lemil-Opitz-syndrome (SLOS), a rare genetic-defect. In Germany, approximately 100 people suffer from this syndrome. With SLOS the body cannot form cholesterol before birth, thus leading to defects of organs as well as mental impairment. Especially saddening for his parents is the fact that Albert directs his aggression against his own body. He beats his head against the wall, his fist in his own face. His mother Iris Hantel has one fond wish: "We hope that dolphin therapy diminishes Albert's urge to hurt himself and that his motor skills will improve. It would be wonderful if his life would become a little more worth living."