

# Catholic Intercommunal Association of the Community of Unkel

Pastor Andreas Arend

Unkel, the 8<sup>th</sup> of March, 2018

## Letter of Support (Translated from the original German)

The Catholic Intercommunal Association of the Community of Unkel, together with the Protestant Partner Association, was the initiator of the refugee initiative “Kontaktkreis Fluechtling” (Contact Circle Refugee) in the community of Unkel at the beginning of 2015. From its start, the work of the Contact Circle’s many non-professional assistants in the field of refugee assistance has been welcomed and supported by our pastoral area – with space made available for gatherings, continued education possibilities, jobs created within the church to guide this volunteer work, and not least financial assistance.

We continue to support the volunteers’ valuable activities and efforts for a long-term integration. It is in this context that we appreciate “Unkelers” and new inhabitants of Unkel, who fled here, founding the association “Gemeinsam für Vielfalt” (Together for Diversity), which dedicates itself to the development of the project “Integrationswerkstatt”. We consider the concept of the “Integrationswerkstatt”, planned and implemented by refugees and non-refugees together – with space for social assistance and an inter-religious prayer space, with a bicycle self-repair café and diverse possibilities of encounter for “old and new neighbors” through playing sports together, playing music together, gardening together and playing together – to be a sound approach towards promoting integration. We advocate for and endorse this initiative.

(A. Arend, Pastor)

Pastoralbüro, Corneliaweg 5, D - 53572 Unkel; Tel: 0049 2224-71550

Internet: [www.seelsorgebereich-unkel.de](http://www.seelsorgebereich-unkel.de); E-Mail: [andreas.arend@erzbistum-koeln.de](mailto:andreas.arend@erzbistum-koeln.de)