

A HEART FOR THE CITY AND FOR PEOPLE



Amsterdam is a thriving and expanding city. More than 760,000 inhabitants appear to live happily in the various districts of Amsterdam. However, there could be major problems hidden behind some of the front doors, such as social isolation, sickness, psychiatric problems, debts etc. The Dutch government stimulates involvement and participation in the society; to look after each other and care about each other have become well-known concepts. At the same time however, there are many people in the society who are excluded by the current WMO policy and the present government. For this very reason there are many opportunities in the field of Social Enterprises (MBS) in Amsterdam. The question is thus how do you manage this opportunity skilfully and expertly?

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X
X
Social Enterprises (MBO) mean that companies make finances available for social projects. Non-profit organisations can use some extra hands. (source: MVO Nederland)



“You’re a sweetheart, for doing this for me”
“Yes, I call you sweetheart because you’re my friend”
But I’ve only known you since yesterday, I reply.
“That doesn’t matter” she decides.
“You are a sweetheart for doing this for me”

A quote from a real example, where a volunteer is painting at the house of a 71-year old lady from the Jordaan.

Many Amsterdammers are made happy in this way and we hope that many more will follow.

PRESENT AMSTERDAM, YOUR PARTNER

The non-profit organisation Present Amsterdam forms a bridge between groups of people who want to help and get involved in the community of their city and people who can use some extra help or are in need of assistance. The volunteering groups are engaged via Present’s broad network of welfare organisations so that the people who need it most - with inadequate social network, funds and/or health problems – receive the so much needed help.

At present, Foundation Present Amsterdam engages around 130 groups on a yearly basis while the number of groups originating from profit-making companies (such as Meijers Assurantien, Woonzorg Nederland, Atlassian) is rising. The projects done by these 130 groups translate into 1000 hours voluntary commitment to the Amsterdam society.

Liander does two projects with Present and Amsterdam Cares annually. Amsterdam Cares is a sister organisation to Present. About thirty to forty people are involved per time. Liander believes societal commitment is important. This is seen not only by the financial support but also by involvement in long term projects where they also get practically involved. Liander is part of Alianer (formerly NUON), an energy network provider.



WHY PARTNERSHIP?

As a company, you feel for the city and you wish to be visible in the society in the field of Social Enterprises. Foundation Present, as your professional partner, can help you to achieve this goal.

In order to ensure professionalism of our service, the team of Present Amsterdam consists of three paid workforces (1,2 fte) and 6 structural volunteers (together 1.4 fte). Who have a background in social work and business service. Present's mediation of volunteer projects is free of charge for groups. The professional guidance that Present provides involves, however, expenses, which are on average € 500,- per project. Amsterdam housing corporations and the

Municipality of Amsterdam endorse the necessity of the Foundation Present by supporting the work of Present as their partner with a financial subsidy. Since this financial contribution does not cover the expenses Present has, further financial assistance is necessary from individuals, businesses and capital funds. As partner of Present you support us financially and make it possible for Present to continue in its work and to increase the number of projects. Your employees get the opportunity to engage in the community of Amsterdam via projects organised by Present, tailored to what the groups want to do: tailored projects are the strength of Present!

WHAT PRESENT AMSTERDAM OFFERS TO YOUR COMPANY:

- ✗ Professional fulfilment in the field of Social Enterprises (partnership with Present and socially meaningful input of your staff via projects), which revitalises the involvement of your employees in your company and the society.
- ✗ Expertise and quality: Foundation Present Amsterdam has a network within the social welfare organisations, which your company may capitalize on by participating in a project or by deploying other ideas in the field of MBO.
- ✗ Custom-made solutions: Foundation Present Amsterdam creates a partnership that fits within your own culture and frameworks of your company in your own city or district.
- ✗ Publicity: Foundation Present Amsterdam provides a brief report of the partnership on its website and in its own newsletter and manages external publicity to profile you as a Social Enterpriser.
- ✗ Monitoring of the project from A to Z (from application till assessment).
- ✗ Partner gatherings.
- ✗ Stipulation of the arrangements with regard to the partnership in a partnership agreement.
- ✗ Foundation Present is "ANBI-proof".

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS?

- ✗ Time to agree on and establish your involvement in the area of MBO via an appointment and a presentation given by Present's employees.
- ✗ Financial participation: Foundation Present Amsterdam depends financially on subsidies and grants.



Group of the insurance broker Meijers is gardening to help people in the north of Amsterdam.

PRESENT IN PRACTICE

The foundation Present Amsterdam facilitates one-day volunteer projects for groups that wish to assist people who are in need of help. The volunteers determine what kind of project they would like to do. From the basis of a volunteer group's request, availability and time a suitable project is found.

Present Amsterdam facilitates the group's request of a project. The project may be of a practical nature at a house (e.g. painting) or garden or socially oriented, such as an excursion with seniors or disabled. Some other options are e.g. helping young mothers/newcomers, preparing a meal for homeless, and theatre workshop.

Present selects projects for the volunteering groups in cooperation with social welfare organisations. In this way it is guaranteed that the help provided by the volunteering. Already existing aid and supports the already existing welfare aid programme.

In this way, in the course of one day, it is possible to share what you have with someone a manner that is the most convenient to you.

More than just a project happens in such a day; the group members meet with the recipient of their assistance and that may transform the way people perceive their community and the city.

As part of its socially-responsible-organisation policy, the insurance broker Meijers, supports strategic goals that invest in future talent and that attempt to make the world a better place for today's children. Initiatives are also developed by employees, giving Meijers a societal function. Once a year, a substantial number of employees actively participate in a social project. Over the past three years our workers have planned various activities with Stichting Present. Almost 50 workers are involved on a yearly basis, and the organisation is also supported financially. Meijers is aware of the social responsibility that a healthy organisation carries.

