

Ambulanz Wunsch

Lescht Erënnerungen schafen

Our mission

Ambulanz Wonsch's mission is to give people who are in end-of-life care and bedridden, the resources, specialist transport and medical care they need to make memories and fulfil their final wish.

What will happen?

The patient decides the day. We will come with a specially designed ambulance and qualified medical staff (an ambulance driver and a nurse) to accompany the patient during the wish. In addition, 2 more people can join the patient in the ambulance. Others come to join the wish by their own means of transport. The ambulances are especially focused on comfort, with a soft mattress, pillows and a duvet. It's equipped with shuttered windows so that you can look outside, enjoy the view but not be seen.

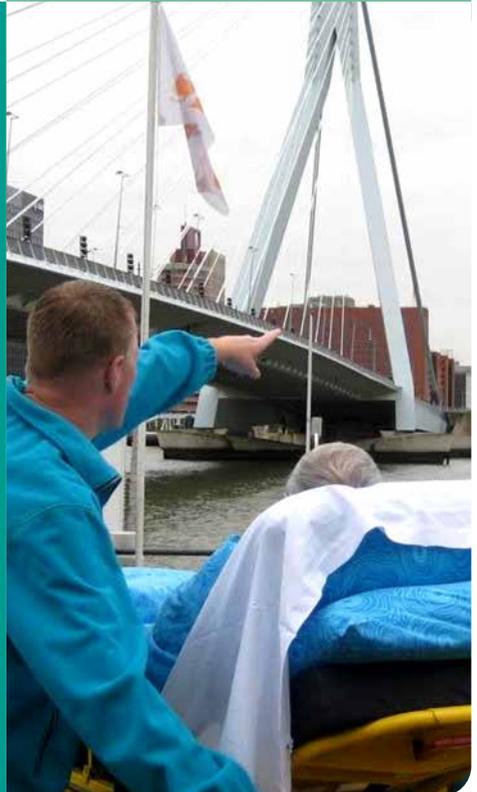
Do you have a wish?

Our aim is to make the impossible, possible, by providing the means to make a wish, however simple or complex, a reality. From the initial contact onwards, we arrange every aspect of the wish.

We welcome wishes big or small from everyone, adult or child. Nearly everything is possible and the service free of charge.

If you wish to use our service, or you know someone who has a last wish, then please complete our application form on the website and we will respond to you as soon as we can.

www.ambulanzwonsch.lu



Ambulanz Wonsch Luxembourg

We are Ambulanz Wonsch ASBL. This name is based on the idea of fulfilling the last wishes of terminally ill patients with the help of volunteers and our own ambulances.

There are still too many patients who die without being able to complete things in this final phase of their life. One of the causes is the inability to realise certain wishes because the patient is no longer mobile and other existing facilities fall short.

Ambulanz Wonsch enables people receiving palliative care or who are terminally ill and bedridden to fulfil a final wish by visiting a place of personal

significance, for example, to admire their own garden, to go to that one meaningful place, or to be surrounded by their loved ones and pets. It's usually the little things that mean the most to a person nearing the end of their life. Things that would be otherwise out of reach.

Medically trained volunteers and specialised vehicles provide the means to make these final dreams come true at no cost to the patient or their family. The service is entirely donor-funded and staffed by medically trained health care professionals who volunteer their time.

How it started

The Ambulanz Wonsch initiative is based on a Dutch model – *Stichting Ambulance Wens*. Fifteen years ago, during a delay in transferring a patient called Mario Stefanutto, Kees Veldboer (an ambulance driver in the Netherlands back then) asked if there was anywhere he would like to go. The retired seaman told him he would love to see the harbour of Vlaardingen one more time. Kees didn't think twice and drove Mario to the harbour.

During that trip, Kees asked Mario if he would like the opportunity to sail again. Mario said this would be impossible as he now needed a stretcher. But Kees was determined to make this last wish for Marion come true and he did.

Mario's words: *"It fills me with joy to know that there are still people who care about others. From what I experienced this gesture, to fulfil my wish had a huge impact on me."*

Making this wish come true, seeing the ultimate happiness on Mario's face, Kees realized the importance of fulfilling a last wish. Not just for the person who receives the service but also for their families, friends and the medical care staff. The mission was born in that moment and Kees decided to create a foundation, and so *Stichting Ambulance Wens The Netherlands* was founded.

Creating memories

Yvette's wish



Meet Yvette: a beautiful, smart lady, about 40 years old, mother of 4, and a love for her job and life. Strong and fiercely she defeated cancer, so we all thought. She returned to work and life happily but intense headaches forced her to go back to her doctor again. Diagnosis: head tumours. Prognosis: only a few weeks. While everyone was lost for words, Yvette remained very brave and accepted that she had to let go. Her colleagues contacted 'Ambulance Wens' to ask for the fulfilment of her last wish. When she initially heard the ambulance wish organization was arranged, she had been upset. Afterwards, she stated: **"Although I thought I could do this by myself, because of the ambulance team, I could truly enjoy this day: it was everything I needed."**

For one last time, she went to the city where she was born and raised. She visited her old school, the café she used to go to when she was younger. She went to her parent's place and in the presence of loved ones, she could rest, simply be home, be a daughter, lie on a couch, was able to pet the dog. A moment of normality and comfort in the limited time she had left.

In addition, as she used to be a dancer, she went to the theatre where she once danced. There, while lying on the ambulance stretcher, she danced her last dance with her former dance teacher - a big smile on her face. Seeing that smile on her face, the joy she felt, the love she was surrounded by, I now fully realized the impact of the work of Ambulance Wens Netherlands. The power of fulfilling people's last wishes, giving them a brilliant day, one more time.

Days like these are a welcome bright moment in the hard period they must go through. These days are filled with wonderful experiences and beautiful memories to cherish.

Having experienced the magic and now knowing there is a possibility to make something that seems impossible possible, realizing the impact it has on both the patient and the family, we are excited to welcome this heartwarming charity to Luxembourg.

Karen van Hout
Founder Ambulanz Wonsch Luxembourg

Support us!

Do you want to grant wishes to those nearing the end of life? Contact us to find out how you can support us in the way that suits you best. Besides monetary donations, also your time, support, sponsoring, fundraising activities, partnership or service is valuable to us.

Donate a wish!

All Ambulance Wishes are **free** of charge. However, the Ambulanz Wunsch cannot do this without donations from numerous generous people, associations, and companies. **Would you like to make one or more wishes a reality?**

Please make a donation via
IBAN: LU08 0030 3594 0251 0000
BIC Code: BGLULL
attn. Ambulanz Wunsch
or Payconiq



Want to become a volunteer?

We are always looking for volunteers such as Nurses, Paramedics, Medical Practitioners, Professional drivers, Photographers, Videographers, Fundraisers, Office volunteers, Translators, and more.

Together, with experienced volunteers and adapted ambulances, we fulfil the desires of those who need assistance to experience that one final wish. Wishes can range from just being outside, visits to family members, watching their favourite sporting team, anything is possible. To do this we rely on volunteers, can you spare one or more days a month?





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