

# A big heart for sick children

## Karsten Kallinowsky: entrepreneur establishes foundation

**I**n May 2016, the little Sophia, whose nickname was Mulle, died of a brain tumour at only three years of age. The following year, on her birthday, her father Karsten Kallinowsky, the owner of Allit AG, set up the Sophia Kallinowsky Foundation. Since 26 February 2017, this has very successfully supported children suffering from cancer and their attending physicians.

Karsten Kallinowsky dedicates the same level of commitment to the foundation ([www.ophia.foundation](http://www.ophia.foundation)) as he does at the plastics plant for stacking boxes and toolboxes that he manages jointly with his brother Jochen in Bad Kreuznach. Consequently, a six-figure sum in euros was raised in just over a year.

### Individual therapy and treatment

From these funds, a so-called Xcelligence technology platform was purchased in May 2018 for the Centre of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine at the University Medical Centre in Mainz, Germany, where Sophia had been treated. This can analyse a large number of cell samples from cancer tumours in a short time.

In 2016, some 500,000 people contracted cancer in Germany, of whom around 2,000 were children. New therapies are continuously being developed for adults, which cannot however be applied one-to-one to children.

"If Sophia's death is to have any kind of meaning, then it lies in the idea of a foundation that it inspired in me," explains Karsten

Kallinowsky. "We want to help the young patients and also the doctors. In future, individually tailored cancer therapies and new treatment methods must be made available specifically for children."

The foundation, however, does not only support research, it also ensures joyful moments for the sick children and their families:

"The courageous and incredibly patient children deserve a treat so that they can forget their illness for a short while," says Karsten Kallinowsky. He goes on to explain that last year, for example, a covered wagon tour and an ice cream event were organised at the university hospital.

### Own products and events

Furthermore, the foundation owns a vineyard in Winzenheim. Here, three events are held each year. The vineyard is also a good source of income: juice, wine and sparkling wine are produced from the grapes and sold – since recently even in China. Further foundation products include be-brave bracelets, lucky Buddhas, cuddly toys and the "Mulle box" – all in Sophia's favourite colour, green. Further funds are raised via donations and public



Photo: Private

The early death of his daughter Sophia prompted Karsten Kallinowsky to establish a foundation to help other children suffering from cancer.

benefit events, including a crime-solving dinner in Allit's vaulted cellar, for example. One matter dear to Karsten Kallinowsky's heart is still outstanding: a research project specifically for the therapy of children suffering from cancer. "For this purpose, we intend to establish an endowment professorship at the university hospital in Mainz," explains Karsten Kallinowsky with regard to his current objective. "Because every investment in research is also an opportunity for healing!"