



During 2018 the Johanniterhjälpare project, now counting almost 100 active volunteers trained in first aid and each equipped with an automatic defibrillator, remained main focus of Johanniterhjälpen in Sweden (JHJ). After a period of consolidation with emphasis on establishing processes for maintaining and training existing volunteers, the project is well positioned to return emphasis on continued growth.

Apart from supporting a number of mainly athletic events of various size, the largest being the annual cross-country race Lidingöloppet included in this years' Volunteer Swap, the Johanniterhjälpare volunteers are connected to the emergency response services via SMS. When an emergency is reported within 500 metres from the volunteer, he or she will get a message detailing location and nature of assistance needed. Efforts have been made to look into new areas where the project could contribute, including but not limited to involving companies and apartment blocks as well as supporting the Sweden Rock Festival, an annual four day event with some 120 acts and 30 000 visitors.

In addition to Västra Götaland, Västmanland and Södermanland counties also introduced the same emergency SMS-functionality as in Stockholm county. A number of other counties and municipal regions have stated their intentions to introduce similar systems but progress is slow. However, the recently established local JHJ-branch in southern Sweden (JHJ Syd) has continued to recruit and train new volunteers. While JHJ volunteers contribute to delivering first aid at events in several parts of Sweden, the establishment of local branches of JHJ will likely be connected to the further development regional emergency SMS-functionality.

In part due to the delay in establishing SMS-emergency service in new areas, it was decided in 2017 to take the opportunity to temporarily shift focus from growth to consolidation of the project organisation aiming at re-training, activating and vetting existing volunteers. This process continued during 2018 and will make us better prepared to continue our efforts both in establishing the JHJ brand as a first aid provider in Sweden and growing the organisation, ie recruiting and training new members as well as identifying suitable events in which to participate.

The four working groups established by or chairman Carl Reuterskiöld in an effort to facilitate the future development of JHJ – Defibrillators and JohanniterHjälparna, Financing, International exchange/Volunteering and Communications – continued working within their respective areas.

Due to the intention to focus more on first aid-related projects, other areas such as eg Dementia were maintained but not further developed. This will probably remain the case during the immediate future but we continued the successful co-operation with Siviahemmet, an important foundation focused on training specialised medical professionals in this field, and the revised edition of the "Practical Aid"-brochure for people with dementia and their relatives is still distributed upon request.

GDPR-related issues have been duly handled.

Number of paying members remained at just over 600. We share offices and one full time staff with the Johanniter Order of Sweden.