

VAIKO VARTAI Į MOKSLĄ / CHILD'S GATE TO LEARNING

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Donations are tax deductible.

Jan./Feb. 2011

2010 m.  
HIGHLIGHTS

- Volunteerism
- Seminar
- Character building program update
- Recognition
- Fund-raising
- Information sharing



**VOLUNTEERISM**

"Child's Gate to Learning" supports and promotes volunteerism on both sides of the Atlantic. At the annual Chicago area update session in Feb. 2010 m., U.S. based volunteers were honored. Two „pioneers" had worked at the Vilnius in 2000, and one more recently at the Žemaičių Kalvarija (in 2009) after school center. All emphasized that the experience will leave memories that will last a lifetime.

*Photographs:*

\* Officers Rita Venclovas (R) and Aldona Kamantas (L.) with former volunteers Vija Sidrys (2000), Andrytė Siliūnas (2009), and Vida Kazlauskas (2000).

\* 2010 volunteers at the Kaunas "Žaliakalnis" center Analise Stein (L, wearing hat) and Daiva Jarašius (R, wearing hat) with the Franciscan sisters who run the center.



## RECOGNITION

The Knights of Lithuania, Midwest Chapter, honored „Child's Gate to Learning” in 2010 with its „Award of Distinction” in recognition of the work done for Lithuania and its children.

Chair Aldona Vaitys and Director Dalia Anysas attended the banquet in Feb. 2010 and, on behalf of the organization, thanked the Knights of Lithuania for the honor.

## SEMINAR & REVISED CHARACTER BUILDING PROGRAM

The first character building program, prepared in 2000 by the editorial committee of „Child's Gate to Learning”, was updated and revised by the organization's Lithuanian representative, social worker Žydrūnė Liobikaitė and her colleague, Lina Gervytė

The updated program was presented April 22-23, 2010 to representatives of the 11 supported centers at a seminar in Kaunas. Also attending the seminar from the U.S. were officer Dalia Martinkus and editorial committee member, psychologist Gražina Karaitis, who represented the organization. The participants from Chicago actively participated in the seminar, and afterwards, visited some supported centers.

*In the photograph from L: G. Karaitis, a seminar presenter, and D. Martinkus.*



## INFO SHARING AT ROTARY CLUB

From time to time, „Child's Gate to Learning” representatives are invited to share information about the organization's projects and experience in Lithuania. Rotary Club member Aušra TallatKelpša DiRaimondo invited officers Rita Venclovas and Ramunė Kubilius to the Rotary Club (Naperville, IL) Oct. 12, 2010 meeting.

The guests were warmly received and a plan announced for the organization to become a local college Rotaract (Rotary Club junior branch) support project.

*In the photograph, from L, A. TallatKelpša DiRaimondo and R. Venclovas.*



## SUPPORT GROUPS

„Child's Gate to Learning” has support groups in Cleveland, Detroit, Philadelphia, Sunny Hills (FL) & Washington, D.C. We thank the coordinators for their efforts, their publicity, and their fund raising event work!

*Photograph, from L: Rita Giedraitis, who with Rasa Karvelis successfully coordinates Detroit's support group projects. She stands next to an information table at the Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis community service afternoon in Lemont, IL, together with (from L) org. officers Rūta Šmulkštys and Rita Venclovas.*

## FUTURE VOLUNTEERS

Photo from: Oct. 2010 fund-raising „Harvest Lunch” (World Lithuanian Center, Lemont, IL). Some Chicago area high schoolers who plan on working as volunteers at „Child’s Gate” supported centers in Lithuania during Summer, 2011. The youths also volunteered as lunch servers at the fund-raiser.



## „VILTIES VĖRINĖLIŲ”

### 5<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

In Nov. 2010, the “Child’s Gate to Learning” supported center, “Vilties vėrinėliai” in Žemaičių Kalvarija, celebrated its 5th anniversary. The center will celebrate in Spring 2011, the center’s 5<sup>th</sup> year anniversary at its current location. We extend congratulations to the well-run center and its innovative program director, psychologist Jolanta Virbickienė!

