



VAIKO VARTAI Į MOKSLĄ / CHILD'S GATE TO LEARNING

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Dear supporters,

We wish you a happy 2012 and express our gratitude for your generous support in 2012. During 2011, as in years, past, we sponsored fundraising events in Chicago and various U.S. cities where there are support groups. We informed the public about our work, sent packages to our supported centers and kept in touch with our coordinator in Lithuania. The **summer of 2011** was a summer to remember for our young volunteers in Lithuania. In **October**, Jolanta Virbickienė, the program director of the supported center, „Vilties Vėrinėliai“ (Žemaičių Kalvarija) visited Chicago. We organized an afternoon during which she shared her insights about the problems and hopes for Lithuania's at risk family's children who live in the countryside (*„Lietuvos kaimo socialinės rizikos šeimų vaikų problemos ir jų įveika“*). In **December**, we received the gratifying news from the Lithuanian Foundation that our project to help pay for special medical needs and expenses for supported center children will be funded.



MEETINGS, REPORTS, MARKETING

Photos:

Officers Rita Venclovas and Ritonė Rudaitis exchange a few words with Lithuania's Speaker of the Parliament, Irena Degutienė, and Lithuania's Ambassador to the United States, Žygimantas Pavilionis, at the „Child's Gate to Learning“ information table during the Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Missions' volunteer service bazaar („tarnystės mugė“) in Lemont, IL.

Jolanta Virbickienė, the program coordinator of „Vilties vėrinėliai center in Žemaičių Kalvarija with 4 of the 6 young volunteers hosted by her center in 2009 ir 2011.

Officers and board of director members after meeting with Jolanta Virbickienė.





A LUNCH, A BAZAAR, OTHER EVENTS

Photos: (at left-„Harvest Lunch”/ „Derliaus pietūs”) Smiling lunch attendees Mr. Gražys, Mr. and Mrs. Užginis and (r)- “Draugas” newspaper chief editor, Dalia Cidzikaitė.

“Child’s Gate to Learning” officer Rasa Kaminskas Avižienis (l) with young raffle volunteers, Lina, Vasara, and Nida, who helped pull lucky tickets and distribute the gifts.

Program participants- sister violinists Diana and Monika Satkauskas and young Lithuanian folk singer, Agnė Giedraitis.

(above)
Officers rest after packing up supplies at the conclusion of the 2011 pre-Christmas bazaar, which took place Dec. 9-10 d.d. Bazaar visitors stopped at the „Child’s Gate to Learning” tables to buy tortes and coffee, Lithuanian arts and crafts. Some left donations.

This is just a sample of 2011 programs and events...





Photos- Scenes from volunteers activities in Marijampolė, Žemaičių Kalvarija, Kazlų Rūda, Vilnius, and during a gathering at the Lithuanian World Center in Lemont, IL.



THANKS TO THE CENTERS

We thank the supported centers in Lithuania that hosted 2011 volunteers: „Vilties angelas“ (Vilnius); „Senamiesčio centras“-šv. Kryžiaus namai (Vilnius); „Žaliakalnis“(Kaunas); „Šypsniukas“(Kazlų Rūda); „Šaltinėlis“ (Marijampolė), „Vilties vėrinėliai“ (Žemaičių Kalvarija) and „Svajonė“ (Varėna).

THANKS TO THE 2011 VOLUNTEERS

During the spring of 2011, we prepared 16 young people (15 from the Chicago area, 1 from Denver, CO, and 1 from Kaunas) and coordinated their volunteer work during the summer at 6 supported centers in Lithuania.

Working with the centers' youths, the volunteers played sports, played musical instruments, sang, had excursions, played team building games. They were non-judgemental friends to the centers' youths who are from at risk families. Together they had outings in Lithuania's cities and the countryside.

Thank you to Alena, Audra, Dovas, Indrė, Kovas, Kristė, Kristina, Lija, Siga, Svaja, Vaiva, Vija, Viktoras, and Vilija (all from the Chicago area), Gintas (from Denver, CO), and Tadas (from Kaunas)!

Thanks go to the volunteers' relatives and friends, through whose support the volunteers were able pay for their trips to Lithuania and cover their other expenses. We are grateful to those families who have supported more than one family member's trip to volunteer at "Child's Gate to Learning" supported centers in Lithuania.



FRIENDS, SUPPORT, AS WELL AS EFFORTS TO OVERCOME THE BAD (IN THE WORLD) WITH GOOD

Photos:

With supported center "Šypsniukas" youths in Kazlu Rūda, during the Summer of 2011, two volunteers, Gintas from Denver (CO), the third family member to serve as a "Child's Gate to Learning" volunteer in Lithuania, together with Viktoras from the Chicago area.

It is important for humanitarian organizations such as "Child's Gate to Learning" to have friends and donors who support the organization's goals. We thank the organizers of and participants in the *Florida Lithuanian Open Golf Tournament* (Floridos golfo (FLO-XI)) /seen in photo/ who in 2011 donated a portion of the tournament's profit for "Child's Gate to Learning" supported after school centers and temporary shelters in Lithuania.

Seen in the photo are 2011 Marijampolė volunteers, standing in front of a chapel during an excursion to the birthplace (Luginė) of Blessed Archbishop Jurgis Matulaitis. His bishop's motto was to overcome the bad in the world with good ("*Nugalėti blogį gerumu*"). That motto coincides nicely with the goals of "Child's Gate to Learning", both in the past and the future.

Support groups in Cleveland (OH), Detroit (MI), Sunny Hills (FL), Philadelphia (PA), ir Washington, D.C. were busy in 2011 m., raising funds in various ways, including organizing lunches: dumplings („koldūnai") and a concert; pre-Christmas lunch; pre-Easter lunch, and participation in various bazaars. A big thank you ("ačiū") to support group coordinators Teresė Gečys, Rita Giedraitis, Rasai Karvelis, Stasė Kazlauskas, Teresė Landsbergis, Judita Mamaitis, and Bronė Nakas !