

VAIKO VARTAI Į MOKSLĄ /CHILD'S GATE TO LEARNING
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Dear supporters,

January 2013

It is hard to believe that another year has gone by. In February 2012, during our annual meeting in Lemont, IL, we honored the young volunteers of 2011 who worked in Lithuania. In the spring of 2012, we organized a seminar in Kaunas, which was attended by supported centers' staff members and volunteers, as well as two „Child's Gate to Learning“ officers from Chicago. The Florida golfers again donated a part of their March tournament (FLO XII) proceeds to our organization. During the summer of 2012, three young volunteers from Chicago worked at one of the supported centers in Vilnius. In the fall, we participated in the Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Mission fellowship day fair in Lemont, IL. „Child's Gate to Learning“ participated in a Christmas fair and coordinated the Mission's Christmas gift drive. Thanks to the generosity of Mission members, and the generosity of those who participated in a similar drive in Detroit, gifts were sent to Lithuania in October and a more joyous Christmas was ensured for youths who attend our supported centers. In September, a new after school center was opened in Šateikiai. Three guests came from the U.S. to attend the dedication ceremonies-officer Rita Venclovas, org. member, Daina Čyvas, and Ernest Raskauskas, Jr., a member of the benefactor family that financed the center's building renovation. Throughout the year, we wrote projects seeking funding and support, and stayed in touch with our supported centers. We thank our support groups throughout the U.S., who organized lunches and various other fund-raising projects. We repeat a phrase often used by our supported centers in Lithuania- „Thank you for being there for us“ („Ačiū, kad Jūs esate!“).

Child's Gate to Learning

Photos from supported centers in Lithuania- children and youths at play, doing arts and crafts activities.





Photos show scenes from the 2012 fundraiser, "Harvest Lunch" (Lemont, IL):

- * The Christmas present drive box for presents
- * Lithuanian Catholic Federation "Ateitis" youth members who volunteered to help out at the lunch (including 2012 summer volunteer in Lithuania, Svaja Pakalniškis)
- * Officer Rasa Avižienis who ran the raffle, with help from Nojus Aušra, Agnė Giedraitytė, and 2012 summer volunteer in Lithuania, Jokūbas Aušra.





Photos:

Left:

- *Officers and members of the Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis board during a meeting to discuss the Christmas present drive*
- *Scenes from the supported center in Šateikiai (officer Rita Venclovas can be seen in the back row, second from right)*

Right

- *Young „Harvest Lunch“ volunteers with officer Rita Venclovas*
- *The logo of the 2012 Florida golf tournament, FLO XII.*



In 2013, „Child's Gate to Learning” will celebrate its 15th anniversary.



We thank the supporters and support group coordinators in:

- * Chicago, IL
- * Cleveland (Ohio)
- *Detroit (Michigan)
- *Philadelphia (Pennsylvania)
- *Sunny Hills (Florida)
- *Washington, D.C.

We thank

- *The Lithuanian Foundation
- *The Raskauskų Family fund
- *the knitters, the donors to the Christmas present drive, the bakers, the golfers, the 2012 volunteers in Lithuania, and all who support „Child’s Gate to Learning” and its endeavors!

In 2012, “Child’s Gate to Learning” supported centers attended by at risk children and youths in: Jonava, Kaunas, Kazlų Rūda, Marijampolė, Naujoji Akmenė, Rumbonys, Užpaliai, Varėna, Vilnius (2 centers), Žemaičių Kalvarija, and effective September- Šateikiai.



Photos:

- * *Participants at the seminar in Kaunas*
- * *Volunteers at a fund-raising lunch in Cleveland*
- * *A thank you from the “Vilties vėrinėliai” center in Žemaičių Kalvarija*