



VAIKO VARTAI Į MOKSLĄ /CHILD'S GATE TO LEARNING

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2014 January /February

Dear supporters,

It is hard to believe that another year of activities has passed. In 2013 we marked the 15th anniversary of our organization's founding. In February, during the annual presentation of our activities, we honored the 2012 summer volunteers in Lithuania. In March, the Florida golfers (the Florida Lithuanian Open) again donated part of their event's proceeds in support of our organization. During the summer, 16 Lithuanian language speaking youths from around the United States travelled to Lithuania as volunteers. For several months prior to their departure, we prepared them for the trip and for their work with at risk families' children and we coordinated with the centers at which they would work. In the fall, we organized the traditional „Derliaus pietūs“ (Harvest Lunch) and participated in the Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Mission's Community Day. In December, we participated in the Christmas Bazaar held at the World Lithuanian Center (Lemont, IL). Thanks to the generosity of the participants in the Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Mission (Lemont, IL) Christmas Gift Drive, the gifts were packaged and sent to Lithuania in October, reaching the targeted support centers by Christmas. Throughout the year, we filled out proposals for funding support, wrote thank you letters to donors, and we maintained contact with our support groups in the U.S. and our supported centers in Lithuania. We thank the coordinators of our support groups for their participation in bazaars, for organizing fundraiser events, and we thank all who financially support and voluntarily join our organization's activities and projects. Our work continues...

We repeat the phrase often expressed by our supported centers „We thank you for who you are“ („Ačiū, kad Jūs esate!“).

„Child's Gate to Learning“

CONGRATULATIONS



We congratulate our coordinator in Lithuania, Žydrūnė Liobikaitė, whom the Lithuanian Catholic Association „Ateitis“ sorority, „Giedra“, honored in Vilnius, in August 2013, as a Lithuanian woman who has particularly shown Christian ideals through service to others („Lietuvei moteriai, ypatingai pasižymėjusiai krikščioniškų idealų tarnyboje“).

In the photo: Žydrūnė with a young Varėna „Svajonė“ center attendee.

VOLUNTEERS

Since 2000, more than 50 Lithuanian American youths - high schoolers, students, and adults have travelled to Lithuania, volunteering at "Child's Gate to Learning" supported after school centers and children's homes that are attended by children from at risk families. In June 2013, 16 young volunteers spent three weeks working at 6 supported centers.

Front row from left: Gintarė Daulys, Lija Hoffman, Sabyna Sandoval, Aleksa Rugienius, Nora Sadauskas, Gabrytė Razma, Monika Siliūnas, Rūta Ulčinas, Ariana Žlioba.

Back row from left: Angelytė Annarino, Vidas Kulbis, Mantas Kisielius, Gabrielius Urbaitis, Kovas Polikaitis, Mantas Naris.

(Not seen in the photo is Tomas Čyvas who had already gone to work at one center's camp.)



Photo taken in Trakai during an outing in early June 2013 before the volunteers dispersed to the centers at which they would work, in: Kazlų Rūda, Šateikiai, Varėna, Vilnius (2 centers), and Žemaičių Kalvarija.





WE APPRECIATE THE FINANCIAL SUPPORT OF:

- The Lithuanian Foundation (LF), for support of „Child’s Gate“ projects in Lithuania.
- Lithuanian Catholic Religious Aid’s Fund, for support of the „Vilties vėrinėliai“ center in Žemaičių Kalvarija and its project, „Your face, LORD, I shall seek!“ („Tavo veido, VIEŠPATIE, aš ieškojau!“), Ps 27,8, which encompassed a cycle of events and projects, including the camp, “God’s Ten Commandments” („Dešimt Dievo įsakymų“). *(4 volunteers worked at the camp.)*
- FLO XIII (Florida Lithuanian Open Golf Tournament) organizers and 78 golfers.
- The Raskauskas family fund.
- „Child’s Gate to Learning“ support groups in the U.S.
- Families of the 2013 summer volunteers who supported them and financed their trips to Lithuania.
- All supporters...

(Those who wish to receive a detailed list of 2013 donors should contact „Child’s Gate to Learning“.)





GOLFERS

FLO XIII (Florida Lithuanian Open Golf Tournament) in St. Petersburg, FL.

In the photo (2nd from L) Lithuania's Honorary Consul (St. Petersburg, FL), Algimantas Karnavičius, tournament initiator and chief organizer. Guests (from L) Žygimantas Pavilionis, Lithuania's Ambassador to the U.S. and (on the R) Lithuania's Honorary Consul (Atlanta, GA), Dr. Roma Kličius and her husband, Algis.



CHRISTMAS GIFT DRIVE

The Blessed Jurgis Matulaitis Mission's Christmas gift drive began in Lemont (IL) during the Mission's Community Day in September and ended when the gifts reached the targeted centers in Lithuania before Christmas.

(Photo: Christmas celebration that included gift distribution at the „Saulutė“ center in Užpaliai).



SUPPORT GROUPS

During a short meeting at a Dainava summer camp (Manchester, MI), two support group coordinators met with officers and directors: Cleveland (OH) support group coordinator Eglė Laniauskas (1st on R) and Detroit (MI) support group co-coordinator Rita Giedraitis. Support groups are also active in Philadelphia (PA), Washington, D.C., and Sunny Hills (FL).