



VAIKO VARTAI Į MOKSLĄ /CHILD'S GATE TO LEARNING

P.O. Box 381, Downers Grove, IL 60515

E-mail: vvm@childgate.org

Website: <http://www.childgate.org> (from here, link to donate through PayPal)

Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/ocje5ek>

February 2015

Honored supporters,

It is hard to believe that another year of activities is now behind us. During 2014, we expanded the means by which we inform our supporters (through our new *Facebook* site), and we made it possible to donate online (through *Paypal*). In February, during the annual activities update meeting, we honored the young Lithuanian-Americans who volunteered to Lithuania in the summer of 2013 and we held a special fund-raising drive to assist in the renovation of the Vilnius „Vilties angelas“ center's rooms that underwent fire damage. In March, Florida Lithuanian Open golfers donated part of their tournament proceeds to support our organization. With banners (and the help of one former volunteer), „Child's Gate to Learning“ was a participant in the Lemont (IL) Lithuanian Heritage School's project, „Skurdo skonis“ (A Taste of Hunger). During the summer, 3 young volunteers from Kewanee, IL, Oxford, OH, and Indianapolis, IN worked with youths and children from at risk families in Kaunas, Varėna and Vilnius. Organization officers and directors as former volunteers visited supported centers during trips to Lithuania. In the fall, we organized the traditional fundraising „Derliaus pietūs“ (Harvest Lunch) and were honored that Lithuania's General Consul in Chicago, Marijus Gudynas and his family were able to attend. In December, „Child's Gate to Learning“ participated in the World Lithuanian Center's Christmas bazaar. Thanks to support of the Lithuanian Foundation, several rural centers were able to organize summer camps. Throughout the year, organization officers wrote fundraiser solicitations and thank yous, maintained contact with supported centers in Lithuania and prepared young volunteers for their work with at risk families. We thank organization support group coordinators who participated in bazaars (in Philadelphia, PA and Washington, D.C.), a take out lunch fund-raiser (in Cleveland, OH) and all their fundraising support efforts. We thank all who voluntarily contribute to organization activities.

Repeating words often heard from supported centers- „We thank you for being there for us!“

„Child's Galte to Learning“



CONGRATULATIONS

Kudos to Sister Jolita Matulaitytė, the coordinator of the „Vilties angelas“ supported center in Vilnius. She was honored by the „Giedra“ sorority of the Lithuanian Catholic Association Ateitis in July. The award honors Lithuanian women for their distinctive Christian idealistic service.

(Sister Jolita is the center of the photo taken at the award presentation)

VOLUNTEERS

We thank all those who voluntarily help out at fundraiser events!

Since 2000, more than 60 Lithuanian American high-schoolers, students and adults have travelled to Lithuania as volunteers at "Child's Gate to Learning" supported after school centers and temporary shelters, attended by youths and children from at risk families. During the summer of 2014, volunteers in Lithuania were: Ieva Juška, Monika Satkauskas ir Ona Žekonis. We thank them!

VOLUNTEERS IN LITHUANIA

At right- Monika Satkauskas who worked at the „Saulutė“ center in Varėna“; in the lower right corner- Ieva Juška who worked at the „Vilties angelas“ center in Vilnius; bottom photo- Ona Žekonis who worked at „Žaliakalnio centras“ in Kaunas.



THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

- XIV Florida Lithuanian Open Golf Tournament organizers and golfers
- The Lithuanian Foundation
- The Raskauskas Family Fund
- Supporters in Los Angeles, CA who attended a special fund-raiser, organized to raise funds for the „Vilties vėrinėliai“ center in Žemaičių Kalvarija
- The Detroit Chapter of the Daughters of Lithuania
- Donors to the special fundraiser for the „Vilties angelas“ center in Vilnius
- Viktorė Siliūnienas for setting up our Facebook page and to Pranas Pranckevičius for his continuing work as our website master (including setting up our new links to PayPal)
- Chapter coordinators in Cleveland (OH) Eglė Laniauskas; Detroit (MI) ; Rita Giedraitis and Rasa Karvelis, Teresė Gečas Philadelphia (PA), Teresė Landsbergis Washington, D.C., ir Bronė Nakas and Judita Mamaitis Sunny Hills (FL).

(Those wanting to see a more detailed 2014 donor list should contact "Child's Gate to Learning").

GOLFERS

FLO XIV (Florida Lithuanian Open Golf Tournament).

In the photo, tournament founder, Lithuania's Honorary Consul A. Karnavičius (center) with tournament lottery assistants. FLO XIV proceeds were donated to "Child's Gate to Learning" to help support 11 after school centers in Lithuania.

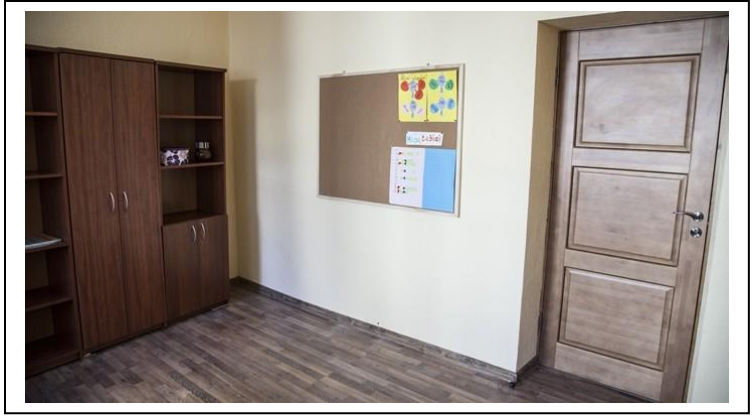
Thank you to tournament organizers and golfers!



A SPECIAL FUNDRAISERS/ SPECIAL SUPPORTERS

Goodhearted supporters in Los Angeles organized a special fundraising lunch in a private home. Proceeds of the afternoon were for the „Vilties vėrinėliai“ center in Žemaičių Kalvarija which experienced a dip in government funding in 2014. We thank the organizers and supporters of the special fundraiser!





ACTIVITIES, SUPPORT

From L. The 2014 “Būkite vilties angelai” (Let us be angels of hope“) special fund raiser at the Ateitis house, Lemont, IL.

Washington, D.C. support group coordinator, Teresė Landsbergis greets annual activities update session attendees in Lemont, IL (behind her is officer Rasa Avižienis)

Vilniaus “Vilties Angelo” center after supporter funded post-fire repairs. .

Below: Self portraits drawn by Žemaičių Kalvarija „Vilties vėrinėliai“ center youths and children.

