



Strömstad-Tanum Inner Weel Club
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452 31 Strömstad
Sweden

29 November 2018

Your sponsorship for SOS Children's Village Islice

Dear Sir or Madam,

Thank you very much for all the great support you are providing to SOS Children's Village in Islice; we appreciate it very much! We can provide safe and loving homes for so many children and young people living in the village just by our joint effort. Thanks a lot!

Did you have a good summer? Are there many positive moments to remember now? I hope so! Because the children of the village have many great memories about interesting adventures and experiences, indeed. I am also sending you a resent photo, taken in the village on a nice autumn day (please see in the envelope).



Best greetings from the SOS Children's Village Islice!

On the eve of the coming New Year, let me share with you some stories of the children's lives.

Our new life started in the SOS village

There is a SOS family with two girls and three boys who live together with their SOS parents Linda and Martins (all the names are changed for data protection reasons). They also have a cat, their big furry Tiger. The cat is acting as a real family therapist. He likes to curl into one's lap and purr, and purr, and purr... until all the stresses and worries of the day go away.

Once Tiger got lost this summer. He went for a usual walk in the yard and did not come back. When it was already dark but his bowl of treats was still untouched, the big search started.

All the family members went through the neighbourhood. They were calling the cat's name and looking for him with flashlights, but with no results. When they came home after a couple of hours, exhausted and crying about the loss, Tiger was sitting on the windowsill, safe and sound. Now everybody could cry from joy.



The SOS families often enjoy small trips near one of two rivers not far from the village

Well, the story I wanted to tell actually was about a strong family. Two of their older children are quite grownup to start getting ready for independent life. Therefore, the SOS parents were asked to welcome two new children, a boy and a girl, into their house. The family held a meeting, as they always do before taking important decisions.



The SOS mom Linda remembers: 'I asked for my children's opinion. The new child is just a toddler; therefore, the new little ones will completely change our rhythm of life. Will they agree to it? But I was so happy to hear the responses of my children,' Linda tells with smile.

Because everybody said: 'Remember, when we were in trouble and had no place where to live, our SOS mom took us in her house and cared for us. A new life started for us in the village. Now Vija and Ivo need our help - of course, we will welcome them in our family!' With your continued support, we can reach many more children, just like Vija and Ivo, and offer them a loving home and bright future!

Happy Birthday, Latvia!

On 18 November 2018, we celebrated Latvia's centenary - 100 years since the Republic of Latvia was founded. It is a great number to be happy and proud about. There was a wide range of events and festivities taking place. However, it is important to be a proud and active citizen of your country not only on special holidays, but also day by day.

A couple of families from the village started a new beautiful tradition. They planted little oak trees in their gardens this spring. SOS mom Evija tells: 'There was a small seedling in a pot. We decided it would become a great memory for children - the centenary oak tree. An oak tree is the symbol of strength and wisdom in our culture. In Latvian sayings and folk songs men are as strong as the oak trees, and women are beautiful as lindens.'

Aldis, her 12 years old son, took big care of the little tree. 'I watered it almost every day,' remembers the boy. Everybody was happy as the seedling survived this hot summer, indeed. 'We hope the tree will grow together with the children,' the SOS mom tells.

'We have already agreed that we will have a great place to meet each other. Now and later, when they will be grownup and will have their own children, and I will be an old woman. We will meet in midsummer here, under the green branches of our big oak tree,' Evija smiles.

Once again – thank you for all the great support you are giving us! I am happy you are with us day by day, in all the seasons. I am adding a greeting card from the SOS Children's Village Islice to this letter. Let me wish you all the best for the coming New Year! Sincerely,

Sandra Braunere

Sandra Braunere
National Sponsorship Co-ordinator