



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**
LATVIA

Esbjerg Soroptimistklub v// Birgit Jørgensen
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05/12/2024

Your sponsorship for SOS Children's Village Valmiera

Dear Team Esbjerg Soroptimistklub,

How are you? I hope everything is going well in your life. Thank you for being with us, staying a wonderful friend, and being the kindest supporter. How is winter in your country? Do you already have snow? Here, the children are eagerly waiting for a white Christmas to arrive!

Let me express my heartfelt thanks for your support! I hope you enjoy reading these stories about life in the village. Please note that the children's names have been changed to protect their privacy.

— Summer Activities for Boys

Summer is the best time for adventurous boys. They are always ready to do sports, explore, climb, jump, or go hiking. We are lucky to have a volunteer, Viktor, who can fulfill this desire. Viktor is a practical man with an active lifestyle. He is a good example for our boys.

'My boys were so happy to take part in Viktor's bicycle mending workshop. They are proud and content to keep their bicycles in order themselves now. Boys need this masculine experience very much,' admits one of the caregivers.

Drones and Yachts

'I liked our trip to the drone park. It is not as easy to fly a drone as I thought at first. I am very interested in technical things. Later, we sailed a yacht. It was my first time at such an interesting event!' 13-year-old Kaspars is excited.

'My favorite was a fishing trip. We went to a lake. At first, a fishing instructor explained the correct fishing rules to us. Then we went on a small ferryboat into the lake and started fishing. I was lucky to have my first catch!' 14-year-old Laimonis is happy as well.



The boys enjoying day by the sea

— A Day in an IT Company

A local IT and telecommunication company gave the children an opportunity to get to know their office environment and work specifics. 'The working conditions in this office are excellent. The coworkers can change office rooms, and they are allowed to take their pets to work. I was very impressed by the modern technologies there. I would like to work in such a company one day,' shares 17-year-old Aleksandrs.

The children had a fulfilling and interesting day at the company. The IT specialists told us about cybersafe use of gadgets and the internet. Now I understand how important it is to keep my privacy safe,' shares 14-year-old Anna. 'Now I know that not all emails should be opened. The passwords must be secure, and that you absolutely should not chat with strangers online or share personal information with them,' says 12-year-old Armands.

'Afterwards, we had some snacks and watched a movie about a giant named Bigfoot. We had popcorn, too!' tells Anna's nine-year-old brother, Mikelis, who enjoyed this activity very much.

The Super-Joy Project

The children also had an art activity while visiting the IT company. They were asked to draw the things that give them joy. The company promised to print the most interesting drawings on useful daily items – t-shirts, hoodies, caps, and tote bags. The project is called Super-Joy or SUPERPRIEKŠ in Latvian.



Two friends are ready for new adventures.

'I drew a cat with a hat. My sister drew a frog and some funny mushrooms. Our drawings were chosen for the print. I got a cap and a t-shirt with my drawings as prints as a gift.' 13-year-old Monta is proud to be one of the authors in the Super-Joy project.

— Be Smart!

Are you smart enough to know what the longest river in your country is? That was one of the questions at the village erudition quiz. Some children came up with the idea to make such an interesting game in the village. They were inspired by a TV show.

'Our social worker helped us to find and adjust the questions from various topics,' says one of the organizers, 15-year-old Anda. 'We also included some tricky questions about our village. They should not be too hard or too easy. The event was interesting and funny. At the end, we made a confetti salute for the participants. The grand prize was a table lamp in the shape of a globe.'

'I liked the game although I was not among the participants,' shares 13-year-old Diana. She continues her story: 'But my brother took part in this interesting event. My sisters and I made a fan group for him. We made a big poster. It said: 'My brother has a big brain!' At the end, my brother was one of the three best players. I think that we are going to play more erudition games as a family during the winter,' Diana smiles.

Thank you once again for being such a great friend! With warmest regards and best wishes,

Sandra Braunere

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National Sponsorship Co-ordinator



We wish you a peaceful Christmas
and
a Happy New Year 2025!

*Thank you for helping provide safe and
loving homes for children!*

With warm regards,
The team at SOS Children's Villages Latvia

