

THE LATEST NEWS FROM THE LIVSLUST-DZIVESPRIEKŠ HOME AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOL FOR EXPOSED YOUNGSTERS IN LATVIA

Queen Silvia of Sweden guest of honour when Livslust celebrated 10 years



The Queen is welcomed by headmaster Edijs Petersons and the student Arturs Grigulis.

In the morning of the day of the anniversary the sun was shining bright from a blue sky. The day before was cold and rainy and we had prepared ourselves with tents and a lot of umbrellas and we were worried that the guests wouldn't find a dry place to have their lunch. However, the beautiful weather lasted for the whole day and increased the feeling of festivity.

The students and the school-staff had worked together to create the right setting for the celebration. Everything was clean and shiny and fantastic flower arrangements filled every possible spot. Intensive preparations were going on in the kitchen. When the guests arrived they were met by the students. Everyone received a textile bag, made at the school, with information material and a student magazine. Soon people were swarming around in the garden and curiously going in and out of the buildings, while they were waiting for the arrival of Queen Silvia.

Among the 265 specially invited guests were the Minister of Education Baiba Rivza, the Minister of Welfare Dagnija Stake, the Mayor of Vane Vija Dembovska, the Mayor of Tukums District Edmunds Petersons and the Mayor of Tukums City Juris Sulcs. There were Swedish and Latvian sponsors as well as the boards of the Livslust Foundation and Asociacija Dzivesprieks. The present school-

staff was there together with former employees and teachers, Swedish volunteers and a lot of journalists. And of course, most important – all the present and many of the former students were there.

When we meet "old" pupils our hearts jump for joy. This day there were many happy reunions with a lot of laughter and many hugs. At first we had some difficulty in recognizing some of those who left many years ago. They are no longer teenagers, but grown up and independent individuals. They work and earn their living and many of them have started their own families. It is especially heart-warming to see how they take care of their own little children, a concrete proof that our work has not been in vain.

Everybody, who supports Livslust-Dzivesprieks, contributes in giving these young people a chance in life. A fortunate consequence is that their children, in their turn, will get quite another start in life than their parents.



Aiva Paleva, earlier student in the kitchen, with her little son.

And then it was time for Queen Silvia and her company to arrive, together with Sweden's Ambassador to Latvia Göran Håkansson. The Queen was welcomed with flowers and a textile bag by Elina Meksa and Arturs Grigulis, students of Dzivesprieks. The Dzivesprieks choir was singing, when the Queen was escorted to the podium while greeting everybody on her way. From here she followed the ceremonies together with the host of the day, headmaster Edijs Petersons, the founder of Livslust Kerstin Nordin and the chairwoman of Dzivesprieks Sarma Upesleja. The Queen has been the patron of Livslust since 1995. She opened the school ten years ago and has followed the development with great interest.





The former student Gita Liepinlauska gave the most touching speech of the day, when she told what Dzivesprieks has meant for her and about her work at the factory of Snickers Workwear in Tukums. To the right: Sarma Upesleja and Kerstin Nordin.

We heard many nice speeches during the day. Kerstin thanked everybody for all kinds of support and work throughout the years. The build-up of the school started in 1994 and many people and companies have been involved since then. Sarma, also manager of the Social Service in Tukums, expressed how grateful she is that the "Swedish ladies" didn't give up, in spite of hardships and cultural differences. Edijs talked about the school's work and Vija Dembovska, mayor of the school's home community, wanted everybody to know what Dzivesprieks means for the neighbourhood. The speeches were translated by the interpreter of the day Renate Meija.



Cooks from Vairak Saules (to the left) with four of the kitchen students and their teachers.

Then it was time for lunch. Rimi had donated all the good food and the school's kitchen partner, Vairak Saules, took care of cooking and serving together with the kitchen students. The guests, who did not get a place in the dining room, were treated to a delicious buffet in the garden. They enjoyed the warm weather and had a chance to talk with present and former students. Both of the Ministers stood up at the table and said how much they appreciate that Dzivesprieks has developed new methods of social rehabilitation of exposed young people. They promised to work for some financial support from the Latvian State in the future.

After lunch, the guests were guided around the school. The tour went through living quarters, drawing rooms, class-rooms and workshops. As usual the Queen was very interested and had a lot



Queen Silvia among Dzivesprieks-students wearing national costumes.

of questions. After the tour the Queen had a chance to sit down for a private conversation with some of the students and the school's psychologist Ilona Luksa.

During the closing ceremony the Queen gave an appreciative speech in which she honoured everybody, who has participated in the building of the school and the staff for their good work.

Many of the guests had brought presents. The Queen gave a DVD-player. World Childhood Foundation gave a contribution to a summer camp. Among the gifts there were also ventilation devices, art-work, books, vases, a clock, CD-games, sports equipment, a high pressure unit and flowers. In addition there were some cash contributions to the costs of this year's school activities.



The Livslust-Dzivesprieks-logo alive.

Finally the students performed a ceremony where they let loose lots of balloons of many colours while singing a beautiful song – a symbol for a successful future. When the Queen and many of the prominent guests had left, it was time for the students to take over the celebration. They could now relax and the party continued into the night with more tasty food, dancing and performances.

The anniversary was sponsored by: Lustigais Blumizers, Monde PR, Nordea, Renate Meija, Rimi, Vairak Saules and Vivacolor.



Dinner at the Swedish Embassy in Riga

In the evening, the Swedish Embassy held a dinner party for Livslust. Guests of honour were Queen Silvia, the Minister of Finance Oskars Spurdzins, the Minister of Education Baiba Rivza and the Minister of Welfare Dagnija Stake. Among the guest were also representatives of the Dzivesprieks' sponsors Krasu Serviss, Vairak Saules, FMG Fund Managers, Oriflame Cosmetics, Knaufl, Nordea, Unibanka and the boards of Stiftelsen Livslust and Asociacija Dzivesprieks. Juris Padegs represented the charitable organisation Livslust, Inc., USA and Monica von Schierstädt came from the new organisation in Germany, Lebensfreude. The purpose of the latter organisations is fund-raising for the Dzivesprieks school in Latvia.

The Dzivesprieks sewing workshop

In their second year, the seamstress students make textile products for sales. The revenue contributes to the financing of the school. The products of the basic assortment can be ordered from the Livslust office in Stockholm or from the Dzivesprieks school directly. We also make products for special orders and occasions. (Contact information on page 4.) Some examples:

Aprons as Christmas gifts for the staff at the hospital in Örebro. Specially designed textile bags with logotype for participants at conferences in Riga arranged by East Capital and Vattenfall. A textile bag embroidered with "Livslust-Dzivesprieks 10 gadi" for the guests at the 10th anniversary.

Specially made aprons and potholders for the Shop at the Royal Castle in Stockholm.

Nice facilities for conferences in Aizupe



A conference at the school in Aizupe.

On the third floor, there is a large nice room suitable for conferences or seminars for up to 50 persons. We can provide TV, video/DVD, internet, film screen and overhead. The kitchen offers anything from a cup of coffee to a full dinner. A couple of kilometres from the school there are excellent accommodations. For more information, please call or mail. (Details on page 4.)

Easter party at the school in Aizupe



Easter party in Aizupe together with children from the Dzirciems orphanage.



Music is a popular activity at the school and the youngsters grab every opportunity to perform.

Excursions – an important part of the social rehabilitation

The youngsters at Dzivesprieks belong to a socially marginalized group when they enter the school. To be fully integrated in society, you need to know your country and to be acquainted with its culture. To achieve this, we organize trips to different parts of Latvia, sometimes nature excursions with sleep-over in tents. Concerts, theatre performances and different sports events are also part of the rehabilitation.



The first nature excursion this year.



Charity dance for Livlust in Stockholm

We were happy to have Queen Silvia as the guest of honour at a charity performance on March 27. It was the Orion Theatre and the dancers of the street-dance show "Vi Är Dom", who gave their performance in the benefit of Livlust. Fryshuset, a well established and successful activity house for young people, opened its basket arena for the purpose.



The street dance performance "Vi Är Dom"

It was a very successful event with young people dancing for young people in a house for young people. After the show, the audience was treated to hot dogs. The partners of Livlust had donated attractive prizes for the lottery, which contributed to the good result of the evening. Thanks to Anette Keiler-Arvedson, Ann Nordström and Pia Wikström, who organised the event, and to all the volunteers.

The evening was sponsored by: Bromma Tryck & Brolins, Fryshuset, Map, Martin Olsson, Orienteatern, Spendrups and Wurstmaster

Different sponsor activities

"Friends of Livlust" is an organisation of employees at **Electrolux**. A nice pub-evening attracted many people. The serious part was the showing of the sad but realistic film about trafficking – "Lilja-4-ever". Many new members enlisted during the evening.

SWEDEN, The Livlust Foundation

P.O. Box 29092, SE-100 52 Stockholm, Sweden. Tel. No.: +46 8 660 77 84, E-mail: livlust@telia.com, Website: www.livlust.com

Bank: IBAN SE47 6000 0000 0003 0751 8892, Reg. org. No: 802018-1064

Board: Kerstin Nordin (chairwoman and founder), Eva M. Christensson, Laila Freivalds, Rikard Josefson, Christer Magnusson, Elisabeth Melin, Torbjörn Torell
Auditor: KPMG

Patron: HRH Queen Silvia of Sweden

LATVIA, Asociacija Dzivesprieks

Aizupe, Vanes pagasts, LV-3131, Tukuma rajons, LATVIA. Tel No.: +371 31 46 197, E-mail: edijs@dzivesprieks.lv

Bank: IBAN LV65 UNLA 0032 0007 000 51, Reg. org. No: 50008006681. Tax deduction no: 584

Board: Sarma Upesleja (chairwoman), Juris Bariss, Janis Buks, Laila Freivalds, Inete Ielite, Elisabeth Melin, Janis Strazdins

USA, Livlust, Inc. (supporting charitable org.)

22 Minturn Street, Hastings-on-Hudson. NY 10706, USA. Contact persons: Juris Padegs, LLD. Tel. No.: +1 914 478 0134. E-mail: jgpadeqs@aol.com and Adolf af Jochnick, E-mail: adjoch@aol.com Bank details: Fleet Bank, 777 Main Street, Hartford, CT 06115. Account No.: 940 912 8772

GERMANY, Livlust-Lebensfreude

c/o Monica von Schierstädt, Elperetingerstrasse 2, D-83209 Prien, GERMANY. Tel.: +49-8051-61496, fax: +49-8051-63406, E-mail: m.schierstadt@gmx.de
Bank details: Münchener BankeG, Konto 3013600, BLZ: 701 900 00.

Board: Monica von Schierstädt (charwoman and founder), Thomas Schimitschek, Elisabeth von der Schulenburg, Hans-Friedrich von Schierstädt

The Latvian ventilation company **Lafivents** will sponsor the school by installing a much needed ventilation system in the classrooms. The machine parts are donated by **Vattenfall** and **Systemair**.

The Latvian company **SAGA** has joined the school as a partner in the carpentry education. Already we have **Snickers Workwear** as a partner for the sewing education, **Krasu Serviss** for the painting education and **Vairak Saules** for the kitchen programme.

Nordea Latvia and **Forest Latvia** have donated a new sewerage system. The Latvian authorities demanded that the old system was exchanged.

Snickers Workwear has donated new windows to the students' bedrooms.

Already it is time for companies to make plans for Christmas gifts to customers and/or employees. Why not order from our sewing and woodwork workshops? (Details below.)

Thanks to all our faithful supporters!

Different ways to give support

A gift to Livlust-Dzivesprieks is a gift to exposed children in Latvia. You can be a PARTNER with a long-term commitment, a LIVSLUST-DZIVESPRIEKS-SPONSOR and pay a monthly amount of your own choice or you can make a SINGULAR DONATION in connection with Christmas or a birthdays. You can HOST a couple of our students in the summer. You can BUY PRODUCTS made in our workshops. Contact us for more information.

Dzivesprieks-Livlust partners and important donors from 2004

Companies: Electrolux, Essen, KPMG, Krasu Serviss, Länsförsäkringar, Oriflame Cosmetics, SAGA, SEB Finans, Snickers Workwear, TeliaSonera, Unibanka, Vairak Saules, Vattenfall
Organisations: Helge Ax:son Johnsons Stiftelse, Johanniterorden, Radiohjälpen, Sigrid Buchs Stiftelse, World Childhood Foundation