



“He is my refuge and my fortress,
my God, in whom I trust.”

(Psalm 91:2)

Dear friends and supporters of Peeteli children!

Christmas time has come again, and another year is coming to an end. With warm greetings from the entire Peeteli family, we give you an overview of this year's events.

Year 2022 was active, educative and joyful, but like the whole world, we were also touched by the war started by Russia against Ukraine. The anxious situation has caused questions, uncertainty, and fear for the future in our children. We have explained to them that such violence is wrong. All children in the world have the right to live safely in their own country, to go to school and learn, to enjoy their friends and loved ones, to sleep peacefully at night. The goal of Peeteli kiriku sotsiaalkeskus is to teach children to live according to God's teaching in peace and in support of each other, regardless the nationality or language they speak.

Daily life in Peeteli. We are open 24/7. The day center operates from Monday to Friday, where we offer warm food, learning support and hobby activities to 25 children and young people aged 7-18 years. A total of 19 children lived in Peeteli for shorter or longer time during the year. As Peeteli works around the clock, children have the opportunity to come and eat and be in a safe environment also on weekends. During school days, the focus is on learning. We monitor children's grades daily and, when necessary, help children with their schoolwork. Many children need constant motivation to go to school. We are in close cooperation with parents, schools, teachers, and child protection workers. This year several of our centre's children graduated elementary school and continued their studies in high school or vocational school. Three young men, who all came to Peeteli when they were 5-6 years old, started military service in the Estonian Defence Forces this autumn.

To get children the necessary help, we have taken them to a psychologist, psychiatrist, dentist, eye and other doctors and therapists. We have helped families to make applications for housing and social benefits, helped with the translation of documents to Estonian language, encouraged families to turn to debt counsellors, etc. Parents have said that it has also been great help for them that children have been able to live temporarily in Peeteli when, for example, the parents have been in the hospital or have been away from home due to work duties. We have distributed clothes, hygiene items, school supplies and food aid sent by our friends to those in need, and this aid has also reached families who fled the war in Ukraine.

In our daily work, we try to make children notice other people who need help. Every Friday, our children together with their educators prepare up to 700 sandwiches to distribute to those in need. We have volunteered in North Estonian Blind Association, Food Bank on their collection days, at the Christmas event for families with many children, in Narva Spring Run, etc.

Camps and hikes. After daily studies and during school holidays, we offer children various opportunities for free time. We use adventure education and support healthy lifestyle: we have organized mind, strength and dexterity games, visited gyms and went on canoe, bicycle and walking hikes and trips. In the summer, we organized a total of 43 days of camps in Saaremaa. In addition, our friends organized an 11-day summer camp for Peeteli's children on a small island in the middle of the big sea in Norway. A total of 58 children participated in camps, hikes, and trips during the year. There was also a first aid course where children learned how to act in a dangerous situation so that they could help themselves and their friends.

Work education plays an important part in a child's development; therefore, we involve children as much as possible in various daily activities: cleaning, cooking, maintaining the territory of the social center and Saaremaa's camp center, changing tires, mowing, making nest boxes for birds, etc. Children have always been willing to help and have acquired many practical skills during the work and gained courage for new good deeds. In spring we got a greenhouse where children could dig, plant, water and observe the ripening of vegetables grown with their own hands, which tasted great to everyone.

At the beginning of this year, it was 25 years since God brought us together with children in need and we started helping them together with good people. We decided to celebrate this event in spring together with Mother's Day. In addition to families currently receiving support from the centre, we also sent invitations to our former children. Several of them came with their children and spouses. Our center's current children prepared lovely performances for that day together with their educators. In the courtyard, we put up photos of our activities over the past 25 years, and everyone had the opportunity to find themselves in them. There were many beautiful memories and joy of discovery that day.

We are happy to see that many children who received support from Peeteli centre have become good members of the community. Today they work as builders, plumbers, drivers, salesmen and sales managers, hairdressers, welders and on many other necessary occupations. Work and life have taken them also to Finland, Norway, Sweden, United Kingdom, Germany and Australia. However, the greatest joy is that their children are growing up in homes where they are loved and supported.

The continuation of the work in Peeteli kiriku sotsiaalkeskus over the years has been a great grace and miracle of God. We are sincerely grateful to all the good people, organizations and companies that have supported the activities of the social center and we wish you and your loved ones good health and lot of God's blessings!

Merry Christmas, Happy New Year!

Best wishes from all your friends, big and small,

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www.peeteli.com/sotskeskus

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Suur tänu toetuse eest! Thank you very much for your support!