



When Jesus was asked when the Kingdom of God would come, He replied, "The Kingdom of God is within you." Luke 17:20-21

## Dear Peeteli children's friends and supporters!

The end of the year has come. Along with warm greetings from the children and team, we are sending a summary of the life and activities of our centre.

**Daily Life at Peeteli.** MTÜ Peeteli kiriku sotsiaalkeskus/ NGO Bethel's Centre of Pastoral Care has been supporting children in need for 27 years, helping them continue their education and sharing with them the faith, hope, and love that Jesus has placed in people's hearts.

In 2024, 25 children received regular support through the day centre. Throughout the year, 24 children lived in Peeteli. Each year, several children who received support from our centre reach adulthood and begin independent lives. Some young people have started working, some have started military service in the Estonian Defence Forces, and some continue their studies. In autumn, we began working with several new children who started school this year. Furthermore, children from Ukrainian families who fled to Estonia due to the war have also started to come to us.

This year, Estonia began the transition of kindergartens and schools to Estonian-language education, which provides children and young people with better opportunities for further education, work, and activities, while also enhancing social cohesion. This is a very good and necessary change, but also a big challenge. Many children born and raised in Estonia do not speak Estonian, and they need consistent help to keep up in school on an equal level with other students. Often, the language spoken at the homes of children supported by our centre is Russian or Ukrainian. We assist the children with homework and learning the Estonian language. In our experience, it's easier to learn the language through everyday interaction.

We helped families with school supplies, clothing, footwear, hygiene products, and food aid, and we also offered counselling and assisted with document translations. When needed, we offered temporary accommodation for families with children. In the spring, a mother who had fled to Estonia from Ukraine with her children turned to us. She had to go to the hospital to give birth, and during her hospital stay, her older children were able to stay at Peeteli.

**Adventure and work education and camps** have been a great tool in helping children to gather energy and strength for the school year, spend time in nature and fresh air, and acquire experiences that prepare them for independent life. By spending longer time together at camps, they learn to know and support each other better, and often remain good friends as adults.

In the spring, we went on our traditional canoe trip with 56 participants. During the summer, we organized four ten-day camps in Saaremaa. Additionally, we arranged some bicycle and forest hikes as well as city camps. In the spring and fall, we went to the Saaremaa camp centre four times to do necessary work. Together with the children, we treated the terraces and stairs with wood preservatives, demolished the old dry toilet and a decaying woodshed, mowed the lawn, and split and stacked a large amount of firewood. The children enthusiastically helped with all the tasks, the youngest helpers being only 7 years old.

It is wonderful to see the children change when we're camping, hiking or working together. This spring, a boy joined our day care centre who was a bit defiant, without boundaries, and disobedient. Shy when interacting with adults, he didn't dare to talk much or make eye contact. When it was time to decide whether to take him to Spring camp, we chose to bring him along. It was uplifting to witness how care, trust, and work can transform a child. Other parents were amazed at the positive change he had undergone, as he became visibly happier, friendlier, and more polite.

This boy and other children, who held a work tool in their hand for the first time and worked with enthusiasm and shining eyes, were already asking before the end of the camp when we could return and work again. Some even forgot that mobile phones exist. 😊 At night they fell into bed and were almost instantly asleep. The educator was also reading the bedtime story, but halfway through the text, there was only the sound of quiet breathing and snoring. 😊 ❤️ A total of 55 children participated in camps and hikes throughout the year.

This year we expanded our backyard garden, where we grew flowers, cucumbers, tomatoes, and other vegetables. We took great joy in the vegetables that we grew ourselves, which enriched our meals in the summer camps and in the fall when we returned to the city. Some plants were grown by the children themselves from the seeds and for the first time, we harvested three watermelons from our greenhouse.

Peeteli centre has been able to help children and young people over the years thanks to the people, companies and organisations that have given us a helping hand.

We are very grateful to you for helping us to support and help the children!

We wish you and your loved ones good health, a peaceful Christmas time, and a blessed New Year AD 2025!

Best wishes on behalf of all your big and small friends,

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Bethel's Centre of Pastoral Care  
Director

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Project secretary

Tallinn, December 2, 2024

P.S. We updated our centre's homepage this year at [www.peeteli.com](http://www.peeteli.com), and we now also have a Facebook account where you can find more information about the centre's activities:  
[https://www.facebook.com/peetelikirikusotsiaalkeskus?locale=et\\_EE](https://www.facebook.com/peetelikirikusotsiaalkeskus?locale=et_EE)





23.04.2024 Teel kevadlaagrisse Saaremaal

23.04.2024 On the way to spring camp in Saaremaa



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