

Skedsmo Nord Rotary Klubb  
Postboks 87  
2021 SKEDSMOKORSET  
Norway

30<sup>th</sup> November 2017

**Ref.: Winter letter from Agnieszka**

Dear Friends from Skedsmo Nord Rotary Klubb,



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

How time flies! In the SOS Children's Villages you can already hear the sounds of Christmas coming. Before the first Christmas star will appear on the sky, I would like to thank you for your ongoing support and I am sending you this letter. Look how with your help Agnieszka and other children in need fulfil their dreams of the warmth of a family home.

**You can always count on your friends**

"Agnieszka is building her future little by little. Successes give her strength and motivate her to continue working on herself. Before our very eyes, she is becoming a strong, wise, dedicated young woman. She is getting better at getting along with people. The 18-year-old is

more and more independent, she takes care of matters and plans her future"- Iwona, an SOS educator, says.

"I remember when an educator suggested I took part in the "Entry into adulthood, it is not that difficult" project, which was carried out by Managerial Initiative Foundation. I was not thrilled"- Agnieszka laughs. Due to her participation, the girl became more self-confident and learned how to develop her interests. "During classes she learned how to function in a group and be more assertive. Initially Agnieszka was sceptical about her participation in the project, but after it ended she regretted it lasted so short"- Iwona says.

"At the youth home we try to prepare our charges to enter adulthood. Agnieszka needed our support. Help she received will now give her an opportunity to live a joyous adult life. That is certainly what we care about the most"- Iwona says.



### **We never stop**

As you know, children need individual attention. Nevertheless, there are still several thousand children living in care institutions in Poland. Therefore, we actively contribute to changing the situation both at the governmental level as well as in our own backyard. We know how important are small steps and never stop looking for new SOS parents. I hope that next year we will find new parents and another 30 children will find safe home at the SOS Children's Villages.

Meanwhile, Radek\* (12), Damian\* (11), Maria\* (7), and Wiktoria\* (7) have already found their new home at Jolanta's, an SOS mom. It is one of the youngest families out of two, which have joined the village lately.



Caring love of SOS parents is the best cure and gives children in need the sense of security.

'Breaking the ice? Before we started living together, we got to know each other well. To make the children feel safe at the new house, we arranged it together. I can see that children are happy. This is going to be our second Christmas together,' mom Jolanta says.

### **Support that matters**

You must be wondering what it is like to be an SOS parent. 'Do SOS moms retire? I know nothing of it. Maybe mom Lidia has stopped working at SOS Children's Villages but she still has a full-time job with me,' Joanna\* says, laughing. Although Lidia deservedly retired last summer, their bond has remained the same.

'I came to the village when I was only two. I can safely say that my stay here has shaped me. Without mom Lidia, my siblings and the support I've received, my life as an adult would surely be different,' Joanna admits.

Thanks to the support of people like you, we prepare children to start their independent living. Parents, pedagogues and psychologists every day assist the development of the children on the spot. We provide special care to the teenagers who are deciding on their educational or professional path. Occupational counselling, sessions with a coach or workshops with professionals are part of our everyday work. Nevertheless, the most important are the bonds between the people, which last forever.

What can I add? For the children from SOS Children's Villages coming to the village means an end to insecurity. They find here safety and the warmth of a family, which boosts their sense of self-worth and gives them hope for a happy life. Therefore, let me thank you once again for all your support you offer Agnieszka. Your help matters!

With warmest season's greetings,

*J. SEKIEWICZ*  
**Joanna Sekiewicz**  
National Sponsorship Co-ordinator

\*The names of children have been changed for privacy reasons.