



**SOS CHILDREN'S
VILLAGES**
ESTONIA

Skedsmo Nord Rotary Klubb
Vardeknausen 19
2020 Skedsmokorset
Norway

Child ID: 0503723836
28/11/2024

Your sponsorship for Kevin

Dear Team Skedsmo Nord Rotary Klubb,

Another year is drawing to a close, wrapping itself in a soft blanket of snow and quiet reflection. As nature slows down to rest, it feels like the perfect time to pause, look back on the journey of the past months, and share some heartfelt updates from Estonia. Among the many stories of growth and resilience. Let me share a little about the child you have been supporting and what has happened since my last letter—progress and moments made possible by your kindness and generosity.

— A special day at Juuru

We had a truly special day at Juuru SOS Children's Village! Thanks to the Sadolin Let's Colour project, we revitalized our basketball court, transforming it into a vibrant and joyful space. Tartu Art School student Angelina created the design, which immediately caught everyone's attention. Decorating the court together turned into a celebration filled with creativity and teamwork!

Children taking the lead

The most exciting part was how the children actively participated in the process. Armed with paintbrushes, they helped bring the court to life, learning teamwork, expressing creativity, and seeing their efforts make a tangible difference. The experience boosted their confidence and pride, knowing they had created something lasting. Beyond its vibrant appearance, the court is now a safe, welcoming space for play and bonding, while teaching the value of collaboration in transforming their environment. The Sadolin Let's Colour program, part of a global initiative bringing joy to over 3,059 communities, created an uplifting experience for children that will positively impact both their present and future.



A cheerful splash of color on the Let's Colour basketball court

— Graduations and new opportunities

This year marked significant milestones for three young people: one graduated from primary school, another from high school, and one from vocational school. These achievements signal the end of

one life chapter and the beginning of another, filled with opportunities and crucial decisions about the future. Whether choosing to continue their education, enter the workforce, or explore other paths, this is a pivotal moment for personal growth and support. As one graduate shared, 'Finishing school felt like closing a big door behind me, but it also made me excited about the doors waiting to be opened.'

Guidance through aftercare services

Aftercare services play an essential role in supporting young people during this transition to independence. From finding housing to securing employment and building life skills, the guidance provided by family parents and social workers is invaluable. Equally important is fostering mental well-being, helping them navigate challenges like financial pressures, continued education, or forming new relationships. One young adult noted, 'Having someone to guide me when things get tough makes me feel less alone in figuring out my future.'



Celebrating together as a family on graduation day

— Kevin's journey into independence and life lessons

This summer was a turning point for Kevin, as he graduated high school and began living on his own in August. Balancing work and studies in a painting program, he's faced both the excitement and challenges of independence. 'Starting my own life was thrilling but also scary—I wasn't sure if I could manage financially, but now I see the true value of money,' he shared.

Kevin has learned budgeting and grown more cautious. After a car accident with a deer and another incident of property damage, he reflected, 'I've learned to think ahead—better to be safe than sorry.' On the positive side, he's proud of practical achievements like signing utility contracts and overcoming his fear of making phone calls.

Through ups and downs, Kevin is gaining the skills and confidence to build a future on his own terms.

This Christmas and New Year, we wish for moments of noticing, fewer self-centered actions, and the understanding that every little step we take can serve as an example to someone else—just like your support has been for us. Thank you for being a guiding light and a source of inspiration for the children. May the holidays bring you warmth, peace, and the joy of little simple things.

Warmest greetings from Estonia

Katri Lahne Laiv

National Sponsorship Co-ordinator