

Vacation from war

Excerpts from children's letters to the donors – summer 2002

2002 Zivogosce (Croatia)

Camp with 120 children from Tuzla (Muslims), Srebrenica (Serbs, Orthodox Catholics), and Gornji Vakuf – Uskoplje (divided town between Muslims and Croats like Mostar)

Dear Donors,

I was born in June 1989. I live in Srebrenica. I live with my parents in a very small apartment but I am very happy for still having parents at all. During the war my family and I had to seek refuge in Srebrenica, where we now stayed for 10 years. My hobby is playing football and everyone tells me, I am very talented, but unfortunately there is no team in Srebrenica, where I could play. My biggest wish is it, to play in one of the famous German teams like Bayern Leverkusen or Borussia Dortmund. I know that this will not happen, but one can always hope

I want to thank you very much for making possible these holidays for me.

Zarko, 13 years old boy from Srebrenica

Dear Donors,

I live in Srebrenica. I don't have any memories of the war. This is my first time at the seaside and everything is super. All the young boys and girls feel very well and we have a lot of fun. I have found some new friends and I want to say thanks to you.

Sasa, 12 years old boy from Srebrenica

Dear Donors,

I am from Drav, but now I live in Srebrenica (refugees). I live with my parents and my sister and life is very hard, because both my parents are jobless. It is my first time at the seaside and everything here is super. I have found a lot of new friends. Thank you.

Sinica, 12 years old girl from Srebrenica

Dear Donors,

I live in Srebrenica. It is my first time at the seaside and I think the sea is very big and salty. It is my first holiday because as a Serb I had difficulties in getting a passport. My family doesn't have the money to pay vacations for me. My mother is jobless and we have to live in a small apartment with a big family. But nevertheless I have a lot of success at school and in different kinds of sports. My biggest wish is, to play in one of the famous German football-teams like Alba Berlin. I know, it does not sound probable, but one can always hope.

Life was hard for me most time of my life. Sometimes my mother goes abroad to find work and from her earnings we can live for 4 month like other people.

Here in Zivogosce everything is super and I found a lot of new friends from Tuzla. We have different workshops and the teacher for sports has promised, he will come to visit me in Srebrenica. And he will help me to find a football team for me.

If my dreams come true I will help other poor children like you helped me.

Nemanja, 12 years old boy from Srebrenica

Dear Donors,

I live in Sebnica with my father and my brother, my mother was killed during the war. Here in Zivogosce everything is super.

I want to thank you for making possible for me to come to the seaside. I love you!!

Petar, 11 years old boy from Srebrenica

Dear Donors,

I was born in Gradacac, but now I live in Tuzla as a refugee. My father was killed in the war and I live in an orphanage. These holidays, which you have made possible for me are super and I will never forget them.

Here everything is super. We have different workshops, where we can learn something new. In the camp we do a lot of things, making walking tours

having disco at the terrace every evening and afterwards a meeting, where we discuss what we will do the next day. We made a fantastic boat trip to Makarska and visited the shell-museum.

I thank you very much for making possible these holidays for me, which I will always remember.

Emina, 15 years old girl from Tuzla

Dear Donors,

I live in an orphanage in Tuzla. This is my first time at the seaside and I wish I could come again.

Thank you very much for making possible for me these holidays.

I love you!!

Nihada, 10 years old girl from Tuzla

Hallo, dear friends,

Here in Zivogosce we are very happy. I found a lot of new friends from different towns in the short time. I now fully understand, why you organise these holidays and I will tell everybody about it..

Sabina, 16 years old girl from Tuzla

Dear Donors,

I live in an orphanage, my father is dead, but I am a good pupil.

In the camp I love the sports-workshops most. I have learned to swim. In the evening we have music and dancing.

I love all the people on the earth and I will never harm anyone. All people should live in peace and may war vanish from the earth. Especially the children all over the world have the same problems and interests and do not want war.

I am very happy that you made possible these wonderful holidays for me, because I could never afford it. God bless you. I love you.

Nurdin, boy from Tuzla

Dear Donors,

I live in an orphanage and I like it there. I do have parents, but my father had to go to prison and my mother is married again, so my 3 sisters and my brother have to live in the orphanage.

This is my 8th day in Zivogosce and everything is super. My favorite workshop is with computers. Here we learn a lot and in the breaks we can try some computergames. The sea and the waves are really great and I will allways remember the time here. We made two boat trips to Makarska and Hvar. In Zivogosce we have music and dancing every evening and we have a meeting before we go to bed.

I want to thank you very much for making possible these holidays for me.

Eldina, 12 years old girl from Tuzla

Dear Donors,

I live in Srebrenica. Before the war I lived in Visoko, but at the moment we stay in Srebrenica (refugees). I live with my father, my sick grandmother and two sisters, my mother has left us 5 years ago (other ethnic group). My father has no permanent job and has to take casual jobs to assure our living.

I want to thank you for making possible for me these wonderful holidays. I have found a lot of new friends. This is my first time at the seaside and I want to thank you for everything.

Aleksandar, 12 years old boy from Srebrenica

Dear Donors,

I live in Srebrenica with my parents and my sister in a little flat that we have to share with my aunt and her husband. My parents are jobless but they try very hard to make things better for me and my sister. The living here is hard but nevertheless we find a way to hold out.

This is my first time at the seaside. Here everything is super especially the sea and the swimming. We have interesting workshops and I never feel bored. I found a lot of new friends.

I want to thank you very much for making possible these holidays for me.

Andrijana, 12 years old girl from Srebrenica

Dear Donors,

I am very happy to come here with your help. I have to live with my parents and my sister in one room. During the war we had to move different times and this was very hard. Life is not allways easy.

This is my first time at the seaside and I want to thank you. With love

Dorde, 12 years from Srebrenica

Dear Donors,

I live in Srebrenica, a small town .Life is hard. I have an older sister and as both my parents are without job it is very hard to make a living. Before the war I lived in Podlugovima. When I am back from the sea whe have to move again, because of forced expulsion.

I want to thank you very much for making these holidays possible for me.

Nikola, 11 years old boy from Srebrenica

Dear Donors,

I live in Srebrenica with my parents, my aunt, my brother and my sister. My parents and my aunt are jobless. The flat we live in is not ours.

Here in the camp I learned to swim and to dive. Everything is super, the workshops are interesting and I never feel bored. My favorite basketball-player is Rey Alen.

I want to thank you for making possible these holidays for me In love
Jovica, 12 years old boy from Srebrenica

Dear Donors,

I want to thank you for making possible these holidays for me. This is my first time at the seaside and in a hotel.

In case you do not know it, the financial situation in Srebrenica is very bad. My parents are divorced and I live with my mother in a flat, where the owner always threaten to throw us out. My mother is jobless and we always had to struggle to stay alive. I am 12 years and despite the difficult situation I am an excellent pupil.

Here at the seaside everything is super. I am very thankful!
Jasna, 12 years old, from Srebrenica

Dear Donors,

I live in Tuzla in an orphanage, because my father is dead and my mother lives in Sarajevo (different ethnic group). I am an excellent pupil.

My favorite workshops here are sports, especially football and swimming. Everything in Zivogosce is super.

Thank for the vacation!

Amer, 12 years old boy from Tuzla

Dear friends,

For the second time I am in Zivogosce and I would like to come again. I love the sea and the workshops, especially all kinds of sport. I am 14 years old and live in an orphanage in Tuzla

I am very happy that you have made it possible for me to come here. I wish you luck and may you live a hundred happy years.

Alija, 14 years old from Tuzla

Dear Donors,

After years as a refugee I am now back in Zvornik. I live with my parents, my sister, my aunt and uncle. My sister's name is Zumra. She sends her love to you. She dreams of coming to Zivogosce too. Thank you so much!!

Nisvet, 10 years old boy from Zvornik

Dear Donors,

I want to thank you for everything you did for me. I live in Slavinovici with my mother, grandmother, aunt, 3 sisters and one brother in one apartment. I am 14 years and I want to thank you again for these holidays at this wonderful place.

Mersudin, 11 years old boy from Tuzla

Dear Donors,

My favorite workshops are making masks and roses from paper.

Sejla, 11 years old girl

Dear Donors,

I live with my mother and my sister in a village for widows and orphans from Srebrenica. This is my first time in Zivogosce and I am very happy. I found a lot of new friends and I like to thank you very much.

Almira, 13 years old girl from the environs of Tuzla

Hello,

I live in a village for widows and orphans from Srebrenica near Tuzla. There I live with my grandma. This is my second time at the seaside and I found a lot of new friends. I want to thank you for making possible these holidays for me.

Mirnesa, 11 years old from the environs of Tuzla

Hello,

I live with my mother and my sister in a village for widows and orphans from Srebrenica. In Zivogosce I found a lot of new friends and I am very grateful for everything you did for me.

Anela, 11 years old girl from the environs of Tuzla

Hello,

I live with my uncle in Banja Luka. My hobby is sport.

I want to thank all the donors for making possible these holidays for me.

Dragan, 13 years old boy from Banja Luka

Hello,

Here in Zivogosce I feel like being at home. I found some new friends and we had a lot of fun together. I want to thank you for making possible these holidays for me.

Bojan, 14 years old boy

Hello,

I was born in July 1988 in Zvornik. Now I live in Tuzla (refugees). Here in Zivogosce I am feeling great and I am very happy that my dream came true and I could visit the seaside. Dear Donor, I thank you very much. Without you it would always have been an dream.

Semin, 12 years old from Tuzla

Dear Donor,

Here in Zivogosce I have a great time. We play, dance, swim and go to workshops, all the kids together. We made a boattrip to Makarska, where I bought beautiful things for my family.

Everything is beautiful here at the sea and we are all very grateful that we could come. I found a lot of friends and want to thank you for all.

Klaudija, 11 years old girl from Gornji Vakuf