

Vacation from war
Excerpts from children's letters to the donors

2003 DRVENIK (Croatia)

Camp with 85 children from Tuzla (Muslims), Zvornik and Srebrenica (Serbs, Orthodox)

Dear Friends,

First of all I want to thank you for these wonderful vacations!

Here, in the camp, we forget the bad times and war, which did not bring us any good. I think that war is something bad and I hope that there will be no war, nowhere. My only wish is that in future war does not exist. We children do not want any war.

In the summer camp we are very happy. There are so nice facilitators who take care of us. They do anything for us to organize interesting holidays. We, children of different nationalities do not hate each other. We are playing together and in this place we are trying to forget the bad things. I found many new friends to share happiness and sadness.

The most beautiful thing in my life is this holiday. Thank you!

Dana, 12 years old girl from Srebrenica

Dear Friends

I live with my family in Srebrenica. I was born in Sarajevo, but in the war we had to move here. I am very sad that I can not be in Sarajevo any more.

All this because of the war! I think that people should live without war and I hope that war will never start again.

I am very happy to be here on the seaside, it is so beautiful. I wish to thank you for this opportunity to spend a wonderful summer here. Thank you for everything that you did for me and my friends.

Tamara, 13 years old girl from Srebrenica

Dear Friend,

I wish to thank you for this chance to come here and to see the sea. When I heard that I will come here I was crying out with happiness.

Here in Drvenik all things are very nice. Many people that take care of us, the Hotel is also very good. But maybe the best of all are the workshops. There we can meet a lot of new friends from other nationalities.

Merina, 12 years old girl from Tuzla Smajic

Dear friend,

I have the most beautiful days of my life with the other children!

With love,

Aldin, 13 years old boy from Tuzla

Dear friend,

I live with my parents and my brother in Zvornik..I was born in Tuzla but we had to leave to Banovici. From there we had to move when the war began. And now I am living in Zvornik.We do not have any more our own house, so we are tenants and have to pay much money. My parents work all day long but the wages are too small. So we live in a very difficult situation.

I am a good student and I would like to be a doctor to help others, the old ones and the innocent children.

I wish to thank you that you give me this holiday that my parents could never pay for me.

Thank you.

Biljana, 13 years old girl from Zvornik

Dear Friends,

I was born in Sarajevo but I had to leave Sarajevo after the war.That was in 1996.Since that time my family is living in Zvornik as tenants.

Thank you for everything you did for me.

Danijela, 15 years old girl from Zvornik

Dear Friend

I am very happy to live with my family.

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for the opportunity to come in Croatia in this wonderful summer camp.I never imagined that somebody gives money for a child he doesn't even know. Your heart must be in 100% gold!! I hope you have such a good time wherever you are like we have here.

With love!

Mirza, 12 years old from Tuzla

Dear Friends!

By thisletter I wish to say thankto you for the opportunity to be in Drvenik for 12 beautiful days with my new friends that I meet here on this holiday.

In my favorite workshop we knot bracelets of friendship in cotton. Sorry, that I cannot send you one of them, I just paint one for you.

Thank you!

Tamara, 13 years old girl from Zvornik

Dear Friends,

When I heard that I will come here I was so happy to sing.

Drvenik is so beautiful.The best is swimming in the sea and relaxing on the beach.But I also like the mountains around.

Every day there are new experiences for all of us. We have workshops for learning new things, we play games,we are singing and dancing.

Thank you for the chance to spend my holidays here with my new friends.

Dragan, 12 years old boy from Zvornik

Dear Friends

Only one thing I do not like so much: our room in the hotel is too small for 5 children. But when I think about that I realise that it is maybe better like this because we spend more time all together on the terrace.

Thank you for your donation and my greatest holidays.

Verica, 12 years from Zvornik

Dear Friend!

During the war I was in Germany, I was 3 years old. Afterwards we had to return to Bosnia. It was painful for me to leave my german friends.

This is the first time that I am on the seaside. The most beautiful are the beach and the workshops twice a day. Thanks to you I have now many new friends.

Thank you very much for everything that you do for me.

Seid, 15 years from Tuzla

Dear Friend

During the war I lived in Germany and Austria, I was 15 month old. 7 years later we had to come back to Bosnia and Hercegovina .It's great, that I can speak german with the german team here in Drvenik.

Elvis from Tuzla

Dear Friends,

I live with my mother and brother in Coklivici near Tuzla, but I was born in 1992 in Kominici near Zvornik. We are refugees. I hate the war and I hope that there will never be war again, nowhere in the world!

Thank you for these beautiful holidays where I met many new friends.

Elma, 11 years from Tuzla

Dear Friends,

In the workshops I came to know many new friends from Srebrenica.

3 times we took the boat, two times for swimming to the isle of Hvar, and one excursion to Makarska. Here we feel like at home. The food is so good.

Thank you for the chance to spend the perfect holidays here.

Hajrudin, 10 years old boy from Tuzla