

**Dear Geert-Jan Stevens,**

**Greetings from Ukraine, from the Samuel Foundation.**

First of all, let me thank you and the foundation for the support you give to us for years now. We are grateful to God for people like you. This way we know that we are never alone, and there are people thinking about our children.

We have received your latest donation from Eva Valkócz, as always. Thank you very much!

Let me tell you about the foundation's last couple of months and activities in a few sentences:

We have a lot of joyful, blessed memories and events from the past couple of months. Thanks to our sponsors we could spend valuable time together, we could get to know each other better, we could be one big family with valuable and gifted people. Among our programs were: family weekends; sponsors' visit to the families; summer camps; step parents' training; excursions; II. Samuel Camp, etc. We are grateful to God for these events, for the possibility to be together.



**Summer Camp**

We've started off this year actively already. In the beginning of January, we've delivered all the presents – that were collected before and during Christmas time – to the family typed children homes, regional social departments who are working with families in need, orphanages, nursery schools and schools.

There has been a leisure weekend for the families of the Samuel Foundation in the middle of January. We believe it is important for our families to spend time together; for the parents to share experiences, problems and situations they need to deal with and for the children as they part of this great family. Apart from our



usual weekends and excursions we have organised the state-licensed and compulsory foster parents' course with the help and presence of the representatives of the child care and social departments; psychologists and pastors.

Our plan for this year was

to continue with our programmes, giving more and more cheerful moments to the children and their parents. Throughout the summer, the goal of the events organized by the foundation was to advance children in their social skills. In the past years we tried to organise conferences for the parents with different specialists, who could help them to cope with difficult situations and problems. However, as the children grow, we see the current problems they are dealing with. Considering this we've planned our yearly program accordingly. Thus children's programs in summer were planned around the fact that they are loved by God, created and gifted by Him. We have tried to strengthen the fact that they are valuable and loved and that each of us are unique and skilled through the Holy Spirit. There were different activities during the events where they could find what they really love and are good at. We have organised a conflict-management weekend in the beginning of November and we still hope to organise a violence prevention weekend in spring; excursions to Hungary and around Transcarpathia.

We hope that our Lord will give us strength to the upcoming events, plans and every days and ability to show His unconditional love and be joyful instruments in His hands.

And now about the Severa family.

 **Birthday dates:**

<b>FTCH in Péterfalva</b>				
<b>Names</b>	<b>Date of Birth</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Address</b>	
<b>Parents:</b>			<b>Ukraine, Zakarpatska obl. Petrovo (Péterfalva) 90354, Ifjúság str. 74.</b>	
István Severa	02.12.1975	<b>m</b>		
Andrea Severa	29.06.1977	<b>f</b>		
<b>Own children:</b>				
Viktória	02.07.1999	<b>f</b>		
Dávid	12.03.2003	<b>m</b>		
Teodóra	16.04.2010	<b>f</b>		
<b>Foster children:</b>				
Anikó	04.02.2000	<b>f</b>		
Emma	17.03.2000	<b>f</b>		
Artúr	19.11.2000	<b>m</b>		
Dániel	10.08.2001	<b>m</b>		
Johanna	19.01.2005	<b>f</b>		
Viktória	14.04.2006	<b>f</b>		
Marika	18.08.1995	<b>f</b>		

As you see on the dates, the children grow. I would like to start with Marika. As you see she's got married 2 years ago. Since than she and her husband had their first son Mark in March, 2016. In 2014 she finished secondary education,

in August got married, and continued her studies in Ungvár, to be a baker, but after finishing the course she decided to continue to study to be a head chef. She likes to cook, bake. And she is managing her studies in the same time raising a toddler. Her husband is working abroad, in the Check Republic, to gain some money, as you probably know the economic situation is not the best. He also got his military notice while Marika was pregnant. So they have decided the Zsolti (Marika's husband) would go abroad to work. They also want to buy a car. They are living in a nearby village next to Ungvár (Uzzhorod), with his parents. Her mother-in-law helps her with the child. Zsolti's parents love Marika, as their own. They help wherever they can. While visiting them we saw and experienced that they've accepted Marika and have unconditional love for her. We are very glad to see her having her life together.

Anikó, Dániel and Artúr are now studying in Nagyszöllös, a town about 25 km away from Péterfalva (the village where they live). They have started studying after primary school, the boys specializing in tiling and painting and Anikó specializing in accounting and bookkeeping.

Parents have decided to send them to this school also because the state examination in Ukraine is now unspeakably difficult to pass even for the Ukrainian native speakers.

Emma wants to be a hairdresser so she is going to study after secondary education.

Teodóra, Johanna, little Viki and Dávid are now in 1st, 4th, 5th and 7th form. They are dealing with the everyday school things.

Their eldest daughter Viki is studying in Beregszász, Transcarpathian Hungarian Institute, specializing in Hungarian language and literature.

### **About the support**

We would like to give a short report on the donation you give us. By the given amounts we support the Severa family in two ways. From one hand having a financial fund for them which the foundation collects until the child is 18, or if they finish their studies and they get this amount when they start their independent life (if I may express myself so). When Marika got married we gave her fund, which was a great help for them, in starting their life together.



On the other hand, as you read in the report above, we organise governmentally obligatory and approved foster parent's training, summer camps, weekends, excursion for the families in the foundation. As raising 6 to 8,10 children they don't really have the possibility to travel, see places here in Transcarpathia, or in Hungary. So we try to organise such events, this way also helping for the parents and children having more blessed experiences and memories. And apart from these we help them with clothing and food supplies as possible.

**✚ And now the photos**





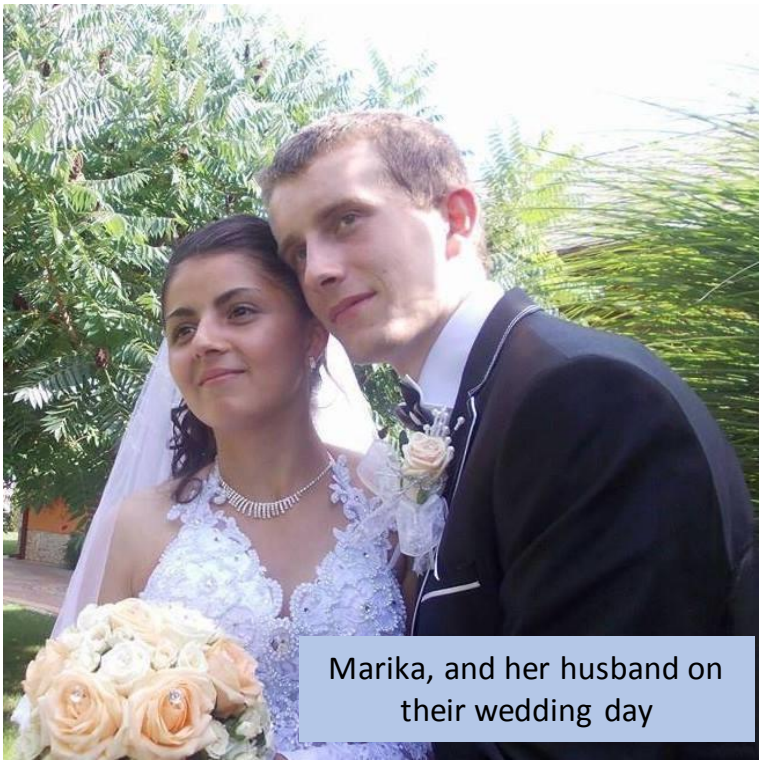
Anikó (16)



Dániel (15)



Marika with her son



Marika, and her husband on their wedding day