

2009 Annual Report of the Foundation of Twin cities Goes-Panevėžys

Introduction:

This year, we offer you the 2009 Annual Report to give you an impression of what the Foundation has done in contact with the sister city Panevėžys. We give you an overview of the activities during the year. We hope you will read it with pleasure and when you will comment, please let us know.

Organizational:

During four board meetings (28/1, 23/3, 22 9 and 3/11), we discussed various topics related to the relationship Goes - Panevėžys.

The composition of the board in 2009 was as follows:

Name	function	special field of interest
Antoon Andela	chairman/treasurer	education, economy, over all.
Jan van den Hondel	deputy chairman	education, religious affairs, culture
Wil de Koning	secretary	urban development, economy
Marian van Heugten	member	social welfare issues, culture
Eric Debbaut	member	health care, culture

We have searched for expansion of the board but we didn't find enthusiastic people till now. Because all members are volunteers, retired and have time for family fun and more, they don't always find time for meetings and especially the development of plans and decisions we take together.

Also, we do not intend to do what we would like to do. There are more twin cities of Panevėžys who can contribute in cases where they are good in. We would like to have an overview of what they do all for their twin city Panevėžys.

Projects:

A delegation visited the independence celebrations at the Lithuanian Embassy in The Hague. In October visited the chairman Lithuania and he also went to Panevėžys to get new contacts and strengthen old ones. Lithuanian Journal came out 2 times. Contacts between the Dutch and Lithuanian association, the Baltic association, Lithuanian Embassy, the municipality of Panevėžys and Foundation of Children Suffering continued.

Accountability is what the Foundation has made during a meeting with Councilors of the Municipality on 29th of January at town hall.

From 17th till 22nd of March members of the cycling club "Dviračiai" Panevėžys came for biking in Zeeland and especially in Goes. The cycling club has enjoyed not only cycling but also contacts with board members.

For the home of mentally and physically disabled children, a kinesis therapy room is made where the Foundation has helped financially.

From 24th of April till 2nd of May, the Zeeland Boys Choir School was on tour in Lithuania. A trip that was co-organized by the Foundation Twin city. Participants can look back on a fantastic stay. Not only the city of Panevėžys visited, where several concerts were given, but also in Kupiškis, Kaunas, and Vilnius.

During the stay the board convened also meetings with employers of the municipality and directors of hospital and children homes.

Besides we visited also the Hill of crosses, the botanical garden and Girionyspark in Kaunas. With a tour in Vilnius and a stroll through the city where several churches were visited and where it was sung by boys, the trip complete.

In June there was a photo exhibition from Lithuania at the City Office Goes to show.

On 17th of July at the invitation of our Mayor the Mayor of Panevėžys Mr Vadopolas has visited Goes. He was very interested to re-running of the business. He also visited the presentation of Obuntu because of the Year of Africa. It was unfortunately a very short visit.

The chairman visited Lithuania from 8th till 6th of October where he had contacts with an artist, with fruit growers, the Mayor of Panevėžys for evaluation his visit to Goes. Chairman went also at home for disabled children, the orphanage of Mr. Sigitas Juodzevičius where gratitude was expressed about the architectural office Rothuizen, van Doorn and 't Hooft had recommended.

On 7th of November received the Twinning the girls' choir from Šiauliai in close collaboration with the director of the Zeeland Boys Coir School has performed in concert in Holy Magdalena church and what was great.

Finally:

We hope you all, reading this report, have a good impression what we have done. Of course, we informed you on major issues, so it is not complete. Other reports you can find in Lithuanian journal number 30 of February 2010.

Next year we will continue our plan of action with a focus on healthcare.

We also hope to do more promotional work for us so we can probably expect more volunteers on the board.

Goes, Wil de Koning, Secretary