

Evelin Ilves today greeted people with mobility impairment, their supporters and friends, at a thanksgiving event, Deed of the Year 2011, organised by the Estonian Union of Persons with Mobility Impairment.

"Society is just like a family. Society is as happy as its unhappiest member," emphasised Evelin Ilves at today's event.

Individuals, institutions and organisations that have supported people with impaired mobility, through either word or deed in 2011 or over a longer period of time, were acknowledged and thanked at the event. This is a traditional event, which was taking place for the eleventh time this year. Over the years, 140 benefactors have been awarded a token of gratitude; this year, nine more token holders were added to the list.

This year, the tokens of gratitude went to:

**Lääne-Viru Local Governments Association** has organised easily available rural-wide municipality transport in Lääne-Virumaa, which is primarily intended for people with disabilities and mobility impairment.

**Tallink Grupp AS** has done a lot to ensure free movement on its ships. A friendly crew who are happy to assist sees that people with mobility impairments can feel happy while travelling by sea.

**Tallinn University of Technology** has made remarkable progress over the past 10 years in ensuring that students with impaired mobility have learning and mobility opportunities that are equal to those enjoyed by other students.

**The State Forest Management Centre** has worked hard for some time to make their nature trails accessible for people who use various support equipment to move around.

**Primus programme of Foundation Archimedes** has emphasised the accessibility of universities and colleges as well as training courses that introduce special needs, and has established stipends and grants for students with special needs.

**Estonian Food Bank** has supported a number of people living in Estonia, including people with disabilities, with its network of Estonian coverage.

**Department of Social Affairs and Health Care of Tallinn** has entrusted the approval of aspects regarding people with disabilities to the Estonian Union of Persons with Mobility Impairment.

**Tanel Leok and friends cross-country racing team** has organised a charity cross-country race for the past three years, with the benefits going to children who have acquired mobility problems as a result of accidents.

**Zumba Fitness** is organising charity zumba parties to support people who are experiencing difficulties, including people with impaired mobility.

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