

The spouse of the President of the Republic, Ieva Ilves, accepted the proposal to become a patron of the Estonian SOS Children's Villages Association and will shortly visit a children's village.

The CEO of Estonian SOS Children's Villages Association, Margus Oro, described as gratifying the fact that Ieva Ilves will continue the tradition dating back two decades, in which the spouse of the Head of the State is a patron of SOS Children's Village. The patron's main functions include initiation and support of charitable events aimed at children deprived of parental care and offering the children social support.

Apart from the patron, SOS Children's Village also has ambassadors of good will, including Heinz Valk, Ragnar Klavan, Nele-Liis Vaiksoo and Kristina Šmigun-Vähi who help in communicating the charity's message – "Every child needs a loving home and parents" – to society and represent the charitable ethos of SOS Children's Villages.

In Estonia, there are four SOS Children's Villages: in Keila, Põltsamaa, Juuru and Narva-Jõesuu. SOS Children's Villages have four main spheres of activity – children's villages, youth homes, family strengthening and education programmes; every year, a total number of 800 young people and adults find support here.

SOS Children's Villages is an international organisation that was established in 1949 and serves the primary goal of offering children the best possible growing environment given the available opportunities, and helps them to grow to become full members of society who are capable of coping. SOS Children's Villages are located in 133 countries and they provide a home for more than 80,000 children.

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