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ARCOIRIS AMIGOS DE LOS NINOS/AS ONLUS
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Hello, most of all i would like to express my sincerest admiration for activity of Arcoiris Amigos de los ninos/ as onlus assosaction. Unconditional love and concern, which you gave to many kids not only helped them to forget the worries but also was a motivation to their development, by showing optimistic aspects of life. I'm sure that hope which appeared in hearts of these children thanks to you, was a huge inspiration for them, what definitely had a positive effect for their health. I know it for sure because also my child is one of those babies that have been cared for by people from your organization, and i saw on my own eyes how strongly it helped my daughter to fight with the cancer. From a bottom of my heart i will always be thankful for your help, just the same as i'll never be doubted how good people you are.

When me and my family we met Saul Petrica and his wife Marta, my almost 3 years old daughter Natalia was during oncologic treatment. They was warm and very friendly, Natalia loved them. It was pleasant to see smile on her face. Last one and a half year she spent in a hospitals, except some few days break when unfortunately she had to stay in home because of low body resistance caused by chemotherapy, radiotherapy and bone marrow transplantation. That was a very hard time for her, she was dejected, sad and also a little bit shy - that's why i was amazed how easily she opened to talk and play with Marta and Saul. It showed to me that they are good persons who i can trust, so when they was asking about our problems i told them everything. I described our past, how cancer destroyed our life and now tries to keep us apart, by taking away our little baby. Then Saul informed us that he is representing your association and he visit us because of Natalia. He told us about your activities for the health and safety of children, it was amazing. Verry sad for me is a fact that all this dramatical stories, the situations you had to face by helping all this kids proves that many of them are suffering. It's unfair. In their age, everything what surrounds them - shapes them consciousness and not only affects significantly on self-respect but also create way they will treat other people. Thanks to you they have a chance to learn goodness and to see better side of living. You're great.

It was a big surprise for me and my wife to find that Arcoiris has expressed an interest about our little daughter. Whole this 1,5 year of tragic fighting for her life made us very depressed. The cancer which she is dealing with, it is neuroblastoma, aggressive kind with the high risk of return. Nothing is more important for us than Natalia, that's why when doctors in our country told us that there is nothing more we can do to fight the cancer and only chance is a travel from Poland to Italy for expensive antibodies therapy - we sold everything we had just to save life of our little baby. And so we had to leave everything we build for many years, our jobs, close ones, our home. It was sad but we knew that we can not let death take Natalia from us, so we must do whatever it takes to save her. It was really hard. Our life was turned upside down and we became very poor. Necessary was, that between every cycle of therapy which took eight months Natalia had to recover outside the hospital for a few days to be ready for next 10 to 20 days of taking medicine. It created a necessity of organize a place to stay so we had to rent an apartment. Very often to pay for diapers, milk, food for Natalia and charges me and my wife we decide to not buy a food for ourself. These all worries and massive stress strongly intensified our horrible sorrow. But then you showed up and helped us. We was long way from home, confused, troubled and restless but you took care of us, helped us to believe again that everything will be alright. I hope that someday i will find the way to repay for all the things that you did for my little baby girl, for us. When because of complications the cost of therapy unexpectedly increases, you paid hospital for medical examinations. You helped us to cover the costs of using electricity, water and heating so we could ensure Natalia required for her health condition safe, warm and hygienic place to rest and recover between cycles of antibodies therapy. It was very important for her life because her immunologic system is totally destroyed by chemotherapy and radiotherapy. Baby clothes which Marta and Saul brought to us are beautiful and makes Natalia so happy. But the most amazing and biggest surprise was when Saul and Marta visited us in the name of Arcoiris to give Natalia a present for her third birthday. It was unbelievable. They took us to a promoting healthy lifestyle shop in the center and bought for our little girl most cute and lovely pastel pink baby-bicycle that i have ever seen. Natalia never was so happy as that day. I can not find the words which could describe the emotions that accompanied all of us seeing this sweet little angel smiling after 1,5 year of being terrorized by deadly disease. Half of her life she was trapped by a cancer, scared, terrified and away from other children, normal kids who can play with each other on the outside and do all those things what kids supposed to do. She always knew that for some reason this things are not available for her, its reserved only for healthy children, not for her. I can only try to imagine how she was feeling

with this. Her life was a torture full of horrible pain, separations, unpleasantness and many painful situations. And now she was there smiling, standing with a sweet little magic bicycle. It was magic for her because it changes her to a normal baby. It was a signal that soon if she will try, she can be able to do things which was impossible until this moment. And who knows, maybe if she will do it often, doctors, mommy and daddy will let her play with the other kids. By the way in this time when she was finishing therapy and was prepare to increase physical activity, there was nothing more motivating to move and systematically rebuild motor skills of her body. Saul and Marta knew this, just like they guess by talking with Natalia other time that she was secretly dream about riding a bike. We was so poor that we couldn't make this dream come true. We didn't ask, but you gave to our little daughter happiness but most important you bring her hope so necessary for her to live and to fight with ruthless sickness. For that i will like to thank you deep from the bottom of my heart, on my own behalf, on behalf of my wife and of Natalia. Thanks to God when therapy has been finished, final medical examinations showed that in Natalia's body there's no symptoms of cancer return. After very long time finally i could take my little baby girl back home. Sad is that she didn't remember most of a people even from our family, also she couldn't recognize lot of places, but what matters is that she survived. It was not easy to move back to Poland from Italy, with all clothes, toys, medical equipement and all needed things even for our small 3-persons family. Natalia and her mom flown there by airplane meanwhile i took care of transport whole the stuff by a car. It was the only reasonable way. Natalia still is not so strong and don't have body resistance enough to such a long car travel, practically there was no space for two grown ups and child with special needs in a car only because of all the things we had to transport. Besides, car that we have is very old and damaged, sometimes it happens that it is not working good, for example engine is not starting and then i have to fix it. Luckily every time when something happened with this vehicle somehow i was able to do it, but even if i had space inside i couldn't risk by trying to take Natalia with me. It would be too dangerous, especially because week before day when we had to leave apartment she fell sick with bronchitis. Anyhow it found to be it was a good decision because by my three days of thousand and nine hundred kilometers long ride there was a few problems i had to face to. Due to the fact that almost until the last days was impossible to know if Natalia's health condition allows to go back to Poland in the time when the decision about return was made price for airplane tickets was significantly higher than usually so travel was much more expensive than we could expect. Moreover there was a necessity of additional fee for anteriority on the board. Most important for me it was, to my daughter and wife reach

safe back to home, that's why even when it was clear that if we will buy tickets for them, we will not have enough money for me to return, i chose to purchase tickets anyway. There was no choice and i think that every father would have decide the same in my situation. My wife started to worry about me. I was trying to keep her and a baby away from stress so i hide from them how worried i was. We alarm our close ones about situation but they are not so affluent, so couldn't help us immediately, meanwhile we had to leave apartment soon and after this it will not be a place to sleep for me. Then once again Arcoiris organization took care about us and everything was ok. Thanks to You we all returned safe back home, we are really thankful.

Sometimes i really wonder how can i repay all those good things that Arcoiris did for us. I really want my debt of gratitude to Arcoiris to be regulated and i hope that i will give back more than was given to me, because i know that it will help innocent children struggling with adversity and it will make their life better. When Saul Petrica who represents your organization visited us with his wife Marta for the first time they gave Natalia a doll which she still play with, even today. I asked my daughter if she remember who gave it to her, and she said to me: "it's from my aunt and my uncle". Then i realized that not only Natalia but also me and my wife, we made friends with them. They were with us when we needed help, supported us mentally, thanks to them we didn't give up.

Thank You for all help which we received from you and for the help that you gave to many of children by saving their lives and keeping them away from suffer. I hope that someday i will be strong enough to help someone so much as you helped us.



Best regards

Mariusz Urbanski