

Association
“ALŪKSNE DISTRICT
CHILDREN, YOUTH WITH
SPECIAL NEEDS SUPPORT
CENTRE
“SAULSTARĪNI””

Association “Saulstarîni”
was founded on December 13th, 2001

Aim of association

Promotion, facilitation of children, youth with special needs development, integration of them into the society, support.

Members of the association

There are 27 children and youngsters with special needs registered in the association from Alūksne and Ape municipalities.

Financial support

Alūksne Municipality, financing from projects

Cooperation partners

Priests of local parishes, Madona folk dance group «Mazais cilvēciņš», Public organization “Rūpju bērns”, Velku association, newspapers “Alūksnes ziņas” and “Malienas ziņas”, Latvian Society of the Blind Alūksne organization

SWOT ANALYSES

STRENGTH:

- Operation of the association „Saulstariņi ” for 11 years
- Offered and sponsored by the „Velku association” social service – support group activities for parents and others taking care of their family members
- Quality activities and educational events organized by the association, educational excursions
- Association has implemented 16 projects in the amount of 830745 euro.
- Donations and humanitarian help attracted
- Homepage of the association is made.

OPTIONS:

- Support of local municipality (one time financing and additional projects for separate events)
- Implementation of the EU and other fund financed projects
- Involvement of new members
- Introduction of new activity directions
- Can use facilities offered by local municipality in Alūksne Municipality Society Centre
- Use possibilities in local newspapers and municipal edition for information
- Acquisition of association member interests and beliefs
- Regularly to upgrade information in homepage of association
- To organize events for different age groups (children, care-workers, youngsters etc.)

WEAKNESSES:

- Passive participation of members in activities and project preparation of the association
- Members have difficulties to get from their far--away residence places to association activities
- Association hasn't got its own means of transport
- Part of association members have low level of income. That is the reason they cannot finance getting to activity place, support groups.
- Sometimes material values are more important to association members than educational activities, events
- Non-sufficient information of the society about association members, activities implemented by them
- Association hasn't got proper visiting times, no headquarters or place to meet
- If events are organized in Alūksne in the evening it is not possible to get home by public transport.

THREATS:

Implemented projects

- **2011 “Creative Workshops”** – Latvia - Switzerland cooperation program, grant fund “NVO funds” Aim is to facilitate Alūksne municipality youth with special needs and people at pension age integration in the society.
- **2011 LAD (Country Support Service)**
North-Eastern Regional Agriculture Board project „**Gaismas un skaņu ritmos**”

- **2013 Project "Art and theater make it fun"** – aim is make it possible for youth of different countries and nationalities to meet with the help of creative and artistic activities (paying special attention to pantomime), to initiate development of new traits of character, skills, get acquainted with cultures and traditions of other nations.
- **2014 Ziedot.lv social help project "Social and practical skill acquisition for youngsters with special needs for starting independent life."**
- **2014 – 2015 "MYCELF – More You Care in Estonia, Latvia, Finland"**. Aim of the project is to support carers and promote alternative care, support and defend their interests and rights.

Events

We regularly participate in Vidzeme region sports competitions, international amateur group festivals “Solis”, “Nāc līdzās”, celebrate nature annual festivals together.

In 2003 “Saulstariņu skola” – Schools of Saulstariņi was founded where children with special needs participate in educational programs:

- visual arts, teacher A.Vēliņa
- music, teacher O. Jēgere
- gesture and sound systems developed and education program using Tibet method.

„Parent support group lectures are „Velku biedrība” offered and sponsored social service



**Tree planting in town park –
action «We for our town»**



Project “Creative Workshops”





Project "Art and theater make it fun"



Acquisition of social and practical skills for youth with special needs to start independent life.



Camp in Kubija



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Thanks for attention!