

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB OF RIGA



# 2023 CHARITY REPORT



# CONTENTS



---

**01**

MESSAGE FROM  
THE CHARITY DIRECTOR

---

**02**

CHILDREN'S PALLIATIVE CARE

---

**03**

CENTRS MARTA

---

**04**

FOSTER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

---

**05**

HOPE FOR CHILDREN

---

**06**

LATVIA'S CYSTIC FIBROSIS  
ORGANIZATION

---

**07**

LATVIAN SAMARITAN  
ASSOCIATION

---

**08**

MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY  
LATVIA

---

**09**

PINK TRAIN

---

**10**

RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE  
CHARITIES

---

**11**

CERIBU TILTS + SOS CHILDREN'S  
VILLAGES

---

**12**

ST. SAVIOUR'S SOUP KITCHEN

---

**13**

TAVI DRAUGI

---

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHARITY DIRECTOR

*Dear Members,*

As the work from 2023 is coming to a close it is our opportunity to reflect on all that has been done.

In 2023, the International Women's Club of Riga supported thirteen charities with an ongoing partnership - offering money, goods, time and support. We gave EUR 21,030 to these partners because you, active members, raised a large portion of this money at the IWCR Bazaar in 2022. The Charity Committee organized two Charity Drives this year to which you donated many needed items to our partner charities, who were so thankful to receive these goods. A special thank you to our Charity Committee team in 2023 - Liga, Donka, Inger, Amanda, Lori, Magdalena, Ria, and Meaghan.

In 2024, we plan to sponsor our charity partners with EUR 31,650. This is possible thanks to you and your network, participating in the 2023 IWCR Bazaar and related activities. Now we, the Charity Committee - currently down a few members due to relocation and hoping to get a few more - are processing applications and making an action plan for this year.

As of January 17, 2024, we have received 13 applications from current and new partners. By the end of this month, we will develop and sign repeat contracts and discuss them with new applicants. Stay tuned for the update in February!

Sincerely,  
Liga Kukaine, Charity Director



# CHILDREN'S PALLIATIVE CARE

---

## *2023 Report Summary:*

The Children's Palliative Care Society celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2023. Throughout 2023, the Society shared the stories of the families, their memories and thanks. The Society organized three conferences that were held locally and internationally.

## *Highlight of 2023:*

The Children's Palliative Care Society organized a joint Christmas gift-giving afternoon event for families with children, with staff and supporters in mid-December.

## *2024 Vision:*

In 2024, the Society will continue working on a project to improve palliative care services for children at home in the regions of Latvia, including the development of innovative respite and hospice services.

## *Impact:*

300 children and 900 family members



# CENTRS MARTA

## *2023 Report Summary:*

In 2023, Centrs Marta provided social support services, legal advice, counseling, and practical items to women fleeing domestic violence. They put a heavy emphasis on advocating for the rights of women in Latvia and the EU and used their platform to battle cultural stigma surrounding domestic violence in Latvia.

## *Highlight of 2023:*

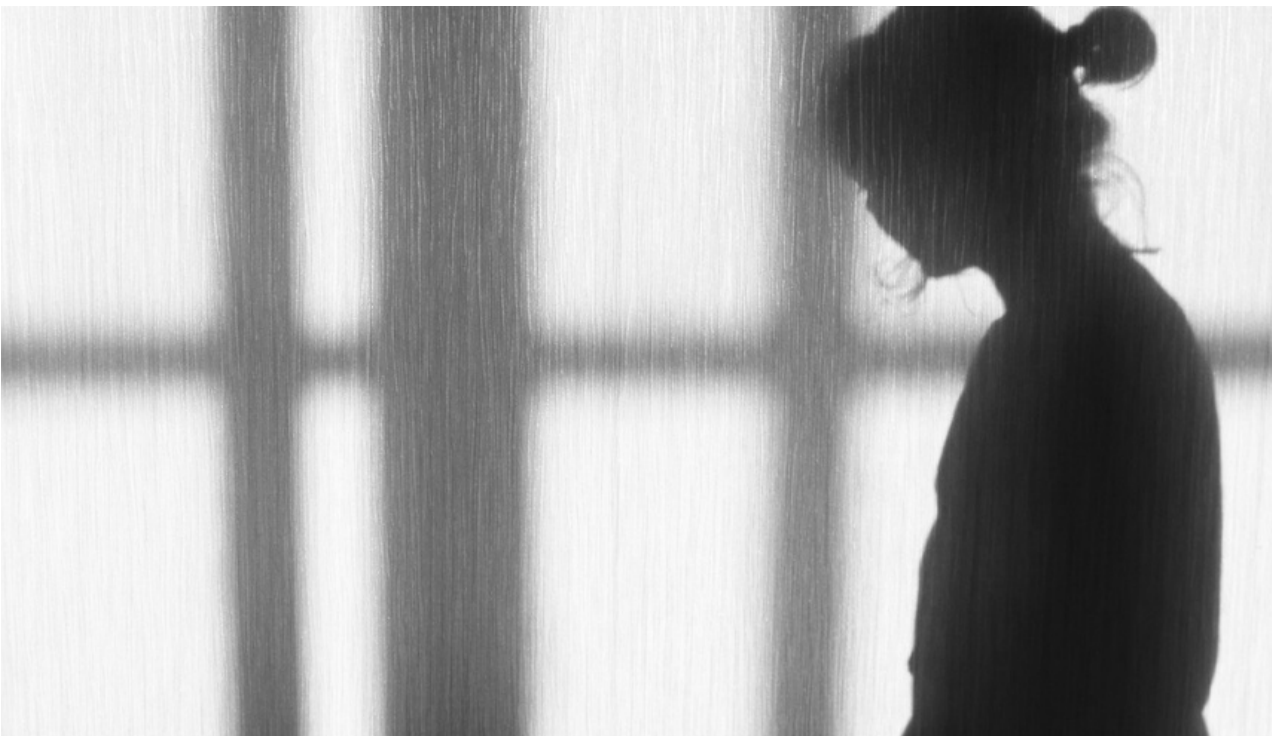
Turning a terrible case into a platform to make major changes in policies that protect women in Latvia.

## *2024 Vision:*

Continue to provide services directly to victims of domestic violence and advocate for policy changes and implementation that will protect vulnerable people.

## *Impact:*

Hundreds of women and children.



# FOSTER FAMILY ASSOCIATION

---

## *2023 Report Summary:*

In 2023, the Foster Family Association organized an Easter event at the Open Air Museum in Riga, provided back-to-school bags for kids in foster families for September, and hosted a Christmas concert for families in December

## *Highlight of 2023:*

For one foster child's 5th birthday, she received a doll and was so overcome with joy. She had never received a gift before, and it was a meaningful experience for her, her foster family, and the organization.

## *2024 Vision:*

The organization plans to continue its support of foster families with three significant projects in 2024: Easter, Back-To-School bags, and Christmas. They don't anticipate any major changes to their work this year.

## *Impact:*

200 Foster Families with 420 foster and biological children.





## HOPE FOR CHILDREN

[WWW.HOPE.LV](http://WWW.HOPE.LV)

---

### *2023 Report Summary:*

Hope for Children operates two daycare centers for at-risk children, one in Riga and one in Liepaja. Throughout 2023, children received help every day. Needs such as hunger, inadequate clothing, and lack of school materials were met, and help was given daily with school homework. There were activities and excursions for fun and recreation; the children could spend a week by the sea in our summer house.

### *Highlight of 2023:*

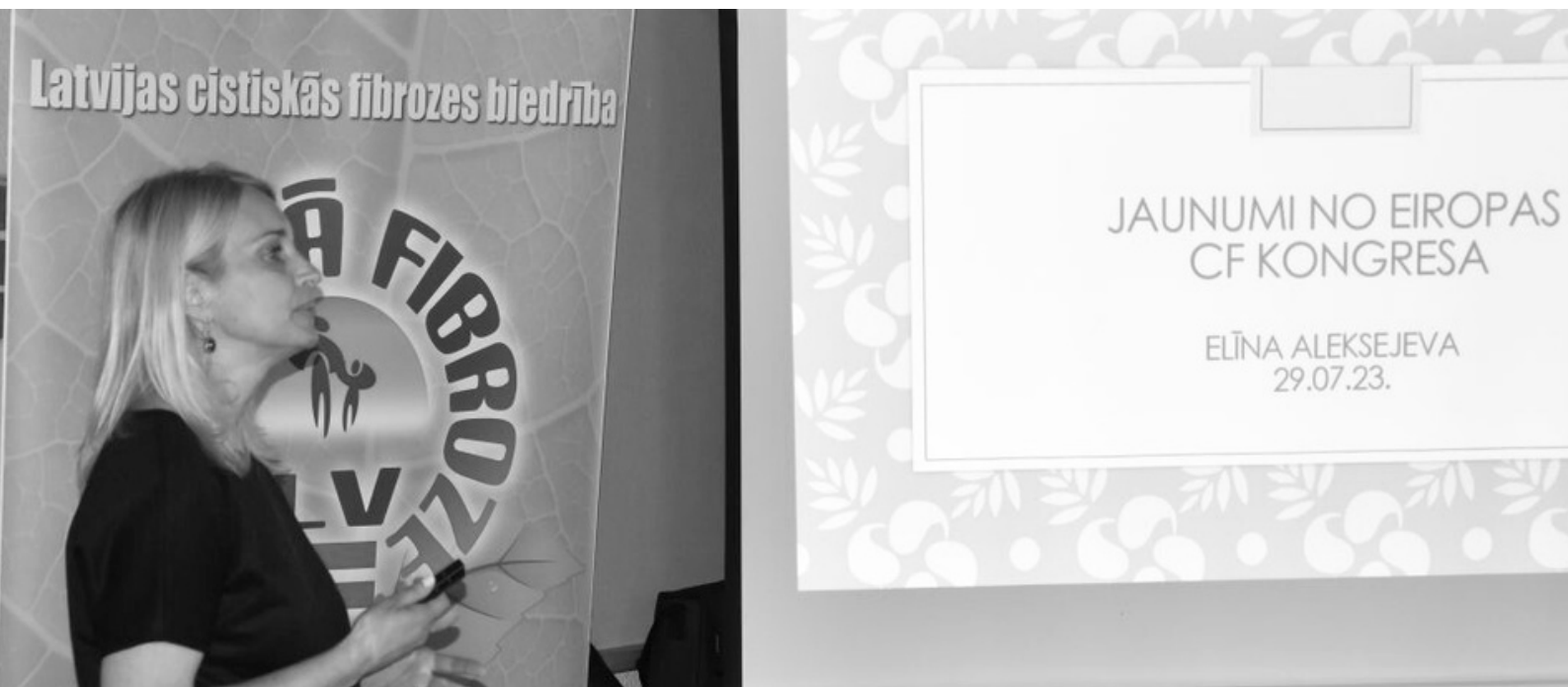
Hope for Children helped to arrange placement of children in summer camps, led their own summer day camp for children, and gave several families a break at our summer house by the sea.

### *2024 Vision:*

There are no major changes to daily operations. Hope for Children aims "to restore and bring hope to children and families in Latvia which have fallen into crisis because of poverty, homelessness, sickness and addiction."

### *Impact:*

Data for 2023 is still being collected, but in 2022, Hope for Children helped 1116 individuals.



## LATVIA'S CYSTIC FIBROSIS ORGANIZATION

[CISTISKA-FIBROZE.LV.INFO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CISTISKA-FIBROZE.LV.INFO@GMAIL.COM)

---

### *2023 Report Summary:*

With the help of IWCR, the "Latvia's Cystic Fibrosis" organization organized an educational seminar in the summer of 2023 to share current developments in Latvia and the EU regarding treatment for Cystic Fibrosis and hosted several experts to share with others about treatment, family support, and other holistic approaches to treating the disease.

### *Highlight of 2023:*

The attendees' feedback and questions from the educational seminar.

### *2024 Vision:*

Latvia's Cystic Fibrosis organization plans to continue to advocate for the needs and rights of individuals with cystic fibrosis in Latvia to the state and the public. In 2024, the organization plans to work more closely with other large European Organizations, like CF Europe, to learn what is working in other European countries and continue to better the lives of those affected by the disease here in Latvia.

### *Impact:*

This educational seminar reached 120 people.



# LATVIAN SAMARITAN ASSOCIATION

[WWW.SAMARIESI.LV](http://WWW.SAMARIESI.LV)

---

## *2023 Report Summary:*

The Latvian Samaritan Association provides many services to individuals and groups with diverse needs. Services include in-home care and transport for people with disabilities, last wish granting, distribution and food assistance for the needy, shelter and support for the homeless, Help for Ukraine, hospice care, several volunteering services, fundraising events to help people in distress, events for children (summer camps, events for children with disabilities, intercultural events and others) events for the elderly (free time activities, fled trips, activities and events for Easter, valentine day, summer solstice and other cultural celebrations).

## *Highlight of 2023:*

The organization managed to take a person who ended up in a wheelchair after an accident on an experience trip to Hamburg to see other artists that inspire him.

## *2024 Vision:*

The organization plans to work with volunteers to create and plan activities, field trips, and events for the elderly to provide golden days at an advanced age. Another big priority is to make fundraising events, plan trips for people who are terminally ill, and involve volunteers in the program the Last Wish Foundation or "Sapņu Pavadonis."

## *Impact:*

Thousands of Individuals



# MISSIONARIES OF CHARITY LATVIA

## *2023 Report Summary:*

Missionaries of Charities Latvia provides many services to individuals and groups with diverse needs. Regardless of religion, anyone who asks for help from this organization will receive it.

When time allows, Missionaries of Charity do street outreach, walking around the city, going to train and bus stations, and looking for those needing help.

As part of its activities, the organization offers „Soup kitchen” services three times a week, bathing, clothing, and payments for medicine and other needs for men and women, poor families, and single old people.

It makes purchases of first aid medicine and hands them out to the people in need, sometimes making some simple wound dressing.

In addition, it organizes summer camps for poor people, from which 50 people and 18 children benefited this year. The missionaries also visit Riga's Central Prison 2 twice a month.

## *Highlight of 2023:*

One of the organization's missionaries found a woman with dementia lost at the train station and took her in to help her, provide practical support and contact family members.

## *2024 Vision:*

Missionaries of Charities Latvia rely on God providence and try to discern each time what He wants them to do. Now they plan to continue their work.



## *Impact:*

Missionaries of Charities Latvia helped many people and hope every person they met could receive something of God's own love and mercy.

# PINK TRAIN

WWW.ROZAVILCIENS.MOZELLO.LV

---

## *2023 Report Summary:*

With money from the IWCR, the organization was able to provide support for women in Latvia diagnosed with breast cancer, covering the costs of counseling and physiotherapy.

## *Highlight of 2023:*

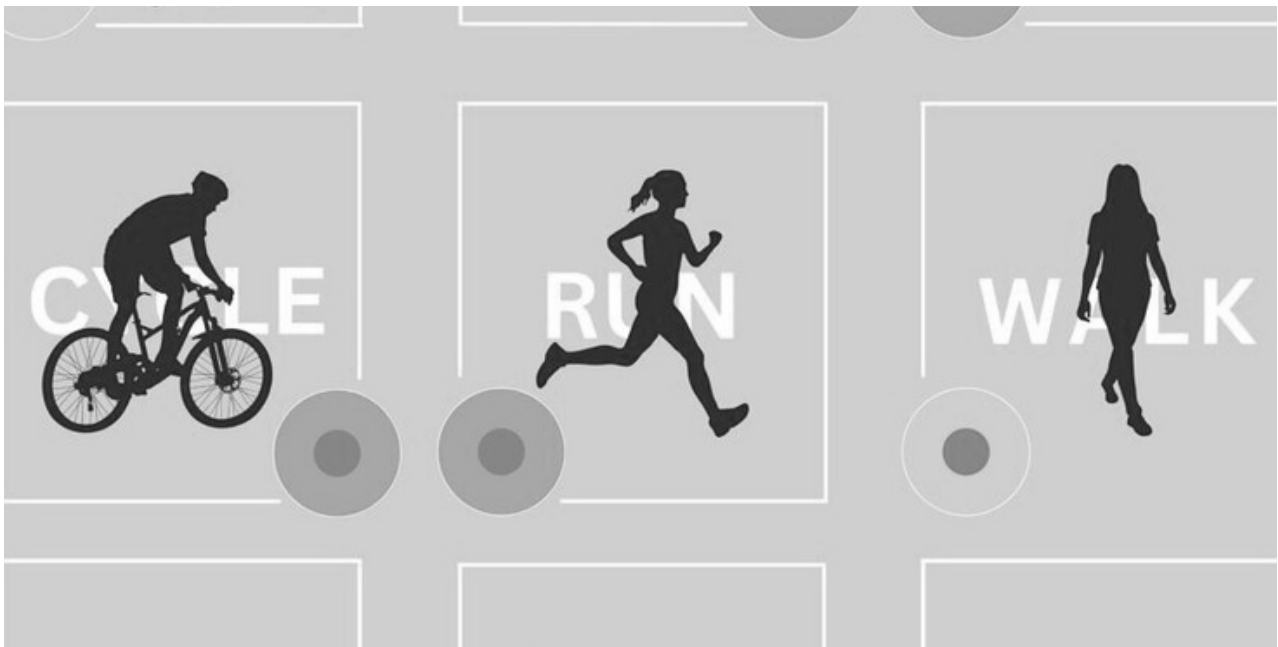
Pink Train Foundation not only did a walk in the Old Town together with IWCR members as part of the campaign but also organized the annual "May Marathon", inviting people to "do 42 km during the month of May", thus raising awareness and inviting others to support their efforts with a donation.

## *2024 Vision:*

In 2024, Pink Train Foundation will celebrate its 10th anniversary. It hopes to have several events throughout the year, such as awareness campaigns in February and October, a fundraising "marathon" in May, and a Birthday celebration in December.

## *Impact:*

The organization was able to help around 200 breast cancer patients in Riga and other towns in Latvia.





## RONALD MCDONALD HOUSE CHARITIES

[WWW.RMHC-LATVIA.LV](http://WWW.RMHC-LATVIA.LV)

---

### *2023 Report Summary:*

With money from the IWCR, the organization was able to provide 5 198 free medical consultations to 4,201 children within Latvia's child care mobile program. This includes 388 medical consultations for Ukrainian children staying in Latvia. Within the Mobile Clinic project, 17,000 people in Ukraine have received much-needed medical care.

### *2024 Vision:*

In 2024, Ronald McDonald House Charities Latvija plans to continue the same scale of work in both Latvia and Ukraine. Due to the high demand for Children Care Mobile services in Latvia, the existing program will be expanded with additional services. A study on the concept of family-centered care in Latvia is also planned.

### *Impact:*

Currently, an average of 4,200 children receive Ronald McDonald House's services in Latvia each year.

## RUPJU BĒRNS "CERĪBU TILTS"

[CERIBU.TILTS@RUPJUBERNS.LV](mailto:CERIBU.TILTS@RUPJUBERNS.LV)

### *2023 Report Summary:*

With money from the IWCR, the organization was able to purchase new speakers, microphones and wires to help make their events and operations higher quality.

### *Highlight of 2023:*

"Ceribu Tilts" celebrated its 20th anniversary!

### *2024 Vision:*

There are no major changes to daily operations. The organization plans to continue providing regular support and life-skills training to individuals with disabilities.

### *Impact:*

The day center supported 28 individuals with disabilities in 2023 through their daily activities.

## SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

[WWW.SOSBERNUCIEMATI.LV](http://WWW.SOSBERNUCIEMATI.LV)

### *2023 Report Summary:*

With the money from the IWCR, the organization could provide more help to 8 children (out of 61 children, 35 girls and 26 boys) who live in SOS Children's Village Valmiera. They could benefit from Dance Movement Therapy classes and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy. Both therapies helped children and young adults living in the village see their strengths and achievements and develop creativity and positive emotions, reinforcing their self-confidence.

### *Highlight of 2023:*

Witnessing youth discover new interests and build friendship through dance movement therapy.

### *2024 Vision:*

The organization plans to continue its support to children who have lost care of their biological family and to families with children in Latvia. It is also to develop some new services - such as individual rehabilitation programs for teenagers with behavioral problems.

### *Impact:*

1700 children and youth



# ST. SAVIOUR'S SOUP KITCHEN

[ANGLICANRIGA.WORDPRESS.COM/SOUP-KITCHEN/](https://anglicanriga.wordpress.com/soup-kitchen/)

---

## *2023 Report Summary:*

The organization provided free meals and clothing to those in need. The organization also helped individuals restore legal documents required for re-integrated into homes and society for a handful of individuals.

## *2024 Vision:*

St. Saviors envisions being more active in publicizing their mission.

## *Highlight of 2023:*

St. Saviors Soup Kitchen was more than happy to see clients' lives transformed by their support. The biggest victory was seeing someone get off of the streets. 2023 Report Summary: St. Savior's Anglican Church Soup Kitchen provided free meals and clothing for needy people. They also helped individuals with re-socialization and restoring documents.

## *Impact:*

150 receiving food and clothes, 5 being helped with re-socialization



# TAVI DRAUGI

## *2023 Report Summary:*

Tavi Draugi is an emergency response and support organization that helps individuals in immediate need of tangible support. In 2023 they prioritized support to Ukraine by providing and shipping thousands of items from Latvia to Ukraine. They also responded to needs along the border of Latvia and for the needs of families and needy individuals in the country.

## *Highlight of 2023:*

Sending drones from Cesis, Latvia to Ukraine!

## *2024 Vision:*

Continue their work providing for tangible needs and develop a clear strategy for expanding services.

## *Impact:*

Thousands of individuals.

