

Deli József – applicant for Star Volunteer

Complete Life Social Foundation/Teljes Élet Szociális Alapítvány, Söréd, Hungary

"Complete Life Social Foundation" is a special organisation for handicapped children. Originally it was supposed to organise holidays during summer in order to exempt their parents for a short term from the continuous difficulties which a family has to face due to having a handicapped person. The camp takes place in the vicarage of a little village called Söréd which is approx. 20 km far from Székesfehérvár where Alcoa-Kofem locates.



Every summer about one hundred children with different kinds of deficiencies have been coming there. In one turn the house is able to lodge twenty handicapped persons and about thirty helpers. Beside the original aim these holidays can play important parts of preparing these children to enter the society and to live more or less independent life. They also have the opportunity to make friends with their "fellow sufferers" and with healthy people and they keep in touch after the camp.

During their holiday they can take part in different special programmes which are not only amusing, but also developing and provide them the feeling of being successful. One of the most beneficial points of these camps is that the handicapped children can discover how important they are for other people, which can greatly improve their self confidence and the acceptance of their deficiency.

Leaders of the camps and the kitchen-staff are all volunteers. The personal helpers are mostly students who are very happy to come and help here annually. Spending one or two weeks here is quite self-improving for them as well since they take on great responsibilities and learn to accept and appreciate the differences other people have.

The house and the garden around needed some special alteration so as to provide suitable place to welcome handicapped people. Ramps and pavements were built and the house was extended with a big dining room, bathroom and paediatrician's room. The garden was revived, bushes were set and a new fence was built.

The story of my voluntary activity

My name is József DELI. I have been working for Alcoa-Köfém since 1984 in Székesfehérvár, Hungary. I am a support engineer at GBS IS. I am responsible for local area network, phone and cable systems.



I got acquainted with the world of disabled people as a young man since summer time I helped at a home for disabled children. Once when I painted the fence in the garden of the home, suddenly a little boy took me by the hand and drew me to walk. Shortly more and more children joined us and we walked hand in hand. I was fascinated by their kindness and confidence. This experience determined my way of thinking and I take strength from it even now.

I have taken part as a personal helper in the summer camps organized for disabled children and young people since 1984. I am responsible also for the house and garden where the camps take place at the village Söréd. I managed the rebuilding and enlarging of the house to be more suitable for wheel-chairs took place in 1990. In 1994 the helpers established a foundation – the "Complete Life Social Foundation" - and I was requested to be the chair of the foundation in 1999. Since then I lead the foundation, organize trainings for helpers to prepare them for the service, make the house ready for the summer camps, take part in the everyday life of a one week's turn, and spend a cheerful evening with the disabled children, their parents and the young helpers when we evoke the summer adventures. It is my pleasure that from year to year a lot of young people are interested in this voluntary service, and the spirituality, the loving atmosphere and merriness attract them for years or for a lifetime.

Many Alcoans are familiar with the activities of the "Complete Life Social Foundation" as József organizes regular ACTION programs at the venue of the summer camp in addition his personal work.

Foundation internet site address : <http://www.teljeselet.hu/english.php>



Preparing bread and excursion during a summer camp in Söréd (1991)

