

The blue van with the Netherlands plates is well known and welcomed among the children, youth, parents and grandparents in numerous villages in Slavonia. Everyone knows that these are our friends from Holland – Ton and Tineke. They both grew to love Croatia, especially Slavonia. Every year for the last 13 years they give their contribution to the children by organizing the 3 week trip to Netherlands. The children, the teachers that accompany them and the hard-working volunteers from Netherlands all reside together in a beautiful camp in a small town called Ermel. The camp is made exclusively for children with numerous fun activities. The purpose of the camp is to enable the children to have fun and to socialize in a new and pleasant environment, giving them a chance to see new sights, to meet new friends and to learn new things. Staying in a foreign country, far away from their parents, leaves numerous positive effects on psychological, physical and emotional development of a child. They learn how to deal with new situations without their parents, which helps them to learn to be independent and responsible. Also, children have to perform duties appropriate to their age, and follow rules that make the camp function successful. They can also learn through the communication with the other children of their age.

In the October of 2009, Ton i Tineke have announced the lucky children that will spend their next summer in Netherlands. That where the children from Petrovci and Svinjarevci. It is important to say that the most of the families in these two villages are not very rich, so they can't afford to send their children on holiday. That is the reason why these children know how to value this once-in-a lifetime opportunity.

After the preparations, the trip to Netherlands took place on 17. 7. 2010., with 44 children, 6 teachers and 2 drivers.

We were all very excited; we were looking forward to meeting new people and seeing new sights. The whole three weeks in Netherlands were filled with numerous activities, such as visit to Dolphinarium, the ZOO, amusement park, Science Museum in Amsterdam, Euromast in Rotterdam, swimming pools and many more. We also had our own fun activities such as karaoke party with prizes, fashion show with clothes we made ourselves, various sport competitions, acting, having fun at the disco etc. We have also hosted the sponsors that made this year's trip possible. Every day was special, filled with laughter, a lot of fun and interesting activities. We took many photos, and the children kept the diaries of the whole trip.

We thank Tineke and Ton, the sponsors and the volunteers for making the 2010 camp possible, and for providing the children from Petrovci and Svinjarevci and also their teachers, three unforgettable weeks in Netherlands!!!