



# Kiitos



CONCORDIA  
LANGUAGE VILLAGES

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January 5, 2011

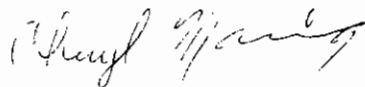
Finlandia Foundation National  
PO Box 92298  
Pasadena, CA 91109-2298

Dear Friends,

Each year we ask our scholarship recipients to write about their experience at *Salolampi*. Many of these villagers would not be able to attend without the help of scholarships. I have enclosed the letters received from Finlandia Foundation scholarship recipients. They vary in style and length, but they all convey the excitement that the villagers still feel once they have returned home from their stay at Concordia Language Villages.

Thank you for your support in 2010. We look forward to working with you again this coming year.

Sincerely,



Cheryl Marvig  
Development Assistant  
Concordia Language Villages

Hello!

Thank you for the scholarship!  
We wouldn't be able to do it without you.

There were three things I thought were really cool about ~~your~~ going to Salolami camp. The three things were being able to meet people from Finland and other states, how it seemed like you were really in Finland, and to see what a college looks like.

The reason I love the Finnish language is because the music camp was with it. My greatgrandma is Finnish. I live in Ishpeming MI. We have a lot of Finnish ~~culture~~ culture up here.

One funny thing that happened was when my friend Ella and I were walking by some garbage cans when I saw a squirrel hanging from a hole in one of the garbage cans so awkwardly I thought it was dead! Right before I showed Ella it, it hopped

into the garbage and started  
throwing food at us! We ran  
away screaming. Thankfully  
no one heard us.

Sorry we didn't ~~so~~ write  
thankyou any sooner. ☺

We were really busy this summer.

THANK-YOU

Your Friend  
Amanda  
Matzrick

Thank you to the Salolampi Foundation and the Finlandia Foundation for giving me scholarships to go to Soiraa. I had an incredible time and staying at Salolampi got me interested in the Finnish language and I have actually been starting to learn a little Finnish. I want to earn a double major after high school, if possible, in pre-pharmacy and music.

Thank you!

Danielle Anderson

P.S. Salolampi had amazing food!

August 19, 2010

Dear Salolampi Foundation and Finlandia Foundation,

Thank you so much for the scholarships. I had a fantastic time at Salolampi with my friends. One of my favorite parts of the music camp was improve class. I also enjoyed being around the people at camp. They seemed very enthusiastic and excited about what they were doing.

Thank you for the music,  
Maddy Fontaine

Dear Concordia Language Villages,  
Thank you so much for reminding me to send a thank-you! I apologize for not having sent one before.

The language village I went to was Salolampi, and it was more wonderful than I could have imagined! I mainly hung out with three fantastic girls there: Allie Pino, Hannah Sorenson, and Alexandra McIntyre, but I also met many other incredibly nice and talented musicians while at camp. My camp counselors for Lapeenranta (my cabin), Molly "Orvoikki" and Elli, were wonderful. Probably the most touching experience at camp was when I gave Elli a thank-you on the last night. She gave me a hug, cried, and asked me what instrument I played. When I responded "piano," she cried some more & told me "That was my instrument, as well." I knew she had been through a rough week, and the fact that she was so sweet and appreciative of my small thank-you after all she had done for the cabin and camp was incredibly humbling.

The music program was incredible. The three teachers that instructed me; Markus, Maija, and Donna, were talented and warm musicians that changed the way I thought about music. Under Markus' and Maija's instruction, I composed a piece for piano titled "Kosmonautin Oda K Zvezdani Zemle (Astronaut's ode to the stars and earth)." I enjoyed every minute of camp, and cried when Hannah performed her breathtaking piece, "Kesäkuu." It reminded me of the campfire, sunsets, Isötalo, and beautiful järvi of Salolampi.

The Finnish immersion was exciting for me. I've been teaching myself the language for the past year using a website called "livemocha," but I learned so much more through a non-translated, non-structured teaching. I was so shocked to have understood most of what Lauri said, and felt proud when I translated it for my friends.

Under the influence of Salolampi, I stopped lying to myself that I have to carry on my family's tradition of scientific careers. Though my aspirations to work in pharmacology are still somewhat present, I hope to become a diplomat for Finnish-Russian, Finnish-Estonian, and general Finnish relations. I have a love of languages and people, and Salolampi has furthered my passions in both.

Thank you, all at Concordia Language Villages, for an experience I will always remember.

Rakkaus, Sierra Kautanen

Paljon ♥



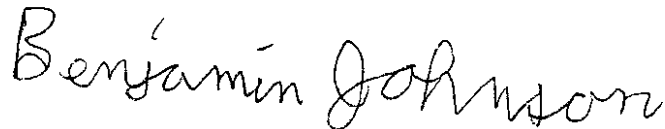
August 18, 2010

Salolampi Foundation and Finlandia Foundation  
c/o Concordia Language Villages  
901 8<sup>th</sup> Street S.  
Moorhead, MN 56562-0001

Dear Salolampi Foundation and Finlandia Foundation,

Thank you for giving me a scholarship to go to the Sovia music camp this summer! It was really fun meeting students and teachers and being able to work with some of them at the language camps. There were some interesting activities there, but my favorite things at the camp was the dance (which everyone would have liked to have gone longer), the sauna (that we only got to use once), the games and making our name tags at the beginning. All of those things were incredibly cleaver and fun. But the main reason for me to go was the Sovia music camp. (I play the violin.) It was very cool and fun to play and work with students and teachers from Finland! The program was very well set up, except at the beginning because, none of the teachers had any form of contact so it was hard to put schedules together for the first day. Other wise the music was fun and challenging. I just want to thank you for giving me the opportunity that I will never forget! Thank you again!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Benjamin Johnson". The letters are fluid and connected, with a prominent capital 'B' at the start.

Benjamin Johnson

*Alia Gribbon*

121 Olive St  
Duluth, MN 55811

*August 20, 2010*

*Dear Finlandia Foundation,*

*Thank you so much for contributing to my scholarship for the Soiva Music Camp in Bemidji this past June. Without you, Dr. Jeanne Doty at UMD, and the Salolampi Foundation, I wouldn't have been able to attend the camp because my dad has been out of steady work for 2 years. I love going to music camps, and after high school I hope to study violin at Northwestern in Chicago. My favorite part of the Soiva Camp was studying with the Finnish violin teacher, Minja Pentti. She was so fun to work with, and I learned a lot from her. I also got my first Sibelius music from her; a piano trio, and a Romanze. I enjoyed playing both in the recital! My Grandmother is 100% Finnish, so another thing I liked about going to the camp, was being able to hear and learn how to speak some Finnish! I am very grateful for the scholarships, and I'm hoping to go to the Soiva Camp in Finland next year!*

*Again, thank you!*

*Sincerely yours,*

*Alia Gribbon*

*Alia Gribbon*

