



***The Baby Bag Association
Vaaka ry***

Mother energy since 2000

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The Baby Bag Association – Vaaka ry is a volunteer organization founded in 2000. Despite its young age the organization is very active: there are constantly over a dozen projects.

Vaaka has organized several large scale campaigns, the beneficiaries of which have been both domestic and foreign. The organization has collected among other things baby- and toddler bags, children's clothes as well as book- and schoolbags.



Vaaka sponsors the school of Haapalammi and a kindergarten in Värtsilä, organizing different campaigns for their benefit several times a year. In addition we give a babybag for all the babies born in Sortavala. The sponsored school and kindergarten as well as Sortavala are visited many times a year. Nevertheless; cooperation with the locals is essential for Vaaka's sponsorship.

Vaaka underlines preventive measures in its activities. A good example of such a project is the Young Families' Club in Sortavala and its sur-

rounding villages. The main idea of the club is peer group activity; parents can come together for a cup of tea to share their experiences. The club activities will be expanded to other parts of Russian Karelia in the next few years. The project has been thought up and carried out together with the local people.

Vaaka is starting a project called the Youth Centre of Värtsilä. The purpose of the project is to help the young to grow up as whole young women and men. The project aims at preventing intoxicant abuse and social isolation. The groups study the young people's aspects of life as well as their possibilities in life by the means of workshops and peer groups. In addition, the workshops teach useful skills. The intoxicant-free groups always have a reliable and safe adult present.

Vaaka was born from the will to help. The first bag campaign brought together a group of mothers who worked, collected and arranged the bags over the border to Karelia. Since then, the activity has evolved and expanded; the organization now has 500 members and activity all over Finland.



We do not try to heal the world at once, but we make it – at least for some – a bit better place to live.