



## Dear Friends,

Life taught me the importance of letting go. I have known for a long time, that constant change is part of life: both in the life of an organisation and an individual. Changing and moving on go hand in hand. They provide opportunities for further development and growth. For me, both have played an important role in my life. When I started my career in the financial sector, I made a relatively early commitment to devote my life to my career only until I reached 40. Many people did not believe that. They thought it would be too difficult for me to give up work and leave my business career behind. Yet I knew it wouldn't be, and when I turned 40, it wasn't hard for me at all to let go, because I looked forward to dedicating my energy and skills to advancing causes that matter to me.

I made a big decision a year and a half ago with a similar attitude and awareness. I decided to retire from my position as the Chairman of Board at Bátor Tabor.

I have carefully thought through this decision and I prepared a thorough handover. I always believed that a good leader eventually becomes replaceable. When a team has the knowledge and ability to function independently, the leader has done their job well. Bátor Tabor Foundation has successfully reached the stage where it is managed by a professional management, whose professionalism and commitment to quality is unpaired in the whole NGO sector. I wouldn't have made this decision if I wasn't sure that Bátor Tabor is left in trustworthy and capable hands. Bátor Tabor's current management has navigated the organization through several crises and disruptions over the past few years. They create the organization's strategy and lead operations, assisted by the Board. Many of the Board's members have been with Bátor Tabor for many years. The Board will be led by two people, whose long-standing commitment to the Foundation ensures continuity. Kamilla Hermann of the Board of Trustees will take over my position as Chair and Balázs Báthory will be the Vice-Chairperson.

Kamilla will also take my seat in the Slovak Board and Balázs will take my seat in the Polish Board. Since I haven't been part of the Czech Board, this change does not affect that entity.

I have always seen the success of Bátor Tabor in the power of teamwork. Staff, volunteers, supporters and the Board of Trustees joined forces for a good cause, and this is what made the Foundation an internationally recognised organisation over the past 22 years. I also learned a lot during these two decades. Bátor Tabor has made me realise that the walls built and raised by serious illness, isolation and anxiety are not limited to geographical boundaries. That is why I wanted to extend our presence in the Central European region, and thanks to the sacrifice of many staff members and the strategy created by the team, we are on a track to succeed.

In addition to internationalism, I want to underpin the importance and guarantee the transparency and independence of the professional management team. Bátor Tabor will continue to operate without any compromise, strengthening the values we have established over the years. I assure you that our mission, strategy and management will remain unchanged. I know that the Foundation's team is led by competent people who will develop Bátor Tabor further with for-profit experience and non-profit enthusiasm.

It feels good to look back on the path that led us here. When the nine founders approached me in 2001 to set up a camp focusing on therapeutic recreation, I have to admit I never imagined it would get this far. Nevertheless, I accepted their request, since I had received so much from life, it was time to give something back. More than 20 years have passed and sometimes I can't believe how far we've come. I am proud to say that we are much more than a camp. Bátor Tabor is a social enterprise, as professional as a well-managed company. With the difference that we measure success not by how much profit we've made, but by how many lives we've changed.

To this day, I consider meeting Paul Newman one of the greatest gifts of my life. He was a true role model, a born philanthropist, a brave man, a good friend. I am proud to say that we have carried on Paul's legacy and built an accepting community where seriously ill children can leave their fears behind and enjoy childhood again. I sometimes think of Bátor Tabor as one of the most important causes I could have supported. Over time, every parent has to let go of their child's hand when they know they can overcome any obstacle without their help. I will continue to support this beautiful mission, just in a different form.

I look around and see what a remarkable thing we built. Remarkable in quality, remarkable in professionalism, remarkable in internationalism and also in moral terms. All this is thanks to you, dear colleagues, volunteers and supporters. Without you, our camp would still be a vision, just a dream. It is you who have lifted Bátor Tabor above the clouds. Thank you for allowing me to be a part of it.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of a stylized first name followed by a surname.