

Letter of gratitude

OOOC Ter Heide
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With this letter I would like to briefly tell what the last 3 months cooperation with Ter Heide meant to me and my family. I would like Ter Heide to have a constant reminder that what has been accomplished in such a short time it is **remarkable**. Something that not only helped me in present time, I can use it always! I want you to know how grateful I am for your hard work.

Elke, Jef you have been such a blessing for us, that I can't find the words to express myself!

Thank you for not giving up on me, when I turned the last 5 years living in fear and pain it to rage against the 2 of you. Instead have stayed, and shown me kindness and compassion.

It was that kindness and compassion that have shattered within a week the fortress I have built through the years. **I just needed to feel my children are safe, and I did.** I felt human again...

And that was just the beginning!

Jef thank you for helping me to see deeper, and through my anger. Pointing out that my excuse like *"they made me that way"* isn't good enough. I still have the choice to stay, and be someone's *"Frankenstein"*, or to be who I really am. For you were important the wellbeing of the whole family. Jef you said that I may not have the power to change the situation, but I definitely have the power to change how I react, and still leaving according my beliefs and principles. You said that I need to learn excepting what I cannot change and try to make the best out of it. And with your help I did it.

Last week, after the appointment with Veerle Bex and Jef I have realized that I don't have the power to cure selective *"blindness"* but I have the power to let go of the burden of proof. It felt like a rebirth!

I have been able to forgive!

You and Elke have managed to turn my personal hell into adventure of self discovery.

With your help and guidance, I managed to shift the focus of what has been done to us, and pointing fingers in different directions, (which got me nowhere) to actually look what I can do with it. Thank you so much for making me understand that I need to work on my own struggles and issues, regardless where they are coming from.

Thank you for giving me back everything that has been taken from me; and then some...

After years living always on edge not being able to trust in any service in juvenile sector, especially in the force youth assistance. OOOC Ter Heide proof me wrong. You have restored my trust and have given me hope for a better tomorrow.

Actually, something I viewed as a punishment for me turned out to be one of the best things, I have experienced. I have discovered so much about my self, I have grown so much... I have changed! And I

have to thank also SDJ for that! I have been set on this path because of them! Never thought I can see things the way I do now! It feels good to let go of bitterness and hate.

It's regrettable that I cannot keep Ter Heide on a long term. Knowing what we have accomplished in 3 months can you imagine in a year.... ?! You should be directly accessible, or at least to be able to offer guidance after the trajectory. If the goal for the youth assistance is to improve Ter Heide should expand. I was thinking even, that no matter if I have to stay with SDJ if I could have you, I probably would.... If I was considering this, others would too.

I also would like you to know, I see that extra mile you have walked for me and Ethan.

Elke at the first meeting I really didn't like you at all, and I definitely have shown it to you, on our second meeting with E school. I have been so rude to you. I have tried to point out that you being there is pointless, was sure you didn't know the situation from our part. I was so wrong, you are probably the only person that has read thousands of pages, countless emails and hours of recordings. I want you to know that I was wrong about you, and to apologize for my behaviour at the start. I appreciate the kindness.. You did manage to get Ethan so relax around you that he spontaneously was saying things that I wasn't aware of. You aren't only good at what you do, you are good hearted and Ethan have seen it.

Elke yesterday you and Jef told me that you believe SDJ wanted the best for Ethan. I absolutely disagree. You asked me: *"Why would I still work for Opgroeien if I didn't believe that"* ? I told you, that is because people like you, and Jef are needed. The way your question was formulated it suggests, that if one day you come to realize what I already knew, you would quit your job. **Please don't!** It's so much more obvious than you should stay... People like you and Jef should stay in Opgroeien not because SDJ is so "great", the opposite. You should stay to make the wrong they have done into right. You are so essential in youth branch, and so few of you, which makes you **irreplaceable!**

OOOC Ter Heide live up to the definitions of words like: **cooperation, professionalism, objectives, facts, boundaries, consideration, transparency...** It takes wisdom to guide, restore and build, and you have an abundance of it. Having these qualities makes you great at what you do!

Consciously or not you kept looking at the facts, not on different perspectives, the goal was to help us. And you did!

None of you have ever questioned my motherhood, you have observed and encourage. I wasn't told what I am doing wrong, but patiently guided to improve.

I was the mother of my kids, you never crossed me on that one... Therefore, it was so easy to trust you, even with my darkest thoughts!

Also I wanted to thank Mr. Maarten Peeters, for taking time to listen to me, and answering my questions. **It takes a great man, to lead great team...!**

Thank you so much for everything you have done and correspondingly to it, did not do.

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you also for all of the previous and following families that for some or other reasons could not do it...

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” Rom.8/28

Bottom line is; OOOO Ter Heide came in our lives to find a chaos and have organised it. Therefore for me OOOO stands for:

O- rder

O- ut

O- f

C- haos

Eternally grateful,
Ethan, Kobe, Mom