



## PRESS RELEASE

Budapest, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2008

### Small change makes big difference

Erste raises HUF 1m in 1 and 2-forint coins

**Budapest, 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2008 – Erste Bank Hungary has raised HUF 1m (EUR 4000) in donations of 1 and 2-forint coins for residents of SOS Children's Villages. The coins were collected in Erste Bank's 199 branches from 18<sup>th</sup> February till the end of April. Erste Bank communications director Emese Danks presented the HUF 1m cheque to the SOS Children's Villages today in Kecskemét.**

The National Bank of Hungary withdrew from circulation all 1 and 2-forint coins on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2008. Erste Bank clients could use the small change for a charitable cause: to provide funding for SOS Children's Villages. Erste Bank is a major long-term sponsor of the charitable foundation.

Apart from the donations collected in the bank's branches, Erste Bank has offered active support over the past four years to SOS Children's Villages, where the children live in 'families' of eight to ten. The bank has donated PCs and furniture for the charity's cultural centres and central offices. Every year the bank calls for drawings by SOS Children's Villages residents, and chooses its official Christmas card from the submitted works. The drawings are sold in a charity auction among Erste Bank staff, and the money raised is used to buy Christmas presents for children living in SOS Children's Villages. This year Erste Bank has also funded holidays for the children, who spent some time at Erste Bank's staff resort in Zamárdi, on Lake Balaton, in three groups.

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The *SOS Children's Village* movement was launched by Hermann Gmeiner (1919-1986), who witnessed the devastation of World War II, in Austria in 1949. The first children's village was built in Imst in Austria. Today 473 SOS Children's Villages operate in 132 countries of the Globe. A further 1,300 related institutions – SOS kindergartens, Hermann Gmeiner schools, etc – have been set up to nurture and educate close to 80,000 children and youths.

*Erste Bank Hungary* is one of Hungary's largest banks in terms of its branch network and the number of its clients. The bank serves over 900,000 clients in 199 branches across the country. The bank operates some 390 ATMs and more than 1,700 POS terminals. On 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2007 the bank had total assets of HUF 1,994bn, and after-tax profit of HUF 23.5bn.

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