



## PRESS RELEASE

Budapest, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2008

### Small change makes big difference for orphans

Erste Bank organises collection of one and two-forint coins

**Budapest, 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2008 – Erste Bank Hungary is organising a collection of one and two-forint coins for children living in SOS Children's Villages. Collection boxes were set up in 196 Erste Bank branches on 18<sup>th</sup> February, 2008. Donations can be made until the end of March.**

The central bank is recalling all one and two-forint coins from 1<sup>st</sup> March. Erste Bank clients can offer the withdrawn coins they still hold for charity. Erste Bank will offer the amount raised to SOS Children's Villages and Youth Homes. The bank is a long-standing primary sponsor of the charity.

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.

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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 439 SOS Children's Villages operate in 131 countries of the Globe. A further 1,100 related institutions – SOS kindergartens, Hermann Gmeiner schools, etc – have been set up to nurture and educate more than 52,000 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 196 branches across the country. The bank operates some 390 ATMs and more than 1,600 POS terminals. On 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2007 the bank had total assets of HUF 1,803bn, and after-tax profit of HUF 9.6bn.

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