

SOEP respondents honored by Federal President Gauck

Celebration of volunteer and community service at Schloss Bellevue



Federal President Joachim Gauck and Daniela Schadt greet their guests in the gardens of the presidential residence, Schloss Bellevue. Photo: Stephan Röhl.

On August 30, 2013, four SOEP respondents attended a summer celebration hosted by German Federal President Joachim Gauck in honor of volunteer and community service work. The SOEP respondents from the Berlin area have been taking part in the SOEP survey, known among respondents as “Living in Germany”, for many years. The two families were invited by Federal President Gauck to attend the celebration honoring them for their special form of volunteer service to the community on behalf the approximately 30,000 respondents who voluntarily took part in the SOEP study in 2013. Participation in a scientific study over the course of many years is by no means to be taken for granted: rather, the faithfulness of these longtime respondents to the SOEP study should be seen as the expression of community spirit.



The “SOEP table” in the gardens at Schloss Bellevue. Photo: Stephan Röhl:

The SOEP respondents spent an entertaining and amusing evening in the gardens of Schloss Bellevue, the presidential residence, together with around 4,000 other invited guests who have provided valuable service to the community through various forms of volunteer work.



Mother and Son meet famous television host Dr. Eckart von Hirschhausen. Photo: Stephan Röhl.

Before attending the summer celebration, the SOEP respondents stopped at DIW Berlin, where they were welcomed by Jürgen Schupp and Gert G. Wagner. SOEP Director Jürgen Schupp told his guests, “when we introduced the SOEP to Federal President Gauck at Schloss Bellevue last year, he personally suggested inviting longtime SOEP respondents to the

celebration in honor of volunteer work. We share our respondents' pride in this special recognition from Joachim Gauck."



Photo: Stephan Röhl