

Yerevan Orran – 3rd Quarter 2012 Operations Report

The report outlines the Yerevan Orran July – September activities in the following sections:

- General Remarks
- Academic Assistance to Children
- Social Services
- Cultural Enrichment and Activities
- Staff/Administration/Meetings

1. GENERAL REMARKS

Throughout the quarter, the total number of the daily beneficiaries at Orran was 147 – 150 as shown in the table below.

	July	August	September
Number of children	95	99	101
Number of elderly	52	50	49
Total number	147	149	150

The following changes took place in the Orran food program for the elderly: three needy elderly were included in the program and three left.

A few changes also occurred in the number of the Orran children. Within the quarter the program engaged twelve more children. All the new children's homes were visited by the Orran team members and the housing conditions were assessed as very bad. Five children left Orran because of different reasons: work, studies, discipline and attendance issues.

2. ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN

2.1. Groups and Workshops

In addition to the food program, the Orran children participated in a great number of educational and cultural projects throughout the quarter. In July – September, the Orran academic team helped the kids prepare their school summer home assignments on different disciplines. The children were also actively engaged in the crafts classes and exhibition sales held throughout August. Also, over 40 children participated in the summer camp projects in Tshakhkadzor, Hankavan and Sevan.

In August – September, the team prepared for the new academic year. The groups were modified based on the children's needs and ages and the schedule of Orran activities was revised. The teachers also met with parents and discussed the children's overall progress. The table below presents the total number of students in each group and the number of the children participating in the crafts workshops as of September. Starting in July, the Orran handcraft classes were enriched by beading classes.

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	Junior I	Junior II	Middle	Senior
Total number of the children in groups	29	31	34	6
Participation in the workshops	21	27	24	6
Makramé	8	8	7	2
Woodwork	6	5	2	2
Pottery	7	6	4	2
Beading		8	11	

Throughout August the Orran academic team and children were actively involved in setting up the Orran children's handcrafts shop at Marriott and organizing outdoor exhibition sales. The shop was open at 15:00 – 19:00 on Mondays – Saturdays and six outdoor exhibition sales were held at Marriott entrance. The Orran children not only presented their crafts but also had an opportunity to share their positive experiences with Orran. Here is a link to a video with Orran founder Armine Hovanniasian and Orran child Mari Nikoghosyan talking about Orran and the “Month of Orran at Marriott” activities on CIVILNET TV:

<http://civilnet.am/2012/08/17/%D6%85%D6%80%D6%80%D5%A1%D5%B6%D5%A8-%D5%BF%D5%A1%D5%B6%D5%AB%D6%84-%D6%87-%D5%A8%D5%B6%D5%BF%D5%A1%D5%B6%D5%AB%D6%84/#.UC-o8yMe6cw>.

The Orran exhibition sales were also highlighted at <http://www.emporium.am/am/news/1438-help>. Below are the pictures of the exhibition sales at Marriott



Another highlight of the quarter was that the Orran children prepared souvenirs for British Embassy Yerevan that presented the British culture, Education and Business within “All countries under the same roof” festival on September 26-29.

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<http://www.facebook.com/britishembassyerevan>

2.2 Volunteers

Throughout the quarter, the Orran educational activities involved also the active engagement of volunteers who helped the children with home assignments and different educational projects. The table below presents the number of volunteers and the total hours of voluntary service performed each month.

	July	August	September
Number of volunteers	10	12	16
Total hours of voluntary service	300	400	300

The students from Gevorkyan Theological Seminary of the Armenian Apostolic Church continued their educational projects for the Orran children. The volunteers also conducted French, English, Russian and German language classes for the children. In addition, a few new projects were initiated by volunteers. For example, Elizabeth Sukiasian from Iran taught Marash needlework to Orran children. The girls attended her classes with great pleasure and one of her students Susanna Petrosyan already came up with a very nice table cloth that will be one of the auction items at Orran fundraising dinner to be held on October 23.



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Another volunteer, Kevork Michael Nalbandian from Uruguay started giving guitar classes to a few Middle group students twice a week.



3. SOCIAL SERVICES

The table below summarizes the overall social work statistics of the quarter. Social worker Marina Ghazaryan facilitated a number of visits and meetings and provided assistance to Orran beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries. Marina also worked on identifying new beneficiaries and helping them prepare all the necessary papers required for their enrollment in the Orran programs. In addition, she followed up on the daily attendance of the beneficiaries, regularly updated the lists of beneficiaries and contacted the absentees.

	July	August	September
Advice to/meeting with Orran families	25	30	18
School visits	0	2	3
Meeting and visits with new families	4	3	0
Home visits with Orran families	0	0	2
Meetings with other institutions for information and coordination	15	10	18


Social advice to walk-ins	6	9	3
Telephone contacts with various persons	70	100	80

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Each month the children were provided with soaps and toothbrush. Also, all the children participating in the summer camp projects received additional personal hygiene packages consisting of 2 towels, a comb, toothpaste, toothbrush, and soap.

5. CULTURAL ENRICHMENT and ACTIVITIES

Throughout the quarter the Orran children enjoyed a number of activities and events. The table below presents a few of them.

July	Throughout July, the children enjoyed a great number of ball games facilitated by volunteers in the yard of Orran.
August	On August 3, 10, 17, 24, 26 and 28 the Orran Middle group students participated in the outdoor exhibition sales where they presented Orran and their handcrafts. Nearly all the children mentioned that it was a highly enjoyable and rewarding experience for them.
	On August 9, Junior I and II groups children together with their teachers and volunteers went to the Water World and had a lot of fun there.
	On August 15, Middle and Senior group children spent the whole day at Water World. The children were accompanied with their teacher and the social worker.
September	On September 1, Junior I and II group students organized and performed a concert program to celebrate the beginning of the new academic year.
	On September 18, Philip Morris delegation visited Orran to launch their grant program for the Orran handcraft workshops. (http://arka.am/en/news/society/philip_morris_gives_5_8_million_drams_to_orran_to_train_children_from_needy_families/) . The delegation members had a tour of the children’s handcrafts workshops and classrooms and were impressed by the Orran children’s achievements.
	On September 27, the Orran children were invited to participate in the Austrian Day at Marriott and taste the big strudel baked at Armenia Marriott Hotel
	

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6. STAFF/ADMINISTRATION/MEETINGS

Staff changes took place in August. Macrame teacher Geghanush Tovmasyan and pottery teacher Karen Dayan left Orran. The children, however, continued their handcraft classes without any interruptions. New pottery teacher Ernest Voskanyan joined the Orran team on August 1 and new handcraft teacher Lala Mneyan started her work on September 1.

The table below presents a few formal meetings held within the past quarter. In addition, the academic team staff met almost on daily basis to briefly discuss and plan the ongoing activities.

July	2	Academic staff meeting to discuss the ongoing activities and plan the staff vacation leaves.
	31	General staff meeting with Armine Hovannissian to discuss the updates and finalize the Marriott exhibition sales
August	17	Orran Board Meeting
September	5	Academic staff meeting to modify the groups and revise the schedule of the ongoing Orran activities