

Yerevan Orran – 4th Quarter 2012 Operations Report

The report outlines the Yerevan Orran October – December activities in the following sections:

- General Remarks
- Academic Assistance to Children
- Social Services
- Medical Assistance
- Cultural Enrichment and Activities

1. GENERAL REMARKS

Throughout the quarter, the total number of the daily beneficiaries at Orran was 153 - 155 as shown in the table below.

	October	November	December
Number of children	104	103	106
Number of elderly	49	48	49
Total number	153	151	155

As of December 2012, the Orran program included 106 children while at the end of December 2011 the total number of children was 93. In 2012, overall 35 new children were included in the program and 22 left. All the new children's homes were visited by the Orran team members and the housing conditions were assessed as very bad.

Throughout the year twenty-two children left Orran because of different reasons:

- 7 out of 22 (32%) because of positive reasons, such as studies at university/college levels (4), job opportunities (2) or financial improvement in the family (1);
- 4 out of 22 (18%) because of negative reasons, such as regular absences (3) and disruptive behavior (1);
- 11 out of 22 (50%) because of incidental reasons, such as conflict of schedules (6), health issues (2) and move (3).

In addition to the food program, the children participated in a great number of educational and cultural activities facilitated by Orran staff and volunteers described in the sections below.

2. ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN

2.1. Groups and Workshops

In October – December, the Orran academic team helped the kids prepare their school home assignments on different disciplines. The children also continued their active participation in the crafts classes. On October 23, a very successful exhibition sale of the children's crafts was held at Orran fundraising gala (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i2JfqEb2Pzs>), where the Orran Junior Group children also performed (http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u_MMwHEBL0Q). 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 December 2012. One child is in the food program only.

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	Junior I	Junior II	Middle	Senior
Total number of the children in groups	33	32	34	6
Participation in the workshops	27	24	16	6
Makramé/Felt	12	9	7	2
Woodwork	7	7	3	2
Pottery	8	8	6	2

Throughout the quarter, the staff met almost on daily basis to briefly discuss and plan the ongoing activities. The Academic team kept in touch also with the children's school teachers and parents to monitor their progress. On December 5, general parents' meeting was held by Orran Founder Armine Hovannisian. The meeting addressed the children's overall discipline, attendance and hygiene issues. All the staff members had an opportunity to provide feedback and updates to the parents. The parents' meeting started with a short piano concert by the children and the parents were delighted to see their children's progress. At the end of the meeting all the parents expressed their gratitude for the ongoing assistance.

In December, the teachers frequently conducted rehearsals with the children to prepare concert performances for Christmas and New Year celebrations at Orran. The whole staff was also actively involved in planning, purchasing and distributing Christmas gifts, particularly winter shoes for all the Orran children.

2.2 Volunteers

The quarter was characterized by the active engagement of volunteers who helped the children with home assignments and initiated different educational projects. The children had fun learning French, English, Russian and German. They also enjoyed piano, guitar and violin classes and participated in the sessions by the senior students of Gevorkyan Theological Seminary of the Armenian Apostolic Church. Also, the Orran team was assisted by COAF (Children of Armenia Fund) psychologist Tamara Harutunyan who volunteered at Orran throughout the quarter and worked individually with a few problematic children and their parents. The table below presents the number of volunteers and the total hours of voluntary service performed each month.

	October	November	December
Number of volunteers	14	15	17
Total hours of voluntary service	504	552	700

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3. SOCIAL SERVICES

In October – December, 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. The table below summarizes the overall social work statistics of the quarter.

	October	November	December
Advice to/meeting with Orran families	20	28	40
School visits	4	4	0
Meeting and visits with new families	6	0	0
Home visits with Orran families	4	7	2
Meetings with other institutions for information and coordination	14	25	20
Social advice to walk-ins	7	4	9
Telephone contacts with various persons	70	100	80

4. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Orran Doctor Nadejda Arakelova worked on the following activities:

- performed prophylactic medical check-ups of the children;
- gave medical consultations to the children and elderly;
- performed regular hygiene check-ups of the kids;
- gave individual sessions on health/hygiene issues to the kids and their parents;
- insured the good quality of the food and overall cleanliness in the kitchen and in the whole building.
- provided the children with soaps and toothbrush each month.

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5. CULTURAL ENRICHMENT and ACTIVITIES

Below are a few Orran activities and events of the quarter, most of which were highlighted by media.

On October 6, the Orran children had fun hosting six Spanish bikers who came to Armenia from Spain by their bikes and donated their bikes to Orran. The guests had a tour of Orran, danced with the children and enjoyed Armenian pastry *gata*. For more information, visit <http://kamoblog.tv/archives/28045>.



On October 23, the opening of Vanadzor Orran Krikorian Center and Orran fundraising gala at Marriott Armenia took place. Here is one of TV news stories about the Vanadzor Orran opening http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=n6LkEWGVabc and the highlights of Orran dinner at http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=enpECQbB2BQ. The Vanadzor and Yerevan Orran children had an opportunity to perform at both events.



On October 27, Orran staff organized a big party for the children. The children enjoyed delicious cakes and danced with fairy tale characters invited by TV journalist Nara Mkrtchyan.

On November 3, the children had another delicious day at Orran: they enjoyed a great number of different pizzas brought by La Cucina restaurant. Below are the pictures of the parties.

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On December 3, the Orran children participated in the first Christmas tree lighting at Marriott Armenia. The Christmas tree lighting was a greatly enjoyable day for the children. The event was highlighted at the following links:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=sDw5KJZ2A1I

<http://civilnet.am/2012/12/04/%D6%84%D5%A1%D5%B2%D6%81%D6%80-%D5%BF%D5%B8%D5%B6%D5%A1%D5%AE%D5%A1%D5%BC-%D5%B4%D5%A1%D6%80%D5%AB%D5%B8%D5%A9%D5%B8%D6%82%D5%B4/>

http://esyes.am/news/article/view/6/5303/?fb_action_ids=10151416869451328&fb_action_types=og.likes&fb_source=aggregation&fb_aggregation_id=246965925417366



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The second half of December was full of celebrations and guests at Orran: Rock Group of Anania Shirakatsi Lyceum (December 14), Orran children's concert for Bacon sausage company (December 20), Pedagogical Institute students' visit (December 21), Winter Festival (December 22, <http://www.photolure.am/index.php/Archive/221220123?page=1>, <http://www.tert.am/en/news/2012/12/22/winter-festival-armenia/>), Mary Kay at Orran (December 27) and Orran final Christmas party (December 28). The Orran children got a great number of Christmas presents, enjoyed sweets and cakes, and had fun dancing and singing at the parties.

