

# Yerevan Orran – 2nd Quarter 2012 Operations Report

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The report outlines the Yerevan Orran April – June activities in the following sections:

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

## 1. GENERAL REMARKS

Throughout the quarter, the total number of the daily beneficiaries at Orran was 142 – 145 as shown in the table below.

	<b>April</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>
<b>Number of children</b>	93	93	96
<b>Number of elderly</b>	49	49	49
<b>Total number</b>	142	142	145

The following changes took place in the Orran food program for the elderly: one needy elderly was 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 ten more children. All the new children's homes were visited by the Orran team members and the housing conditions were assessed as very bad. Six children left Orran for different reasons: four children's parents notified that their children couldn't travel to Orran on their own and needed to be accompanied but the parents were not able to provide such support, one child's family moved from Yerevan to Vanadzor and one left because of the conflict of his school schedules.

Throughout the quarter, in addition to the food program, the Orran team facilitated a great number of educational and cultural activities for the children described in the sections below.

## 2. ACADEMIC ASSISTANCE TO CHILDREN

### 2.1. Groups and Workshops

In April – June, the Orran children continued their educational activities and crafts classes. In June, the academic team visited all the children's schools, met with their school principals and head teachers to get feedback on the children's overall performance. The detailed description of the children's progress based on their grades will be included in the next quarterly report.

The Orran teachers also prepared for the summer camp projects. They completed all the applications and collected necessary documents required for the children's participation in the camps. The summer camp projects have the following schedule: 10 Junior I, II Group children (June 12-27, Tsakhkadzor), 10 Junior I, II Group children (June 28 – July 12, Tsakhkadzor), and 10 Junior I, II Group children (June 29 – July 6, Hankavan). Also, 10 Middle Group children will participate in the Sevan windsurfing camp in July.

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Throughout the quarter, the children were actively engaged in the macramé, woodwork and pottery classes. The table below presents the total number of students in each group and the number of the children participating in the crafts classes. The Middle Group students, however, came at later hours because of their school schedules.

	Junior I	Junior II	Middle	Senior
<b>Total number of the children in groups</b>	26	29	33	7
<b>Participation in the workshops</b>	23	20	25	5
<b>Makramé (Gueghanoush)</b>	6	7	13	1
<b>Woodwork (Marzpet)</b>	7	6	6	2
<b>Pottery (Karen)</b>	10	7	6	2

One of the highlights of the quarter was the Orran’s pottery class contribution to 2012 Universal Rights Awards Ceremony. The ceremony was organized by the U.S. Embassy, Counterpart International, the British Embassy, the OSCE, and the EU to award individuals working to promote human rights, accountable governance, and free speech in Armenia. The Orran pottery class children prepared five copies of the award, which was a hand imprint of one of the Orran junior kids, seven-year-old Armen Galstyan, in the pigeon shape on the ceramic plate. According to U.S. Ambassador John A. Helfern, the Orran children’s contribution to the event was a unique and moving component. Below are the pictures (The pictures were provided by the U.S. Embassy.) of the award ceremony and a few more success stories.

### 2012 Universal Rights Awards Ceremony at the U.S. Embassy



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## 2012 Universal Rights Awards Ceremony at the U.S. Embassy



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## 2.2 Success Stories

### David Hakobyan

David Hakobyan is 15. He has been attending Orran for over three years. Last year thanks to collaboration between Orran and the arts college of *Mkhitar Sebastatsi* education complex, David, together with five other Orran students, was able to start his studies at the college free of charge. He is majoring in culinary arts, and he has been very successful in his studies. David has already been trusted with helping the college cafeteria in baking the traditional Armenian pastry *gata*, which is one of its regular sales products.



The Orran team was touched when David suggested baking *gata* at Orran for the celebration of Armenian Independence day on May 28. It was delightful for all to observe his enthusiasm, confidence and skillfulness while making the dough and baking the pastry.

David himself treated the Orran children, guests and each staff with *gata* he made. Many confessed later that this was the best *gata* they had ever tasted.

David has another passion as well - chess. To indulge his enthusiasm and support him build up on his achievements, Orran helped him to get admitted to a chess school and negotiated a total tuition waiver.

Congratulations and good luck to David!

### Nver Avagyan

Nver Avagyan joined Orran in March 2010. Being from an extremely deprived family, the young boy often had to bed down in the open air with his mother and twenty-year-old sister. Nver's life changed for better since his involvement in the Orran program. He very quickly integrated in the Orran activities by participating actively in most educational initiatives and events.

In an effort to secure a happier growing environment for Nver, Orran supported his family as well, by sharing the responsibility of taking care of Nver. The eight-year old boy spends most of his after-school time at Orran. This created an opportunity for his sister to have more free time and look for a job. She currently works at a hairdresser's and with her salary, the family has been able to rent a small room and enjoy a regular housing. Having spent many nights in the open air, Nver is very happy with this change.

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Nver loves coming to Orran. He enjoys eating, playing and joking with his friends. He also likes pottery and learns new skills with great pleasure. He absolutely enjoys participating in the summer camp projects.



### **Rita and Karolina Israelyan**

Rita and her younger sister Karolina have been attending Orran since October 2009. Abandoned by the parents, the sisters live with their grandparents. Despite all the difficulties, the grandmother takes care of the girls with much love and has become a true mother to them. The sisters go to the secondary school #69. The Orran academic team is happy to hear the teachers' positive feedback on the progress the girls have made since they were enrolled in the Orran program.

Moreover, the girls have displayed talents that need to be tapped further. Both sisters attend *Sayat Nova* music school where they learn to play the harp and sing in the school choir. In addition, the sisters take piano classes at Orran under the supervision of Ms. Seda Sargsyan, an Orran volunteer. Karolina, who loves drawing, has been admitted to Igityan Arts School. She dreams of becoming a painter and Rita wants to be a singer.

Both Orran and the music school have been a positive influence on the girls. They have become more lively, joyful and confident. It is always rewarding to see the girls' progress, and the Orran team enjoys creating new opportunities for the sisters to show their talents through organizing exhibitions of their paintings and music recitals at Orran.



Let all the dreams Karolina and Rita have come true!

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### 2.2 Volunteers

Throughout the quarter, the Orran educational activities involved also the 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.

	April	May	June
<b>Number of volunteers</b>	12	12	16
<b>Total hours of voluntary service</b>	190	200	300

The students from Gevorkyan Theological Seminary of the Armenian Apostolic Church continued their educational projects for the Orran children. The junior group students successfully attended their piano classes with volunteer Seda Sargsyan. The beading classes initiated by Diana Der-Hakobian from Venice continued with the help of Middle Group teacher Metaksya Tadevosyan. In June, a new project, the Orran Children’s Book Club, was initiated by volunteer Arpine Avetisyan.

### 3. SOCIAL SERVICES

#### 3.1. Social Work

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.

	April	May	June
<b>Advice to/meeting with Orran families</b>	28	32	20
<b>School visits</b>	2	6	40
<b>Meeting and visits with new families</b>	1	8	6
<b>Home visits with Orran families</b>	1	1	3
<b>Meetings with other institutions for information and coordination</b>	15	12	50

<b>Social advice to walk-ins</b>	5	12	12
<b>Telephone contacts with various persons</b>	70	60	70

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### 4. MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

Throughout the quarter, Orran Doctor Nadejda Arakelova worked on the following activities:

- Performing prophylactic medical check-ups of the children;
- Giving consultations and referring/accompanying the children to the respective medical institutions;
- Sorting out and revising the medical cards of the kids;
- Performing regular hygiene check-ups of the kids;
- Giving individual sessions on health/hygiene issues to the kids and their parents;
- Insuring the good quality of the food and overall cleanliness in the kitchen and in the whole building.
- Providing the children with soaps and toothbrush each month.

In June, all the children participating in the summer camp projects received additional personal hygiene packages consisting of 2 towels, a comb, toothpaste, toothbrush, and soap. Also, all the children who had lice problems were provided with lice medicine.

### 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. The Orran activities were also positively highlighted in a few TV programs. A few pictures from the Orran April-June activities and events are attached in **Appendix 1**.

<b>April</b>	On April 7, the Orran children celebrated Easter by preparing a few performances and making Easter cards, decorations and ornaments. The students from Gevorkyan Theological Seminary of the Armenian Apostolic Church volunteering at Orran also participated in the celebration and talked about the origin and the meaning of Easter.
<b>May</b>	On May 17, the hand bell choir of Azusa Pacific University directed by Donavon Gray visited Orran. The guests had a tour at Orran and performed a concert for the children. The Orran children greatly enjoyed the concert program. They also had an opportunity to socialize with the choir members and had fun playing with their hand bells.
	On May 19, Junior I and II Group children, accompanied with their teachers and volunteers, visited Matenadaran, the Institute of Ancient Manuscripts. It was both informative and fun for the kids.
	On May 25, Junior I Group children performed a concert dedicated to Armenian Independence Day of May 28. ( <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4E5XAqKun0&amp;feature=g-upl">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y4E5XAqKun0&amp;feature=g-upl</a> ) At the end of the concert, one of the Orran senior students, David Hakobyan, treated all the children, the staff and the guests with the pastry he had baked.

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	On May 31, Junior II Group students performed a play dedicated to the International Child Protection Day (June 1) and World Environment Day (June 5).
<b>June</b>	On June 1, the International Child Protection Day was celebrated at Orran. The children enjoyed barbeque made by the Marriott Armenia team with the help of Armenian popular singers who visited Orran that day. The children were also actively engaged in singing and dancing. The day was full of joy, delicious food and cakes. ( <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfPdn-JACwU&amp;feature=share">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WfPdn-JACwU&amp;feature=share</a> )
	On June 4, Orran hosted the artists of the “Theatre for Changes” NGO, who performed a 35-minute interactive-educational bilingual play (in Armenian and Bulgarian) dedicated to the promotion of the rights of disabled children ( <a href="http://joiningefforts.blogspot.com/">http://joiningefforts.blogspot.com/</a> ).
	On June 12, 40 students of Manoogian-Demirdjian School visited Orran with many presents for the children. A pen pal program was initiated by Manoogian-Demirdjian School student Natasha Khachaturyan. The program aims to create a bond between the children of Orran and the students of Manoogian-Demirchian. The Orran junior children prepared letters and gave them to Natasha. Now they will wait to hear from their peers from Manoogian-Demirdjian school.
	On June 23, Marionette Theatre “Mimos” visited Orran and performed a play, “A bear’s story”, for the children. The Orran children greatly enjoyed the performance.
	Throughout June, the children enjoyed outdoor games and picnics in the yard of Orran.

### 6. STAFF/ADMINISTRATION/MEETINGS

In April – June, a few formal staff meetings were held at Orran. In addition, Armine S. met with the academic team staff almost on daily basis to briefly discuss and plan the ongoing activities. On May 18, Junior II Group teacher Lusine Karmiryan left Orran. Lusine was replaced by Armenuhi Avetisyan who has been a volunteer at Orran for over one year.

<b>April</b>	23	Individual meetings with crafts teachers to prepare for the sales of the children’s crafts in August.
<b>May</b>	15	Orran board meeting to provide updates and plan for the Gala dinner to be held on August 17.
	30	The Academic team staff meeting to discuss the ongoing activities and prepare for the International Child Protection Day celebration
<b>June</b>	22	The Academic team staff meeting to discuss the ongoing activities and updates.

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## Appendix 1: A few Pictures from the Orran April - June Activities



**Easter at Orran**



**Hand bell Choir at Orran**



**“Theatre for Changes” at Orran**



**In the Yard of Orran**



**June 1 Celebration**



**Marriott Armenia at Orran**

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**Celebration of World Environment Day**



**Enjoying pizza**



**Outdoor games**



**Picnic at Orran**



**Voluntary Projects at Orran**



**Physics Experiments with Orran children**