

Vanadzor Orran Krikorian Center - 2nd Semester report

July- December, 2017

The following report covers the activities implemented during the period of July to December, 2017 in the following areas.

- General notes
- Academic assistance to children
- Cultural education
- Social service
- Medical and psychological assistance
- Other

1. GENERAL NOTES

One hundred fifty nine (159) beneficiaries (adults and children) attended the Center from July to December 2017. The details are presented in the table below:

	July	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of Children	118	118	111	116	121	127
Number of Adults	28	28	29	19	31	32
Total Number	146	146	140	135	152	159

Changes for the period:

26 children were newly admitted and enrolled in relevant junior, middle and senior age groups and the food program.

8 children exited the Orran program during this reporting period.

4 elders were enrolled in the Elderly Project.

The number of elderly was decreased by 1: Gayane Bariyan passed away.

32 elderly were enrolled in Orran during this semester.

During this reporting period, 127 children were involved in the food, educational, social, cultural and psychological programs.

11 children were involved in individual classes.

11 Orran beneficiary children with various disability problems received individual work and services.

5 children at Orran have different kinds of disabilities and individual work is conducted with them.

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2. Academic assistance to children

2.1. Classes and handicraft workshops

2.1.1 Classes

Orran children have daily academic instruction and assistance provided by teachers and volunteers. They attend acting classes as well as participate in various events. The table below shows the number of children involved in the Orran classes in March.

Number of Children	Junior	Middle	Senior
Total number of children in the groups	38	36	38
Teachers	Marietta Soghoyan	Armine Apresyan	Gayane Manucharyan

2.1.2 Handicraft Workshops

The table below presents the total number of children attending workshops during this quarter:

Workshops	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Macramé, carpet weaving	20	22	20	28	28	28
Woodcarving	7	8	11	9	9	8
Pottery	22	23	24	22	21	25
Arts	15	18	15	16	17	17
Computer	18	20	16	18	20	20

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Journalism	15	16	15	-	-	-
Drama	14	12	12	-	-	-
Christianity and religious classes	28	36	30	28	36	30
Sewing	4	5	8	8	7	7
Mathematics	-	-	20	15	15	16
Dance	12	15	15	21	21	23

- **Computer Courses** are conducted for 3 different age groups, the teacher works with them according to their level of advancement. Children study paint graphic editor, MS word, Adobe Photoshpe CS5, CS6 programs. The children of the middle group make graphic images, thematic slides, pictures, and diagrams with the help of the Power Point program. Two children have participated in “Vozni” nationwide competition, and one of them was selected for the next round. In the next phase, the young people will receive training on financial literacy and entrepreneurship after which they will start working with the printing machines at Orran. The student volunteers of the Vanadzor Technology Center (VTC) also work with these children and twice a week they work with Orran children as volunteers. US Peace Corps volunteer Boris Brook also works with computer workshop students.
- 12 Orran children of middle and senior age groups are involved in drama classes. They are preparing a new play.
- The fairy tale “The King’s New Dress” was presented by Orran child Gor Sraghsyan as his diploma work at the drama studion named after Elfik Zohrabyan. The Orran children had roles in the play.

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- Since July mothers of Orran beneficiary children are involved in a winter canning project financed by Serj and Angela Tankian. The expression “Summer canning” takes on a unique meaning for every Armenian woman. They do it with great diligence, putting so much enthusiasm and love in it, as they are going to treat it to their guests and family members with pleasure in the winter. Here are the products:



- 15 children from middle and senior age groups are involved in mathematics classes. In the first part of the lesson the topic of the class is introduced to the children. Subsequently, the children through games strengthen the previous topic they have learned. During the second part of the class the children do their home assignments on the whiteboard.

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2.2 Volunteers

Volunteers help children to complete their homework assignments, conduct individual and group sessions, as well as provide support in organizing various events. Psychologist-volunteers organize clay therapy sessions for children. For senior age group, they organize courses of topics that interest the students.

- Orran's computer and development center created with the support of a US Peace Corps volunteer. Not only offers computer skills to Orran's children but it also provide them with financial literacy. Orran's children will print booklets, calendars, business cards in their small center and will be engaged in computer and graphic design. They will also try to create computer games with VTC volunteers group. In this connection, Orran is cooperating with the heads of Technopark and Polytechnic University. Orran children will undergo practice sessions at Vanadzor printing house based on a preliminary agreement with the director of the printing house.



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The volunteers help the children with homework, and conduct individual and group tutoring with them. They also help to organize events. Psychologist volunteers organize therapy with clay for children and seminars on different topics with the senior group.

As of December, there are 25 volunteers at Vanadzor Orran Center. There is also a dance instructor who teaches the children dances. Orran's children have been invited to educational and cultural events: namely, concerts and presentations. They have also taken part in the city events and have visited cultural centers.

The pictures below illustrate some events held at Orran.



3. Cultural Education

3.1. Events

A series of events sponsored by Krikor and Anna Krikorian for Orran Center in Vanadzor attracted guests within and outside of Armenia. Additionally, children were invited to attend educational and cultural events such as concerts, performances, local festivals, and cultural centers at various locations. The description of the events is presented below:

- From June to November, Orran implemented “Let’s Study Together” project funded by the US Embassy in Armenia. The goal of the project was to promote positive attitudes towards children with disabilities and their families, with a focus on children’s right to education and early learning in rural communities of Lori region. Within the framework of the project, forum theaters were organized at rural sites by Vanadzor Orran Center’s drama group. The kids staged a performance called “Newcomer”, which tells a story of the challenges a young boy in a wheelchair faces when he starts attending a general public school. The obstacles and issues he has to deal with including

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his classmates and how he is able to change people's attitude towards disabled people by his kindness, patience and generosity. Additionally, trainings were organized for school teachers and administrative staff of 10 rural communities on Code of Conduct with regard to children with disabilities. During these trainings, the teachers learned of the specifics of behavior, ethics, communication skills, and various approaches they should demonstrate toward children with disabilities. There were also joint dialogue meetings with the participation of teachers and parents of students with and without disabilities, live TV debates on the issues of disabled children in inclusive education.



- On July 3rd, within the framework of “America on the Road”, a tour devoted to the 25 years of partnership with Armenia, the US Embassy staff members together with the USAID Mission

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Director Ms. Deborah Grieser paid a visit to Orran. The guests learned of the Center activities and programs implemented. By Junior Achievement of Armenia's (JAA) alumni were also invited to the meeting as JAA was funded by USAID for more than 20 years. The Alumni presented their experience, business initiatives and their cooperation with Orran.



- On August 23, the students of Hrant Dink school in Turkey and the Horozoghlu family visited Orran. The junior age group classroom is furnished thanks to the generous donation made by their son, Garod Horosoghlu.



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- On September 3rd, the beginning of the new school year was celebrated at Orran.



- 11 children of Orran received school bags, stationary, clothing from SOAR distributed by Aram Hakhinyan and Mane Mirzoyan.

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- On September 20, harvest collection was organized at Orran. Orran kids collected the grapes grown at Orran's garden, and Orran mothers made tasty juice from these grapes.



- On September 23 "Soorb Tiramayr" choir organized a concert at Orran. The children enjoyed the songs performed by the choir.

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- On October 7, painter-sculptor Anatoly Avetyan's personal exhibition took place in the Vanadzor Museum of Fine Arts. Many people went to view the exhibition, including Orran



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- On October 8, Orran children attended the Harvest Holiday celebration held in Hayq Square.



- On October 13, lots of smiles and laughter are heard at Orran as interesting games, songs, and performances take place when UWC students visited the center.



- On October 28, the performance of "The Emperor's New Clothes" was performed by Orran junior students. It was Gor Sarkisian's diploma project. Gor graduated from the two-year theater studio of Elphik Zohrabyan.

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- On October 31, Orran presented the fairy tale theatrical piece during the graduation event of “Speaking of Myself” Project. Within the framework of the project leadership, drama and journalism courses were conducted at Orran. Orran students presented the activities conducted within these courses.



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- On November 1, the students of the Orran Drama and Journalism Club visited Hovhannes Abelyan State Dramatic Theater to watch "Do not Leave Me", an inclusive dance performance presented by the Little Theater and the British Council.



- On November 6, Theatre for Changes performed "Towards the Bright Island". Before the performance, the guests made rounds at Orran to get acquainted with the kids and their daily activities.



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- On November 15th, a meeting of the Lori Marz Committee dealing with issues of disabled people was held at Orran. During the meeting the outcomes of the “Let’s Study Together” project funded by the US Embassy was presented. The meeting was facilitated by Lori Governor Arthur Nalbandyan. Vanadzor Mayor Mamikon Aslanyan, US Embassy representative Liana Sahakyan, school directors, NGO representatives and local mass media were present at the meeting.



- On November 18, the US Ambassador to Armenia, Richard Mills and his wife paid a visit to Orran.



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- On November 29, Vanadzor Hayq Square was full of people and children. A Flash Mob on equal rights of disabled people and inclusive education was organized within the framework of "Let's Study Together" project funded by the US Embassy. Lori Governor Arthur Nalbandyan and Vanadzor Mayor Mamikon Aslanyan participated in the flash mob together with other partner organizations: Full Life NGO, Equal rights, equal opportunities, Apricot NGO and local mass media.



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- On December 2, a delightful concert was organized with the participation of “Taron” ensemble with Nobel Eminyan who is also teaching dhol to Orran kids.



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- On December 9, a Christmas Market was organized at Orran where the handicrafts of Orran children and other partner organizations were put on display.



- On December 27th, Christmas was celebrated at Orran with the participation of friends, guests and Santa Clause. The kids received many gifts from individuals and donor organizations.

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4. Social Service

During this semester Lusine Akmakchyan, Orran's social worker, conducted individual work with **127 children** on topics related to education and communication. She also conducted individual sessions with **80 parents**, and referred them to appropriate agencies for help. When needed, Orran submitted written or verbal statements for solving various issues. Individual sessions were held both with the parents of the children who stopped attending the center and with the newly enrolled beneficiary families. During the reporting period, Ms. Akmakchyan addressed 46 social cases, 43 of which are completed, and 3 are still pending. Together with the psychologists and teachers, she also made **68** home visits to the homes of the new beneficiaries.

15 visits to schools were made with the teachers where they met with the class leaders, the school directors and the social worker.

In the table below the quantitative indicators of social work conducted during this semester is presented:

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	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Number of children	118	118	111	116	121	127
Number of adults	19	31	32	28	29	29
Work with the families of Orran beneficiary children	28	17	25	28	25	30
Visits (to families, other institutions)	19	10	6	5	13	15
Cooperation with other structures (governmental, non-governmental)	8	7	5	7	5	7
Work with the beneficiaries outside of Orran Center	2	4	3	7	5	7
Phone calls	117	62	102	114	111	128

5. Medical and Psychological Support

5.1 Medical

Orran Vanadzor nurse implemented the following activities:

- Preventive medical examination of the children.
- Individual explanatory work with children on personal hygiene
- Monitored the hygienic condition of the children's hair and provided shampoo against lice, if needed.
- Conducted a meeting with parents
- Contacted Vanadzor Medical Center and followed the course of treatment for children receiving free treatment
- Followed the results of the examinations of the admitted beneficiaries.
- Monitored the sanitary hygienic conditions of the kitchen.

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- Developed the menu for the beneficiaries at Orran.
- Conducted seminars for boys and girls aged 12 to 15 on hygiene and behavior.
- Held separate conversation with the senior group girls on sexual development.
- Facilitated a discussion on general hygiene and dental care with the newly enrolled children, toothbrushes were provided.
- Supervised the daily consumption of products received within the frames of UN WFP Program.

In the table below, medical activities implemented during this quarter period are presented:

№	Description of the activity	Frequency of implementation Number		Beneficiary
		planned	number	
1	Control of sanitary hygienic condition of building and kitchen.	daily	once	-
2	Development and update of the beneficiary list involved in the food program.	daily	once	-
3	Testing of food samples	daily	once	-
4	Development and updating of menu	monthly	once	-
5	Supervision of food consumption provided UN World Food Program	daily	once	-
6	Home visits together with pedagogues and social workers	-	-	-
7	Coordination of Saturday cleaning	Once a month		children
8	Filling in and updating of beneficiary medical cards	Twice per month	once, or when needed	children
9	Checking of lice	Once a week	once, or when needed	children
10	Provision of first aid	-	18	children
11	Purchase of first aid material	monthly	once	children

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12	Blood pressure measuring	daily	Based on need	-
13	Visits to other medical institutions	-	-	-
14	Conversation with parents	-	42	
15	Implementation of other activities related to the position including accompanying of children to relevant healthcare institutions, development of application letters, etc.	Based on need		children
16	Seminar workshop on healthcare topic.	1 seminar for each age group		children

The chart below presents the list of seminars conducted during this semester:

Group	Topic	Number of participants	Date
Senior age group	Hygiene during illness	22	12.09.17
Middle age group	Hygiene during illness	25	20.09.17
Junior age group	Hygiene during illness	33	26.09.17

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Other

- **Every week** staff meetings were organized at Orran during which ongoing issues and activities were discussed.
- **Once a month** a meeting with parents was organized. Various issues such as children's attendance, organization of Orran events, children's participation as well as social and other issues raised by parents were discussed.

The parents sign the list for transportation reimbursement of their children.

- **Once a month** a meeting was organized with volunteers to discuss the work of the volunteers, provide consultations when needed and discuss the planned activities for the coming weeks.
- 5 families of Orran received clothing from the regional administration
- Within the framework of the "Help the Needy Families" initiative, 6 single elderly were provided with food.
- With the frames of "Do Good" project, 1 additional elderly person was provided with food by school # 20
- A visit was made to Gyumri, where 50 families were provided with food sponsored by the Tankian family.

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- 49 families from Lori region received similar humanitarian aid.
- Orran's 108 children received New Year's sweets, their families were provided with food, 30 elderly of Orran also received sweets.
- Within the framework of the "Help the Needy Families" initiative, 14 children from Orran were invited to celebrate New Year's Eve at "Keksik" café, where they also received presents.
- Orran's 20 plus children had an invitation to visit the Yerevan Children's Entertainment Center to celebrate the New Year.
- 12 children spent a happy Christmas day at Salute Kids' Café organized by Arthur Nalbandian, the governor of Lori.
- School number 12 presented Orran's beneficiary Garabekian family, with New Year's gifts and food.
- Samoylovski's family was provided with firewood and dried food within the "Help the Needy Families" initiative.
- Orran's 127 children received presents from the Lachin city store.