

Orran Vanadzor- 1st Quarter 2010 Operations Report

1. INTRODUCTION

As Orran entered its second quarter of service, all aspects of its work expanded and improved. The number of beneficiaries was increased from 50 to 51 in December and to 54 in February, so that the left over food on the account of absentees could be used for other needy children. The children come from 36 different families.

Orran's children have a full daily agenda, receiving a hot meal, tutoring, medical and psychological services and participating in different cultural events. They also periodically receive clothing and school supplies. There are three workshops offering pottery, woodshop and arts and crafts classes.

2. SOCIAL WORK

During this quarter, Orran's social worker has addressed 55 cases. Two of these did not involve Orran beneficiaries. In one case, Orran helped the applicant to receive social welfare from the State, in the other which involves a handicapped woman; Orran is continuing its support to make sure that the woman gets the house she is entitled to. During the three months the social worker and the psychologist paid visits to 37 homes, 8 of which they had visited previously. The social worker addressed 7 cases where children had disciplinary problems and were not regularly attending class. The teachers and parents were invited to jointly address the children's misbehavior, in some cases the parents were referred to a psychologist. There were three children who were not in school and Orran helped them with admission. Two families were helped to receive social welfare, one family was helped to extend the resident registration, for another family Orran was unfortunately not successful in helping the family to be awarded the house it claimed to be entitled to. Five children received textbooks. Many letters were written to medical service providers for assistance. Requests also went out to cultural centers to provide opportunities for children to attend performances free of charge.

The social worker together with Orran staff attended four sessions of the City's Committee on Guardianship where the guardianship question of two Orran children was discussed.

3. SOCIAL ASSISTANCE

As the winter was dawning, 51 brand new boots were purchased for the beneficiaries. Winter clothes as available were also handed out. Thirty four Christmas food baskets were distributed. The food basket contained chicken, eggs, sugar, butter, raisins, tangerine, bologna, and peanuts. The food was distributed according to the number of children in a family.

Twenty six families received 14 boxes of clothing provided by Orran Yerevan. Because of the swine flue, Orran followed the State decree and closed down for a month. To alleviate the hardship the families would undergo because of the closure, cash amounts were dispersed. The families received the following amount:

- 1 child – 5000 drams
- 2 children – 7000 drams
- 3 children – 9000 drams

Orran Vanadzor- 1st Quarter 2010 Operations Report

Fourteen children received hygienic boxes donated by UMCOR. The rest of the children had received theirs during the month of October. Three children received school bags donated by Orran staff.

4. MEDICAL SERVICES

62 children received free medical assistance. All children who were newly admitted to Orran first had to get testing for tuberculosis and other illnesses. The Orran nurse made sure that the services were provided for free. *Hope for Armenia* organized a check up of all children's teeth. Sixteen of them needed treatment, which was provided at her clinic.

Two children had serious problems with their health. One needed treatment for intestinal infection and the other had serious head injuries after having fallen off the third floor of the school and needed emergency assistance. In both cases Orran intervened so that the children could receive high quality and free of charge medical care.

5. PSYCHOLOGICAL ASSISTANCE

The psychologist has conducted 40 sessions. 19 of these have been with individual children and 21 in groups. Some of the common problems that children present are:

- Ten children have some sort of phobia mostly common in their age group
- Two children have emotional problems
- Nine children need help in communicating with people
- Nineteen children have been embraced in group therapy
- 16 parents have received counseling, 8 of them continue with treatment.

Out of the psychological therapy sessions, 6 cases have concluded with a positive result, the rest are continuing.

6. CULTURAL LIFE

The children have enjoyed a rich cultural agenda. The different events for the quarter were:

1. 55 children attended the *Abelyan State Theater* in three different groups and watched the tales of Tumanyan, by courtesy of its director
2. 30 children paid a visit to the *Folk Art Museum*, by courtesy of its director
3. 27 children attended the theater for a Christmas show
4. On December 28, 15 children watched the *Gayanne* dance group performance at the Charles Aznavour cultural center.

There have been four meetings of parents where Orran staff discussed attendance, hygiene, discipline, code of conduct. Each member of Orran staff presented his/her responsibilities and area of work and answered questions of parents.

Orran Vanadzor- 1st Quarter 2010 Operations Report

During the officially imposed school closure lasting from December 8 to January 10 only 3 events were scheduled:

- 1) The children of Evrika College visited Orran bringing with them cakes, books, little gifts and presented a program of dances and songs.
- 2) In January, the Orran children had their own Christmas show around the Christmas tree which they themselves had decorated.
- 3) The proprietor of the café *Darosik*, invited 51 children for a grand party at the premises with a clown entertaining the children.

7. MEDIA COVERAGE

On February 10, *Lori* TV channel aired a story on Orran and one of the families of Orran.

On January 20, *Lori* newspaper had a small article on Christmas celebrations at Orran.

On February 24, *Aravot* national paper had a story on one of the families Orran is helping.

On February 26, *Aravot* had another story on one of the Orran families. Orran staff helped with photographs and the story.

February 20, a press release on CISP and Orran agreement was published on a number of sites, *Aravot* paper and *Noyan Tapan*.

8. CONSTRUCTION

On February 18, Orran and CISP of Rome (Comitato Internazionali per lo Sviluppo dei Popoli) signed an agreement wherein CISP awarded 230,000 Euros towards the construction of the Orran center in Vanadzor. The contribution comes from the Foreign Ministry of Italy. Currently, the architect is drawing the initial plans of the four story building.

9. CONCLUSION

Orran's daily schedule is full of addressing individual issues of the children and their families. The staff and volunteers, which at times amount to 26, are busy not only helping the full time beneficiaries of Orran but whoever walks in with a serious need. There are no issues to be addressed and the model that has worked in Yerevan and imported to Vanadzor makes sure that the Center's operations run smoothly.