Orran Krikorian Center in Vanadzor - 1st Semester report
January-June, 2018

The following report covers the activities implemented during the period of January to June, 2018 in the following areas.

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

1. GENERAL NOTES

One hundred forty six (146) beneficiaries (adults and children) attended the Center during the period of January to June, 2018. The details are presented in the table below:

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
Number of Children	112	114	113	109	109	96
Number of Adults	32	32	28	29	29	30
Total Number	144	146	141	138	138	126

The changes that took place were:

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

8 children left the Orran program during this reporting period.

4 elders were enrolled in the Elderly Project.

32 elderly were enrolled in Orran during this semester.

During this reporting period, 119 children enrolled in the Orran Project were involved in food, educational, social, cultural and psychological programs.

14 children were involved in individual classes.

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

2. Academic assistance to children

2.1. Classes and handcraft workshops

2.1.1 Classes

Orran children have daily academic instruction and assistance provided by teachers and volunteers; they attend different 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 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**
Guitar	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**	**3**

Christianity and religious classes	**28**	**36**	**30**	**28**	**36**	**30**
Sewing	**4**	**5**	**8**	**8**	**7**	**7**
Crochet	**-**	**10**	**10**	**10**	**-**	**-**
Mathematics	**-**	**-**	**20**	**15**	**15**	**16**
Dance	**12**	**15**	**15**	**21**	**21**	**23**

- ***Computer Courses*** are conducted in 3 different age groups, the pedagogue works with them according to their abilities. Children study Paint graphic editor, MS word, Adobe Photoshop CS5, CS6 programs; during the classes children of the average group make graphic images, thematic slides, pictures, 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 organizing printing at Orran. Student volunteers of 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.
- ***Handicraft Workshops*** - children from the senior group learn carpet weaving, middle group students learn different knitting stitches and junior group kids made origami and did crochet.
- ***Mathematics Courses*** - 50 children from middle and senior age groups are involved in Mathematics classes. The whole group was divided into two subgroups by the pedagogue according to the ages of the students.

The first subgroup includes children from junior classes. The main aim of the classes is developing critical thinking and attention among students with the help of simple logical tests and problems. The students are now good at simple mathematical operations.The second subgroup consists of students from the middle ages.

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 for children and for senior age group children.

- Orran's computer and development center acts within the grant project submitted by US Peace Corps volunteer Boris Brook. The purpose of computer lab and Junior Development Center is not only to give computer skills to Orran's children but also to provide them financial literacy. The main purpose of the program is to encourage young people to develop their full creative potential to succeed in the competitive world of tomorrow's global market by developing in them entrepreneurial set of mind. Orran's children learn digital design, print leaflets, calendars, business cards in their small center. They learn how to put in practice what they have learned theoretically.

The courses include entrepreneurship, marketing, customer support, etc. In brief, they learn how to become capable decision makers who turn opportunity into success for the rest of their lives.

3.Cultural Education

3.1. Events

Various events have been held at Orran. Many guests visited Orran and took part in the events. Orran's children were invited to educational and cultural events among which those held outside of Orran including concerts, performances, local festivals, and cultural centers. The description of the events is presented below:

- On June 16, 2018 a totally new office of the pcychologistwas officially opened in Orran equipped with didactic materials.

- On May 16, Orran Vanadzor Center's drum Ensemble was invited to the solemn closing ceremony of the "I Can Do" sport event in Tsakhkadzor.
- On April 19, the Museum Night at Vanadzor's Stepan Zoryan House-Museum hosted Orran's students under the direction of our volunteer Diana Amirkhanyan.

- On April 3, 2018, Orran Vanadzor Center's children from the junior group presented the Easter Feast, decorated the Easter tree with commandments their handmade crafts and celebrated the Resurrection of Glory.

- On March 29, 2018 Orran Vanadzor Center's Senior Group students took part in a meeting organized in Vanadzor Technological Center where the Minister of Culture of Armenia Armen Amiryan met with the youth and discussed the programs concerning Armenian cultural monuments and cinematography.

- Orran Vanadzor Center continues its cooperation with UWC Dilijan in the frames of which talented students of Dilijan International College visit Orran every Thursday. They organize different games, concerts, activities, share their experience and knowledge with the kids.

- On February 24, 2018 Orran Vanadzor Center's children visited the Fine Arts Museum in Vanadzorand had a memorable, interesting and educational day. They were introduced to the works of famous painters and sculptors.

- On February 22, 2018 SOAR/Society for Orphaned Armenian Relief/ donated Orran a lot of toys.

- On June 1, 2018 Orran Vanadzor Center's Drum and Guitar group students organized a beautiful concert in Orran for their parents and friends and celebrated the International Children Day.

- On June 1, 2018 on the occasion of International Children Day, the Orran Junior group children gave a surprise to Vanadzor kindergartens, performing the famous Armenian tale "A Drop of honey".

- In June, with the support of the Armenian Dental Association of California and the Paros Foundation, a portable dental clinic in Vanadzor Orran provided free dental services to Orran's children.

- On June 12, 2018 focus on Children Now (FCN) charitable organization and their representatives Karine Abulyan and Anahit Kalantaryan donated clothing to Vanadzor Orran Center children and plenty of colorful and high quality threads and sewing materials to the Center's sewing group.

4. Social Service

During this semester Lusine Akmakchyan, Orran's social worker, conducted individual work with **105 children** on topics related to interpersonal experience and ethics. She also conducted individual sessions with **90 parents**, and as a result most of them have been directed to various institutions. When needed Orran submitted written or verbal statements for solving various issues.

During the reporting period Ms. Akmakchyan addressed **42 social cases**, of which 40 are completed, and 2 are still pending. She also made **65 home visits,** together with the psychologists and teachers, for new beneficiaries, enrollment, needs reassessment and provision of social support.

19 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:

	Jul	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**Dec**
Number of children	120	120	119	119	119	119
Number of adults	32	32	32	32	29	29
Work with the families of Orran beneficiary children	15	13	12	15	12	18
Visits (to families, other institutions)	9	8	8	4	3	9
Cooperation with other structures (governmental, nongovernmental)	-	3	2	2	3	5

Work with the beneficiaries outside of Orran Center	-	-	15	16	18	18
Phone calls	74	85	142	121	95	110

5. Psychological Support

During the first semester individual work with 30 beneficiaries were conducted, with 10 beneficiaries being repetitive, regulated, continuing. The number of group consultations is over 8.

Group work is different depending on the children's age groups. The work with junior and middle-aged children is more diagnostic consisting in examining fears, aggression, and reasons for not being able to adapt to the class.

Group work has been organized implementing a variety of methods and tests as well as discussions about many age-related issues. More discussions were held with high school students

on professional orientation, personal, interpersonal and inter-community conflicts, and age-related issues.

Together with volunteers, theme film screenings were organized with teenagers, followed by discussion of the importance of cinema.

The psychologist Ruzanna Hovhannisyan also made several school visits to collect information about children's behavior. She also held a meeting-training with beneficiary parents on the issues of parenting.

Other

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