

Orran Vanadzor- 4th Quarter 2009 Operations Report

I. INTRODUCTION

On September 1, 2009, Orran signed a grant agreement with the Open Society Institute (OSI) wherein OSI agreed to grant \$75,000 to Orran and Orran agreed to contribute \$25,000 to open an Orran center in Vanadzor serving 50 children. Orran's share of \$25,000 is contributed by VivaCell-MTS.

II. PREMISES

Orran staff and volunteers headed by Orran founder Armine K. Hovannisian started to locate a place for lease. Archbishop Sebouh Chuljian, Primate of Gougark Diocese was instrumental in offering the assistance of his staff. Within two weeks, a place most suited was located for a rent of 200,000 drams a month. The premise is centrally located, newly repaired and away from the main street traffic. It has four rooms in addition to a large hall. However, the place did not have a proper kitchen and some work needed to be done to turn one of the rooms into a kitchen/dining room. Hence, a large sink for washing the dishes was acquired as a loan from a kindergarten, an island divider with shelves separating the kitchen area from the dining room ordered to be made, a refrigerator, and a stove bought. Through the efforts of the psychologist and the wood shop teacher, a hot water system was installed in the kitchen.

For several weeks because the kitchen did not meet the standard of health codes, no hot food was served, only cold sandwiches. However, as of November 11, the kitchen started serving a hot meal a day since all efforts were made to meet the sanitary codes of the city.

Furniture: As we started shopping for furniture in Vanadzor, it became apparent that there was not much choice, neither was there quality. Hence furniture was ordered in Yerevan and transported. Desks, chairs and tables were ordered in different sizes and colors.

Having experience from the Yerevan Orran, immediately flex glass material was purchased and cut to completely cover the dining room tables so that they could stay clean. A volunteer was most instrumental in purchasing and cutting the covers. Furthermore a few shelves were ordered to be made locally so that the art work and ceramics could be stored and displayed.

Utilities and Services: From the 17th of November the internet connection was set up by a volunteer who did the technical service free of charge. He also installed the Antivirus and other needed programs.

Contracts with Water-supply and Electric power providers are in progress.

Groceries: Orran has a contract with the supplier of bread. A contract with a supermarket for all groceries is in progress. From the 1st of December the shopping will be done only from concrete suppliers with account invoices.

III. STAFF

Immediately after signing the agreement with OSI, word went out to all schools, medical facilities, institutions that Orran was opening and needed staff. Over 70 people applied for the following positions:

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- 1) Director of Orran – Mariam Manucharyan
- 2) Doctor/Nurse – Armenuhi Margaryan
- 3) Psychologist – Vardan Ayvazyan
- 4) Teachers: Gayane Manucharyan, Nelli Gharagyozyan,
- 5) Cook – Fenya Soghomonyan
- 6) Assistant cook – Karine Hambardzuyan
- 7) Social Worker – Lusine Akmakchyan
- 8) Ceramics teacher – Gnel Hakobyan
- 9) Wood Shop teacher – Samvel Zohrabyan
- 10) Arts and crafts teacher – currently volunteers
- 11) Cleaning lady – Kaghtrik Avetyan

Armine K. Hovannisian, with other Orran staff, personally interviewed all candidates. Those who seemed most qualified were offered respective positions. The staff was invited to Orran Yerevan to spend a day observing the work of Orran in general and their counterparts specifically. Contracts were signed and job descriptions provided.

The teacher who was hired to do arts and crafts resigned because she was moving. Currently, three volunteers and an Orran mother are doing needlework with the children.

Special effort was made to provide jobs to the parents. Unfortunately only the cleaning lady qualified. We will observe the mother volunteer with arts and crafts and see if she is qualified for the job. If so, we would give her preference.

Volunteers: Currently Orran has nineteen volunteers, two for the younger group and 17 for the middle group. Orran has volunteers providing tutoring in almost every subject. The teachers coordinate the volunteers' work and every volunteer has a small group of students whom she helps with homework.

IV. OPENING OF ORRAN

On October 12, 2009, Orran, the Open Society Institute (OSI), and VivaCell-MTS celebrated the official opening of the Orran center in the city of Vanadzor. Among the 200 well wishers were government officials, members of the diplomatic corps, representatives of NGOs and media, staff of Yerevan Orran, parents and children.

Archbishop Sebouh Chuljyan, Primate of the Armenian Apostolic Church of the Gougark Diocese, who has actively assisted Orran in this mission, delivered the opening remarks and blessings. Mrs. Armine K. Hovannisian who with her husband Raffi K. Hovannisian founded Orran in the year 2000 gave a brief history of the Vanadzor project underlining the major contribution of the Open Society Institute and the continued support of VivaCell-MTS. Mrs. Larisa Minasyan, Director of OSI spoke of their commitment to assist projects which will address the immediate needs of vulnerable families. The concluding remarks came from the General Manager of VIVaCell-MTS, Mr. Ralph Yirikian who spoke of his institution's role in the sphere of corporate social responsibility. The children of Orran had prepared a short program of songs and dances. In their turn, the elderly of Orran had come to share in the celebrations with a dance of their own.

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The story was aired widely on H1, ArmeniaTV, TV5, Yerkir and Shant in part because of VivaCell-MTS assistance. The print media also publicized the story, attached hereto as Exhibit "2" is the list of print media.

V. CHILDREN BENEFICIARIES

Currently Orran has 50 children beneficiaries.

In September, the Social worker, the psychologist and the acting director met with school principals, visited homes, and inquired in the poor neighborhoods to find needy children. Hence by the opening day there were already 38 children embraced by Orran. In November, the social worker visited schools #7, #23,#28,# 30 & # 5 and met with teachers and school principals to identify needy children. Subsequently, visits were paid to 18 houses and 16 children were accepted to Orran.

Departures: Four children left Orran. The reason for their departure was that the families moved.

Attendance: In November there were a lot of absent children with excuses. Most of the children had flu and chills; others had no shoes and couldn't go to school. Orran addressed that issue.

VI. MEDICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL WORK

In November 16 Orran children were taken to a benevolent dental clinic called Hope for Armenia. For some of the children, treatment is still in progress, for others the treatment is completed.

Orran is also acting as an intermediary between medical service providers and Orran children. For example, Orran sent a letter to a doctor to help one of the children with diagnosis free of charge.

The nurse at Orran conducts medical observations every Monday and if it's necessary she talks to the parents. This month she had talked to the children about their hygiene, epidemic flu, and cough and how to prevent them.

VII. SOCIAL WORK

Four boxes of clothing were taken to Orran Vanadzor from Orran Yerevan. The clothes were distributed among the children, their families and the walk- ins. Also at the opening, UMCOR brought 60 hygiene kits which were distributed by the nurse to the children with a lecture on the importance of hygiene.

Orran visited Vanadzor school #7 to ask the school principal to provide books free of charge to some of the children.

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VIII. CULTURAL AND OTHER EVENTS

On the 12th of November, 20 children were invited to the theatre where fairy tales of Hovhannes Tumanyan were presented. On the 28th of November, another 15 children from the middle group viewed the play. There is an agreement for 50 children of Orran to attend the Christmas show free of charge.

On the 5th of November Orran was invited to the opening of Nicol Aghababyan's individual exhibition. The director of the Vanadzor Art Gallery invited our children to visit the Art Gallery free of charge. Thirty five children have already accepted the invitation.

On November 7th the students of Phys-Math college Evrika in the scope of the program *Do Kindness* visited Orran. They brought sweets and toys for all children and had a clown entertain the children. The children of Orran also greeted them with songs and dances, and presented their paintings to the college students. There was a little article in "Lori marz" newspaper.

On November 28th, the dancing group of Vanadzor Culture House #1 came to Orran and performed. One of Orran's parents helped to organize the party.

IX. EDUCATION

The children arrive at Orran after 1:00 o'clock. They eat and with the assistance of teachers and volunteers start on their homework. After homework, they rotate and participate in one of the vocational training groups. The ceramics group has already started working and is currently making decorative pieces. Up to now, the woodshop students were learning on plaster but as of December, they started working with wood. The arts and crafts teachers are very productive and will soon hold an exhibition.

X. CONCLUSION

We are very pleased at how Orran is working and perceived by the public. The families are appreciative of the work and we better anticipate work now that most start up questions and issues had been solved.

December 2009