



Center for Children in Need "Our Kids"
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Sociocultural project "Inclusion"

Project Outline

CENTER FOR CHILDREN IN NEED "OUR KIDS"

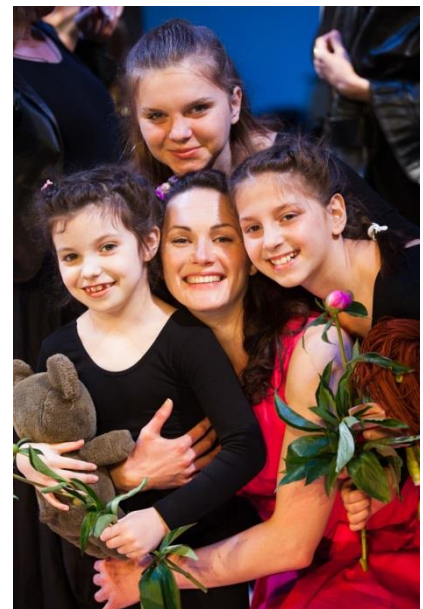
The main objectives and expectations of the Center are to help children in need, children deprived of parental care and children who happen to be in difficult situations. Our main goal is to provide children facing vulnerabilities with highly effective services aimed at their socio-psychological rehabilitation, individual development and reintegration into society.

At the "Our Kids" Center we believe that social inclusion of orphans and children deprived of parental care is one of the most influential factors that affect their personality positively. That is why all of our programs are aimed at kids' development and their smooth re-integration into society. Very often kids, who come to our Center, have not just one trauma of separation from a biological family, but also a trauma of being returned to the orphanages from a foster family who adopted them before and subsequently decided to return them. A child's rehabilitation process can be very long, but we try to deal with the issue cohesively and in an integrated manner. A combination of social, cultural and sports activities help kids to rehabilitate and reintegrate faster. At the Center we provide kids with many workshops, seminars, art therapy sessions, choir practices, dance classes and sports games as well as various trainings.

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

Sociocultural project "Inclusion" is a unique creative project for social and psychological rehabilitation of children having experienced trauma. The project's primary aim is to deflect the perception of children away from the negative aspects of their lives towards music and dance, to develop their creativity and reveal their emotional depth, thus helping them to overcome their problems and fears.

The project promotes reintegration of children into society using various artistic means (acting, singing, dancing, etc.) combined with athletics and studies of social issues. It aims to involve children from different backgrounds and with different interests and talents to create a musical performance about kindness and compassion.





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PROJECT OBJECTIVE

Involvement in art (music, dance, theater performance, and film-making) is the perfect way for children who have experienced psychological traumas to discover themselves, their characters and their artistic talents. It is widely known that use of art for healing is extremely effective. Music is capable of eliciting emotions and transcending language with its rhythms, vibrations, and beats. Art can offer the child an alternative means of communication which does not involve speaking. The psychologists at our Center often encounter cases when the child refuses to talk about his/her problems and difficult experience such as separation from biological parents, deprivation of home due to the military activities in the east of Ukraine and as a consequence their nightmares, inability to integrate into society, problems at school, etc. The project is, therefore, needed for children's reintegration into society and for helping them to deal with their traumatic experiences.



TARGET AUDIENCE

The main target audience is children from the "Our Kids" Center: children in need, children deprived of parental care and children who happen to be in difficult situations. The project also involves many children from the local community, ATO refugees and other social kids who want to participate in the project.



PROJECT TIMETABLE

The "Inclusion" project is implemented in three cycles, each lasting nine months and ending with a special artistic performance. Each cycle involves around 70 - 100 children and young people who work together with international, special educators and psychologists. The result of the first cycle (2012-2013) was the performance "Venice. City of Hope." The second cycle ended with the performance "On the Other Side of the Sun" in 2015. Both plays are recorded on DVDs. At the end of 2018, the final part of the project will take place. All of the performances are based on the books and drawings of Czech author and illustrator of children's books Štěpán Zavřel.

Thanks to our project, we will create a platform for closer collaboration of cultural and social institutions in the fields of child and youth welfare in Ukraine.



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