



UDRUŽENJE **DJECA PRVA**  
ASSOCIATION **CHILDREN FIRST**

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## ***ANNUAL REPORT***

***for 2017.***



## I. KEY ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2017

- **The annual award "Jakov Kudrić"** was awarded to the Association "Children First" by the Croatian Association of Social Workers as a civil society organization highlighting the quality of social services and the innovation of its programs in the interest of the beneficiaries.
- **Donations of the business sector and citizens in Croatia** amount to 5% of total revenues in 2017, which is an indicator of greater recognition of the Association in the wider public and contribution to its sustainability.
- **Contracted continuation of the implementation of the three-year** program "Together for Children" for the period 2016 - 2019 and the new cycle of the three-year program for the *Protection of the Rights of Children and Youth in the Social Welfare System* for the period 2017-2020 (continuation of the three-year financial cycle program 2014-2017).

## II. PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS IN 2017

### Through Play to School – ZG, Through Play to School – VG

Since 1997, the Association has implemented preventive-socialization programs for pre-school children from socially deprived families.

The program "Through Play to School" is aimed at strengthening the child socialization process and increasing parenting competencies with parents, and is verified as a shorter pre-school program by the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports and the Education and Training Agency, which is integrated into state programs of preschool education and education. Program activities are carried out in kindergartens in Zagreb and Velika Gorica. In Velika Gorica, the program is implemented in partnership with the City of Velika Gorica.

*Through Play to School - VG* - in 2017 was co-financed by the City of Velika Gorica, the County of Zagreb, the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports, Stiftung zur Forderung Sozialer Zwecke (private foreign foundation).

*Through Play to School - ZG* - was funded by the City of Zagreb.

### Prevention of unacceptable behavior of children

The program is also being implemented since 1997, and in 2017 it was implemented in cooperation with three elementary schools in the City of Zagreb, Primary Schools *Markuševac*, *Vladimir Nazor* and *Augusta Harambašić*. Program activities are aimed at preventing unacceptable behavior and empowering children's prosocial behavior, empowering parenting competences for upbringing, and encouraging a school-based focus on children's needs through teacher training workshops.

The program is financially supported by the City of Zagreb.



Project ***Prevention of socially unacceptable behavior of children in the context of kindergarten***

The project is being implemented in two kindergartens in the area of Velika Gorica, focusing on the personal and professional empowerment of child care professionals for co-operation and partnership with parents whose children manifest behavioral problems.

The project was financed by City of Velika Gorica in 2017.

Program ***Protection of the Rights of Children and Young People in the Social Welfare System (three year program)***

In May 2017, the implementation of the program in the financial cycle 2014-2017 was completed, and in June continued implementation in the financial cycle 2017 - 2020, supported by the Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy.

In the financial cycle 2014 - 2017, the program was implemented in partnership with the Centre for Social Welfare Zagreb - branch Dubrava and Sesvete, the Centre for Social Welfare Osijek and the Center for Providing Community Support Zagreb - Dugave. In the financial cycle 2017-2020, the program is implemented in partnership with CZSS Zagreb - branch offices Maksimir, Dubrava and Sesvete and the Centre for Social Welfare Križevci.

The program is aimed at providing counseling services and psychosocial support to children and young people without adequate parental care, young people with behavioral problems at home care and parents/caregivers under the family-legal protection measures, and an additional component is the empowerment of partner organizations for integrated and a multidisciplinary approach to providing social services. The program contributes to the prevention of social exclusion of risk groups and the further development of alternative social services in the process of reforming the social welfare system. Apart from the Department of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy, the program also co-finances the City of Zagreb.

Project ***Be Essential!***

The project is aimed at providing support to girls with behavioral problems, accommodation at the Center for Provision of Services in the Zagreb-Dugave community, for leaving the institution and empowering for independent life after going out of their care. Basic activities are individual and group counseling / therapeutic work.

The project was funded by City of Zagreb in 2017.

Program ***Together for Children (three year program)***

The program is aimed at providing support to foster children and is being implemented in the Koprivnica-Križevci County area. In addition to providing counseling and psychosocial support to foster parents, children in foster care, their parents and members of biological families, the program focuses on the development of a harmonized and networked approach to social welfare, education system and the whole community, in providing support to foster parents and child restraints. The program started at the end of 2016 and will be implemented by October 2019, in cooperation with the Križevci Social Welfare Center. The program is financially supported by the Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy.



### Project ***We are Stronger Together – support to young parents***

Project activities provide targeted social services for individual and group counseling with the aim of empowering parental and life skills, realizing the right to social protection and spreading social networks and mutual support to young parents at risk.

The project was funded by City of Zagreb in 2017.

### Project ***Multidisciplinary Approach in Prevention of Violence***

By October 2017 the project was implemented in partnership with CZSS Zagreb - branch of Sesvete and CZSS Križevci, and since November 2017, in partnership with CZSS Zagreb - Branch Dubrava. Project activities include counseling services and psychosocial support for children, young people and parents for the purpose of preventing violence against and among children, and empowering partner institution experts to apply a multidisciplinary and integrated approach to family risk support through training and consultative meetings of the head of measures of professional assistance and support.

The project is financially supported by the Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy.

### Project ***My Family***

The project started in November 2017 and is implemented in partnership with the Zagreb Social Welfare Center - Dubrava and Sesvete branches. The objectives of the project are to improve the psychosocial and / or emotional adaptation of children and young people from one-parent families and to improve the competences of young professionals in the social care system for working with single-parent families. Activities include counseling services and psychosocial support, training for young people in the social welfare system, and writing written material (a brochure) on the needs and features of single parent families.

The project is financially supported by the Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy.

### ***Program of distribution of humanitarian assistance***

As a permanent collector and humanitarian aid provider in the City of Zagreb, in the year 2017, "Children First" distributed 1410 single purchase orders (Vouchers) for 372 families; procured and distributed 120m<sup>3</sup> of firewood for 60 families; on several occasions covered the cost of medicines and medical supplies for 25 beneficiaries and distributed 116 Christmas gifts for children from socially deprived families. During the year, food, clothing, footwear, toys, hygiene products, household supplies and furniture for families with experience of poverty have been continuously organized.

In 2017, the program was financed by a large number of citizens and the business sector – *Organization Imt.; KentBank; Germania Sport Imt.; VIPnet*; a foreign association *Solidaires pour un sourire*; British Business Chamber - *Burns Night Supper 2017*; *Sukno Imt.* and Mastercard in co-operation with *National Radio* (within its *Priceless Causes* campaign to provide assistance to families with preschool and school children in food, hygiene products and school supplies), and most of the funds of the private foreign foundation "Stiftung Zur Förderung Sozialer Zwecke Im In-Und Ausland.

### III. NUMBER AND STRUCTURE OF DIRECT AND INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES OF PROJECTS / PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED IN 2017.

	Number of Children (up to 14 years)			Number of youngsters (from 15 – 30 years)			Number of adults (from 31 years)			Number of others	Total
	M	F	Σ	M	F	Σ	M	F	Σ		
<b>direct</b>	134	122	256	72	33	105	587	223	810	85	1256
<b>indirect</b>	440	394	834	178	198	376	541	658	119	25	2434

### IV. ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND DEVELOPMENT IN 2017

The bodies of the Association are the Assembly, the Steering Board, the President and the Executive Director. During 2017 there were no changes in the governing bodies, but the number of members of the Assembly increased from 32 to 34.

#### **Employees**

During the year 2017, the Association has 2 persons on vocational training for work without foundation of employment, of which one person on the basis of training is based in the Association, so the number of employees since November 2017 increased from 8 to 9 employees. The workplaces in the Association are:

- Executive Director
- Program Development Manager
- Secretary / Finance Manager
- Program Coordinator
- Professional Advisor
- 2 professional associates
- Expert associate
- Associate for financial and programmatic planning and monitoring.

There were also 10 external expert associates participating in the work of the Association.



## ***Volunteers***

Volunteers are involved in co-operation with the Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation (Volunteering course) and through Volunteer Center Zagreb. Periodically, volunteers express their interest in volunteering through the Internet and Facebook page of the Association. Volunteers are involved in direct activities with users and periodic activities and initiatives of the Association. In addition, the volunteer's involvement in the work for many years has resulted in a base of about ten continuous volunteers involved in activities depending on the needs and their interest.

The association has a defined Workbook on volunteers, according to which all volunteers have an organized orientation meeting (acquaintance with the Association and the employees), sign a volunteering agreement and have regular supervision and support. In the case of long-term volunteering volunteers are issued a certificate of competences acquired by volunteering.

In 2017, 24 volunteers actively participated in the various activities of the association, making 698 volunteer hours.

## ***Strategic planning***

In March 2017, through the Institutional Support of the National Foundation for Civil Society Development, a strategic planning for the next four-year period (2017-2020) was held and a Strategic Plan document was produced for the aforementioned time period, which was adopted at the regular Assembly of the Association in April 2017.

In accordance with the Plan, the strategic goals are:

1. Contribute to the protection of children, young people and families
2. Contribute to meeting the needs of children and young people for appropriate growth and development and to provide family support
3. Continually develop organizational capacities

They also have a revised vision (the Responsible Company providing the conditions for safe and complete development of children) and mission (We strengthen the potentials of children, young people and families and care for socially excluded, linking the entire community to quality and sustainable development of society).



### **Self-Financing Activities**

At the regular assembly in April 2017, amendments were adopted to the Association by which the Association redefined the economic activity by issuing professional publications, organizing seminars, lectures, workshops, consultations and consultations, thus providing formal and legal conditions for conducting self-financing activities.

Income from self-financing activities amounts to 0.09% of total revenues in 2017.

### **Strengthening organizational and / or professional capacity**

During 2017, the association emphasizes the importance of lifelong learning and empowering professional competencies to work with users. To this end, the employees of the Association participated in numerous professional conferences, round tables, workshops and education.

<b>Education for the purpose of strengthening organizational and/or professional capacity</b>	<b>Educators</b>
Thematic Workshop Integrated support for children in foster families in the local community	Association Sociativa Nova
Professional Assembly of Juvenile Justice in Criminal Minority Proceedings	Youth Referees Association, Family Judges and Specialists for Children and Youth and the 'Brave Phone'
Colloquia <i>How (social) sciences can contribute to the emergence of "vicious circle" of consequences of poverty of children and youth</i>	Croatian Academy of Sciences and Arts and Croatian Foundation for Science - lecturer prof. dr. sc. Marina Ajduković
Professional and Educational Set <i>Prevention and intervention: Protection of personal data of children</i>	The Office of the Ombudsperson for Children, the Personal Data Protection Agency and the Police
Promotion of Infographic: We are fighting against depression on the occasion of marking the World Health Day 2017.	Croatian Institute for Public Health
Seminar on the importance and role of youth and the development of coordinated action in order to realize the measures of the Youth Program of the City of Zagreb 2015-2018, under the project Youth and Zagreb	The City of Zagreb, the City Office for Social Protection and Disabled Persons and the Association for Promoting the Quality Education of Disabled Youth "Zamisli"
Pre-Conference <i>Growing resilience: researching beyond academia</i> , ERFKON 2017	Faculty of Education and Rehabilitation, University of Zagreb, Indiana State University, Univerza v Ljubljani
Final presentation of the project results "Kaleidoscope-Improvement of Children's Rights in	RODA Association - Parents in Action



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Different Families for a Tolerable Society"	
Round table <i>Concept of social housing in the city of Zagreb - state and perspectives</i>	City of Zagreb, City Office for Social Welfare and Persons with Disabilities
Conference on Prevention of Social Exclusion of Youth: Examples of Good Practice	Youth Organization "Status M"
Educational Workshop How to Start and Promote Your Crowdfunding Campaign	Platform "Do the Right Thing"
Roundtable <i>Development of a network of support for children whose parents are in prison</i>	The Ministry of Justice - the Directorate for the Prison System, the Office of the Ombudsperson for Children and the Association 'Stork'
A Professional Set <i>Girls Victims of Sexual Violence</i>	Association of Juvenile Judges, Family Judges and Experts for Children and Youth
Workshop (Experimental-Educational Type) on Ethics in Gestalt Psychotherapy	"Let's Go" Ltd. for counseling and teaching
Round Table <i>DOP (Socially Responsible Business in the Community) - a story on both sides</i>	The 'Brave Phone' Association
Lecture <i>How much and how do fathers participate in child upbringing?</i>	Center for Children, Youth and Family Velika Gorica
Roundtable <i>'Further, Better'</i> (Project <i>'Involved Parents'</i> to Empower Parents - Former Prisoners, Children and Their Family Members)	Parent Association 'Step by Step'
Round Table of Working Group for Action Methodology <i>'Cities and Municipalities - Friends of Children'</i>	Society of Our Children of Croatia
Public discussion, expert set <i>Unacceptable behavior in school - application of Stop program</i>	Association of Juvenile Judges, Family Judges and Experts for Children and Youth
Conference <i>'Social Entrepreneurship in Croatia - yesterday, today, tomorrow'</i>	Ministry of Labor and Pension System
Final Presentation of The Right(s) Court for Children Project – <i>'A Just Children's Court'</i>	The 'Brave Phone' Association
Education Supervisor gestalt psychotherapy	Gestalt Center Homa Ltd.
Professional set <i>'Family Violence'</i>	Association of Juvenile Judges, Family Judges and Experts for Children and Youth



## V. COLLABORATIVE AND PARTNER RELATIONS WITH OTHER ORGANIZATIONS IN 2017

### Memberships of the Association



The association is a member of the Croatian AntiPoverty Network, a national network of associations and individuals involved in providing services and advocating for the poor, vulnerable and socially excluded persons and public policy in the area of poverty in Croatia, also acting as a member of the European Network against Poverty (EAPN – European AntiPoverty Network).



The Association is an active member of the Coordination of Associations for Children – informal network of associations working for children. In 2017, "Children First" participated in the Public Consultation on the Proposal of the Law on the Ombudsman for Children, then in the media press release and on the Public TV topic *I have a problem* (12.6.2017) on the issue of the protection of children's rights and the Draft Law on the Ombudsman for Children.



Through the Coordination of Associations for Children, the Association is indirectly a member of the European Association of Organizations aimed at improving the quality of life of children and young people, EuroChild, within which it participated in two meetings of representatives of national network organizations in 2017 and in the development of the EuroChild report on the European semester for the year 2017 from the perspective of the Republic of Croatia, a document that analyzes the implementation of the EU Recommendation on Investing in Children (EuroChild - network of organisations and individuals working in and across Europe to promote the rights and well-being of children and young people).



***Establishing co-operative and partner relations with other civil society organizations in the Republic of Croatia, respectively cross-sectoral cooperation***

Faculty of Educational Rehabilitation, Zagreb; Faculty of Law, Study Center for Social Work, Zagreb; City of Velika Gorica

- A project proposal submitted to the ESF "Supporting the Development of Partnerships of the CSOs and Higher Education Institutions for the Implementation of Socially Learning Program" in partnership with the Faculty of Education Rehabilitation, the Social Welfare School of the Law Faculty and the City of Velika Gorica

City of Velika Gorica

- Appointment of the Executive Director in the Coordination Board of the Action "Velika Gorica City - Friend of Children" for the area of social welfare. The purpose of the Committee is to improve the support and protection programs for children in the area of Velika Gorica and to coordinate the children's week that is held the first week of October every year. Within the Committee, the Executive Director participated in 4 working meetings focused on planning the Children's Week (9-13 October). In addition, she has conducted two round tables for the public and experts on children's participation and teaching assistant positions, and an interactive workshop focused on empowering specialists in the educational system

Center for Children, Youth and Family Velika Gorica and Velika Gorica City

- a joint presentation on co-operation at the local level with the aim of encouraging children's participation at the round table "How much do we actually get the right to participate in children" at the 25th Conference of Psychologists

City of Zagreb, City Office for Social Protection; Center for Social Welfare Zagreb

- Appointment of Executive Director at the Council for Social Protection of the City of Zagreb, September 2017 (second term)

Ministry for Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy

- Participation in the wider composition of the Working Group for Drafting Draft Family Law Proposal

'Brave Phone' Association

- Within the ChildHub project, conducted by the Brave Phone Association, participating in the 3rd Annual Child Protection Hub South East Europe Conference on "Quality Mechanisms in the Child Protection System" in Tirana, Albania



### Croatian Association of Social Workers

- On the occasion of the World Social Work Day on March 21, 2017, the Croatian Association of Social Workers (HUSR) organized, in cooperation with the association's members, a wide range of professional conferences, symposia, public forums, round tables and other activities throughout Croatia. The aim was to point out the current social conditions and strengthen a professional community to face the challenges of social work in our country.

At the central professional meeting, on March 21, at the Hotel Dubrovnik, the HUSR awards were awarded to social workers, as well as to institutions and civil society organizations that contributed to the development and affirmation of the profession of social work, whose work was recognized as a general good and of particular importance to the community.

Our Association received the Annual Award "Jakov Kudrić". We highlighted the quality of social services and the innovativeness of their programs in the interest of users. The award was given by Minister Nada Murganić (Ministry of Demography, Family, Youth and Social Policy) and Štefica Karačić (President of the Croatian Social Workers' Association)

### Association 'Game'

- Children First "participate in the project "Standards and Practice - Volunteer Management in Social Welfare and Health Organizations and Institutions" implemented by the Association 'Game', funded by the ESF and the Office for NGOs. The purpose of the project is to improve volunteer management in organizations and social welfare and health care institutions. As part of the Children's project, they are the first to participate in education for quality implementation of the volunteers.

### Center for Social Welfare Zagreb and Center for Social Welfare Križevci

- Partnership in the implementation of two three-year programs (*Protection of the Rights of Children and Youth in the Social Welfare and Together for Children*) and three projects (*Multidisciplinary Approach to Violence Prevention I and II, My Family*)



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## VI. MEDIA COVERAGE OF THE ASSOCIATION

The total number of media releases published in 2017	<b>38</b>
The total number of posts on the web site of the Association in 2017	<b>228</b>
The total number of visits to the web site of the Association in 2017	<b>122.602</b>

## VII. FINANCIAL RESULT IN 2017

Total income of the association in 2017	<b>2.349.007 kn</b>
Of that:	
a) state administration bodies, government offices and public institution bodies	<b>918.753 kn</b>
b) units of local and regional self-government	<b>349.658 kn</b>
c) foreign governments and international organizations	<b>919.413 kn</b>
d) companies and other business entities	<b>121.061 kn</b>
e) sale of goods and provision of services	<b>2.150 kn</b>
f) citizens	<b>1.050 kn</b>
g) by special regulations, financial assets and others	<b>36.922 kn</b>
Total expense of the association in 2017	<b>2.288.505 kn</b>