

Newsletter 2/2017

A year dedicated to growth,
education and overcoming obstacles



Projects of Slezská diakonie

Career day - a way to increase professionalism
and interest in working in social services

Editorial

Dear readers and colleagues,

this issue of our newsletter is dedicated to the projects of Slezská diakonie. Let me say a few words on this topic. As you probably know, as a non-profit organisation we have relatively plenty of opportunities to submit project applications and I am very glad that many of you use these opportunities, because every project is realised with the intention of improving the services that we provide our clients.

Through projects, we obtain finances to run the whole of Slezská diakonie, we furnish, reconstruct and build our centres and we also further educate our employees.

One of the bigger non-investment projects lately, which was launched at the beginning of this year, was a project focused on ZECHO - making Slezská diakonie more effective. The project consisted of accredited courses, audits and consultations with the emphasis on quality of the social services of Slezská diakonie, the management and employees' motivation.

As I have already mentioned, the ZECHO project is not the only project of Slezská diakonie, there is a number of them and for that, dear colleagues, I am very grateful. Thanks to your efforts, sacrifice, work and the ability to submit amazing project applications, Slezská diakonie can grow and increase the quality of its services.

On behalf of all our employees and clients of Slezská diakonie, I thank the former bishop of SECAC, Mgr. Stanislav Waclawek for his years of support and good grace. On this occasion I also welcome the new bishop, Mgr. Tomáš Tyrlík and I am looking forward to further cooperation. I wish them both good health and an abundance of God's blessings on their life journey.

Zuzana Filipková

Director of Slezská Diakonie



What happened

Posts in this section can be editorially shortened.

Revenue from a concert made a wish of the JORDÁN Třinec clients a reality

When we managed to obtain funds for our centre JORDÁN Třinec at the end of the last year, it was a big encouragement to continue our work. We began to hope to expand our offer of interesting and meaningful activities that we experience with our clients. Thanks to the considerable revenue from the beneficial Advent concert in the Evangelical church in Komorní Lhotka organised by the Elementary School in Střítěž under the guidance of Mgr. Dagmar Machálková, we were able to hear the pleas of our clients to reintroduce the activity of "hipporehabilitation". It is one of the most natural healing methods using horses, which has a considerable positive influence on human psyche. In March, we once again visited the place where we will work with the horses for the rest year - the association Chewal in Bystřice. Once again, we will be able to keep in touch with nature and, with the support of physiotherapists, experience, apart from the riding itself, work, especially taking care of the horses. From our own experience we know that a lot of interesting activities and conversations await us. During them, we will continue to lose shyness, fear or other uncertainties and we will often show courage and physical prowess.

Lada Rakowská



Volunteers sing

Music can heal, enrich one's solitude, create joy and energy, bring people together, make your heart beat faster with a common vision. It is a sensitive and effective medicine for pain, sadness or loneliness.

And so the volunteers from the Volunteer centre of Slezská diakonie in Krnov have decided to delight the local hospital's patients, clients with disabilities and seniors in the home for the elderly with their singing. These are spontaneous events organised after an agreement between the staff members and volunteers. They meet in a one of the centres and they sing

together at social events, in the corridors or even in the rooms of the clients. The purpose of each event is to please the clients or patients, to make them sing along, make them laugh or to make their day.

Small musical instruments are going to be purchased so that the volunteers can sing even better, the Volunteer centre has received a subsidy for this from the Foundation Art for health (Nadace umění pro zdraví).

Veronika Židková



A guest from India has visited Slezská diakonie

At the end of April, a host from India named Glory Dhas has paid us a visit. Mr. Glory Dhas is the president of a Christian social organisation "Jesus mercy homes association", which provides help to people living in southern India. The core of the organisation's operations is running shelters for children without homes, centres providing basic life-sustaining services, centres providing medical care especially to those suffering from leprosy. They also organise seminars for nurses and other activities. During the course of the meeting with the president of this organisation, we have been negotiating the possibility of mutual cooperation by sending out volunteers into their centres.

Karla Glosová



Projects of Slezská diakonie

Slezská diakonie is based on multisource funding. Social services and the improvement of their quality is funded not only by the ministries, municipalities and local authorities but also by a number of foundations, by the service of volunteers or by the support of private donors. We realize projects not only on the national scale but also projects in cooperation with our partners abroad, these are for example: exchanges of workers, internships abroad, educational and international volunteering. The project department is also preparing several investment projects for the 2018/2019 period focused on the reconstruction of buildings where social services are provided. We react to the suggestions of not only our managing workers and the services' clients but also to the suggestions coming from the local administration - towns, municipalities and regions' authorities. Also, another important source of suggestions arises from newly discovered problems and challenges in the society.

R. F. Kennedy said: *"There are people who see things as they are and ask: Why?"*

In Slezská diakonie, we dream of things that have never been and ask: *"Why not?"*

Soňa Kantorová, Head of the project department



ČESKÁ 
SPORITELNA

 **T-Mobile**

Café at Liduška's

Café at Liduška's, a project where the volunteers serve as waiters, has become a very successful project in a matter of only 4 months. Almost 40 new volunteers have been recruited thanks to the café, about one third of them help us on regular basis and have turned out to be good volunteers. The café meetings are organised regularly in the Home for the elderly SAREPTA in Komorní Lhotka and in the social beds department of the hospital in Třinec. We expanded to other centres as well so that we can address a bigger portion of the civil society in other parts of the Moravskoslezský region. The café now offers excellent coffee and tea in the home for people with disabilities EBEN-EZER in Český Těšín and in the Rainbow home in Ostrava. If you have 2 hours and want to do something nice, take your friends with you and become a one-time volunteer in our mobile café. You will get to try out volunteering with the elderly or with disabled people. Contact the café's coordinator - Lucie Przybylová (731 670 768).

In a socially excluded area with the CONTACT

The main aim of the project of Slezská diakonie, the social service CONTACT Karviná, terrain programme, is to make our clients better informed, not only to prevent but also to lower the number of negative social phenomena. We picked the most pressing topics, which are indebtedness, keeping your house, paying rent, unemployment, communicating with the authorities, social aid. This project is also trying to highlight and increase the significance of field work of the social workers in the socially excluded area of Karviná - Nové Město, it should support direct cooperation with the clients and those who are interested in the social service. Through public meetings with the field workers who operate in the natural social environment of the clients in Karviná, we try to achieve open discussions about the conditions in which the clients live and how to improve these conditions.

Another future activity of the project are going to be open days, regular meetings with the social workers, creation and distribution of informative leaflets on current social topics in the excluded areas.

"We are here in Karviná for the miners and debtors."

The project of Slezská diakonie, the social service OBČANSKÁ PORADNA Karviná, is derived from the need to solve the long-lasting negative consequences of the miners' situation in Karviná and the related negative social phenomena. Through educational activities, consulting and other preventive measures, we provide the public with information on how to distinguish, solve and especially not underestimate pressing issues originating from the current social climate in the region of Karviná. Our main aim is to make the clients remember the learned knowledge and use it in case the need arises. By this, we deepen their legal literacy.

The main intention of the project is to provide certain target groups most threatened by the debt-trap and other problems with enough information on this topic and to strengthen their legal literacy and self-confidence. Through practical examples of our consultants who are going to be shared at discussions and other events, we want to drag the citizens out of passivity and to motivate them to act. After all, why couldn't they press their claim or solve a seemingly insolvable problem, when so many have managed to do this before them..?

Iveta Kuczerová, Head of the centre



Career day - a way to increase professionalism and interest in working as a social worker

Nowadays, we often hear that social services lack workers who would be adequately skilled and motivated to provide social services which the clients deserve. Graduates of schools providing education in the social activity field of study often end up doing different professions. The main reason for this are low salaries but in reality, we can notice other reasons such as a low social status of the profession and lack of space for personal and professional growth. However, social services have a lot to offer and show great potential to increase the significance and social status of social workers.

The cooperation between Slezská diakonie and the secondary school of professor Zdeněk Matějček shows an example of how to positively influence the status of the social worker profession and how to attract potential employees. The provider of social services and educator, both institutions, have joined their efforts and prepared a Career day for 42 students of the third grade in the social activity field of study.

Expert workers of Slezská diakonie have prepared 4 practical workshops. The first two addressed the students in both personal and professional scope. Skilled human resources officers shared their knowledge about how to write a good CV, cover letter and how to prepare for a job interview. The students had the opportunity to try out the applicant's role but also the role of a member of the selection committee. The two other workshops were focused especially on the professional fortitude. Skilled workers from the PR and advertising and the project departments have prepared a workshop for the students designed to help them gain their bearings concerning project management, presentation of successful and unsuccessful projects were also part of the workshop, this presentation was followed up with a guide on how to create such successful projects. The output consisted of the students' project ideas for which they got feedback from our workers. The topic of the fourth workshop was fashion and etiquette. Fashion, the ability of trimming one's appearance, knowing which outfit to choose for which occasion, following the rules of the social protocol, all of this is a part of social services as well. What, when and how to dress or how to understand the rules of etiquette, all of this was discussed within the workshop. During the Career day, a speech about the development of the profession of social workers throughout the ages could also be heard. The current status of social workers was explained by two of our workers. The purpose of the profession, the demands and the opportunities to climb the career ladder were all apparent from their life stories.

The aim of the event was set clearly - to expand the theoretical knowledge of the students, teach them practical skills, share practical experience, increase their professional and personal potential, their motivation for work in social services and also to contribute to increasing the social status of the social worker profession by presenting the demands put on this occupation and by sharing stories of real social workers who are successful in their job. Were we successful in reaching these goals? The evaluation inquiries filled out

by the students made it clear that the event was successful beyond our expectations. The students had the possibility to mark this Career day like at school - it got 37 A's and 5 B's. The workshop about fashion and etiquette interested the students the most, but the other workshops were also highly appreciated despite being described as too hard. Specifically, the students often noted that it was difficult to create a sensible project idea, or to prepare for a job interview or to write a cover letter. Even so, many of them said that it would be better if the workshops took longer. Other outputs are for example that our HR officers have discovered students suitable for our working teams in the organisation. Thanks to these result, the event organisers, the teachers and the staff members of Slezská diakonie have agreed to continue with this event in the years ahead. The career day is a good way to address potential employees and how to increase the professionalism and motivation.



Lenka Waszutová, head of the HR, PR and international relations departments

*Many are the plans in the mind of a man,
but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand.*

Proverbs 19:21

Go jogging, finish studies, get a job... desires, plans, visions. Several very important aspects can be seen in human efforts whatever they might be. Projects and everyday life as well demand, apart from other important things, planning. To see the beginning but also the end and therefore the goal and purpose, to create a visible change as the output of the project, this is what it means to plan well. You must "see" the result right in the beginning. Planning is of course very beneficial.

However, not everything that one plans goes exactly according to this plan. We often want to "do Good" but we neglect the highest "Project manager", whether he agrees with it, whether it is a part of His "project". The realisation that "a higher plan" exists can lead an individual to humbleness and also to consult his plans with the Greatest one. Not everything relies on me - this sentence liberates and also turns attention to the Highest project manager.

This prayer can be an inspiration: *"God, I ask You for 3 things - strength, patience and wisdom. Strength to change the things I can. Patience so that I can bear things that I cannot change. And wisdom to tell these things apart."*

Emil Macura, vicar of FS Návší

