



NARRATIVE PROJECT REPORT

ART THERAPY FOR VULNERABLE CHILDREN IN KOTAYK



Donor: SOCIETY FOR ORPHANED ARMENIAN RELIEF (SOAR) - ARMENIA

Implementing partner: SOS CHILDREN'S VILLAGES ARMENIAN CHARITY FOUNDATION

Project site: SOS Children's Village Kotayk, Kotayk Province

Implementation period: February 5, 2024 – January 31, 2025

Reporting period: August 5, 2024- November 5, 2024

2024



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1. INTRODUCTION

For years, art therapy has been a useful way for children in care of SOS Children's Village in Kotayk and families living in the surrounding community to understand their own feelings, find answers to various questions, overcome conflicts and manage unwanted emotions. Stable and warm relationships are formed between group participants as well as leaders. Children can raise their concerns without hesitation, initiate discussions and express their opinions and beliefs on the topics under discussion. The inclusion of new children in the groups enhances the effectiveness and appeal of the conversations.

Art therapy is especially important at this period of significant life transition for kids. Children have a variety of concerns, fears, and adjustment issues prior to SOS families being integrated into the community. This process is planned to be completed by the end of 2024. In this regard, art therapy continues to help children overcome all the psychological problems that arise with these changes.

2. PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

2.1. Project description

“Art therapy for vulnerable children in Kotayk” project launched on February 5, 2024.

The project is presented with three workshops:

1. *Puppetry workshop and mobile puppet theatre*
2. *Pottery workshop*
3. *Sand therapy*

There have been no modifications made to the hobby groups' schedule. The classes are conducted twice a week with 2 or 2.5-hour duration. The schedule appears as follows:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
15:30-17:30 Pottery workshop	15:30-17:30 Sand Therapy	15:30-18:00 Puppetry workshop
Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15:30- 17:30 Pottery workshop	15:30-18:00 Puppetry workshop	12:00-14:00 Sand Therapy

Due to the fact that in August the children went on a 1-month summer vacation, no classes were held that month. The classes resumed in September, after the children had returned to the Children's Village.



a. Puppetry workshop and mobile puppet theatre

Puppetry is one of the favorite activities for children. It encourages them to think creatively as they design their puppets and develop stories. This leads to the development of the imaginative play and storytelling skills. Armenian folk tales are included into puppetry to help kids recognize and comprehend various viewpoints and Armenian traditions. In the end, puppetry lessons are entertaining, offering a playful atmosphere that fosters a passion for education and the arts.

After the summer holidays, the children resumed their puppetry lessons. The necessary materials were acquired: fabrics, ribbons, threads and other accessories - everything needed to make new puppets and stage a new play. This time the children are preparing the staging of 2 fairy tales by Hovhannes Tumanyan- "The Death of Kikos" and "The Talking Fish". They have already familiarized themselves with the content of the fairy tales, distributed the roles and are working on making the puppets of the characters needed for the performance. Also, they have made several colorful soft dolls.



During this period, **12** beneficiary children attended the group, 6 of them are children in care of SOS Children's Village Kotayk, 6 are children from socially insecure families of the community.

During the reporting quarter, the children created puppets, which are listed in the table below:

	The name of the work	The quantity of works		Total
		Completed	Ongoing	
Workshop	Puppets for the performance (humans)	1	9	10
	Puppets for the performance (animals)	0	2	2
	Soft dolls	3	1	4
Total		4	12	16



b. Pottery workshop



Pottery encourages children to explore their creativity, allowing them to express themselves through their unique designs and sculptures. Working with clay helps to develop fine motor skills as children learn to manipulate tools, shape the clay, and refine their techniques.

There are **14** children in the pottery group, 9 of them are from socially insecure families of the community, 5 are the children from the SOS village. Some of the children have been attending the group for a long time. They are now creating very beautiful handicrafts. The new members of the group learn a lot from these children. In

addition to the technical process of making handicrafts, new children are taught to be patient because pottery can be a slow process, teaching children the value of patience and the importance of working through challenges. There are cases when after a lot of efforts, the handicraft cracks after being put in the oven, or the paint settles unevenly. It is important not to give up on these difficulties and start new works, taking into account the old mistakes.

During this period the kids mostly created autumn-themed crafts, such as pumpkins and flat pictures with leaves using the technique of printing natural objects. For example, embossing autumn leaves, fir branches or grass on clay handicrafts makes them unique and beautiful.

Workshop	The name of the work	The quantity of works		Total
		Completed	Ongoing	
Pottery workshop	Pottery crafts			
	Soup bowl	2	0	2
	Jewelry organizer	5	2	7
	Cups (coffee, tea)	4	0	4
	Candy jar	2	1	3
	Plate	2	1	3
	Flowerpots	1	2	3
	Flat pictures	2	0	2
	House	0	1	1
Total		18	7	25





c. Sand therapy

12 children have attended the sand therapy group in the last quarter, 9 of whom live in the SOS village and 3 in the community.

Sand therapy offers a safe space for children to express their feelings and emotions, helping them process experiences they may find difficult to articulate. Playing with sand is calming and therapeutic, it reduces anxiety and stress and promotes relaxation.



During sand therapy sessions children are encouraged to manipulate sand using their hands or tools. This can involve digging, pouring, building, or sculpting, allowing them to express themselves freely. Children create miniature landscapes or scenes, using sand. They also use toys, figurines, or natural materials to enhance their creations. Children often narrate stories about their creations. Considering the upcoming integration of the SOS families, the course mainly discussed issues related to relocation, changes, overcoming difficulties and the importance of the first impression.

2.3. Project beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the project are children from SOS Children's Kotayk Village as well as the nearby community. Some of the children are beneficiaries of the previous year's program, but there are also newly enrolled children. In this quarter, the number of beneficiaries in all three hobby groups is 38.

Table 1. Project beneficiaries

Workshop	Number of classes	Number of beneficiaries	Age group
Puppetry workshop	18 (45 hours)	12 (12 girls)	6-17
Pottery workshop	18 (36 hours)	14 (8 girls and 6 boys)	5-17
Sand Therapy	15 (30 hours)	12 (7 girls and 5 boys)	3-17
Total	51 classes (111 hours)	38 children (27 girls and 11 boys)	



2.3. Success story



The pottery class teacher always encourages children's creativity. During one of the classes, Alex (child's name has been changed) one of the participants of the group, made an interesting suggestion. He recommended creating a jewelry organizer in the shape of children's hands.

His friends liked the idea and also decided to make one for their SOS mothers. The mothers could hang their rings, necklaces and bracelets on it. The teacher explained, that for making the craft they had to start with making a flat surface by rolling the clay, then they had to print their hand on that surface and cut the clay with the outline of the hand. Then it was necessary to process that "clay hand" and

make a support for it. After painting and firing in the oven, it could be used as a jewelry organizer.

During the preparation Alex had another idea. He thought that it would be better to make two hand printed organizers of mother's and child's hands. He asked his mother to print her hand on a clay slab and made another work in the shape of his mother's hand. When the work was already painted and fired, he gave his hand-shaped work to his mother and placed the mother's hand-shaped work on the shelf in his room. When the pottery teacher asked why he made 2 similar pieces, Alex said, "I wanted my mom to feel like I'm always with her and look at my hand and remember me whenever she is sad, and her hand will always be with me wherever I go." The mother was very excited to receive such a gift and now uses it with love, remembering the boy's words every time.



3. Budget

N	Item	Unit	Nof Units	Cost per units (AMD)	Total (AMD)	Expenses 2024										Total Expenses	%	Remain
						February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October				
1	Project Administration	Project Coordinator	Month	11	109,545	1,204,995	99,112	109,545	109,545	36,341	98,591	109,545	74,690	109,545	109,545	858,459	71%	346,536
2	Puppetry workshop	Puppetry workshop leader	Month	10	100,000	1,000,000	100,000	100,000	77,778	100,000	100,000	80,000		77,778	100,000	735,558	74%	264,444
		Puppetry workshop specialist	Month	10	80,000	800,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000	64,000		80,000	80,000	624,000	78%	
3	Pottery workshop	Materials	lumpsum	1	500,000	500,000	228,600	39,150		19,490					216,687	503,927	101%	(3,927)
		Pottery workshop specialist	Month	10	100,000	1,000,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	77,778		100,000	100,000	777,778	78%	222,222
4	Sand therapy	Materials	lumpsum	1	300,000	300,000	119,500	39,800		95,700				55,400		310,500	104%	(10,500)
		Workshop leader	Month	10	90,000	900,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	90,000	70,000		67,500	90,000	677,500	75%	
5	Transportation	Materials	lumpsum	1	70,000	70,000												
			lumpsum	1	20,000	20,000			3,800								3,800	19%
Total					5,794,995	817,212	558,595	461,123	523,531	468,891	466,723	74,690	434,823	696,232	4,491,520	78%	1,303,475	
Grand Total					5,794,995		1,836,530				1,448,845			1,206,745	4,491,520	78%	1,303,475	
Current remaining						631,536	72,941	(388,182)		537,035	68,444	(388,279)	(462,969)	(897,782)	(1,594,024)			

Date	Description	Document	Total
August			
8/30/2024	Salary - Art therapy project coordinator /Tatevik Tovmasyan /	Additional Salary - August	74,690
TOTAL EXPENSES /August 2024/			74,690
September 2024			
9/30/2024	Salary - Art therapy project coordinator /Tatevik Tovmasyan /	Additional Salary - September	109,545
9/30/2024	Contract salary - Puppetry workshop leader /Srbuhi Movsisyan/	Act - 30.09.2024	77,778
9/30/2024	Contract salary - Puppetry workshop specialist /Marine Petrosyan/	Act - 30.09.2024	80,000
9/30/2024	Contract salary - Pottery workshop specialist/Venera Shatveryan/	Act - 30.09.2024	100,000
9/30/2024	Contract salary - Sand therapy workshop specialist/Srbuhi Movsisyan/	Act - 30.09.2024	67,500
TOTAL EXPENSES /September 2024/			434,823
October 2024			
10/1/2024	Materials for Puppetry workshop	Invoice N A 5648133636	156,255
10/14/2024	Materials for Puppetry workshop A 9996717439	Invoice N A 9996717439	60,432
10/31/2024	Salary - Art therapy project coordinator /Tatevik Tovmasyan /	Additional Salary - October	109,545
10/31/2024	Contract salary - Puppetry workshop leader /Srbuhi Movsisyan/	Act - 31.10.2024	100,000
10/31/2024	Contract salary - Puppetry workshop specialist /Marine Petrosyan/	Act - 31.10.2024	80,000
10/31/2024	Contract salary - Pottery workshop specialist/Venera Shatveryan/	Act - 31.10.2024	100,000
10/31/2024	Contract salary - Sand therapy workshop specialist/Srbuhi Movsisyan/	Act - 31.10.2024	90,000
TOTAL EXPENSES /October 2024/			696,232
TOTAL EXPENSES /August - October 2024/			1,206,745

CVP Director  R. Pashinyan