

Brief presentation of the organizations and supported projects by the Carpathian Foundation's "Early Years Matter" program (2021)

1. RECD_2021_01 SZETA Eger Foundation – „Let’s go together!” Student network in Felnémet

Introduction of the organization:

The Foundation was established in 1989 to promote the social integration and mobility of people living in poverty, especially the Roma, through various means and services. They provide services in individual, group and community forms to specific communities in specific settlements. Since 1997, they have been dealing with families on a daily basis. First, they established contact with the people of the Eger Béke settlement (in Felnémet part of the town, Eger), and they established a settlement-type community house, thus ensuring their permanent presence and accessibility. Their staff carried out continuous fieldwork, and personal contacts were established between the Foundation and the residents of the site. They also addressed the people living in the settlement, especially children and young people, with their community programs (family days) and services. With the experience and knowledge gained, the Foundation started working with Roma living in deep poverty and segregation in other settlements as well. Between 2006 and 2011, the housing and integration programs of Szomolya, Sály and Sirok settlements were professionally managed by the organization. In 2013, the “Northern Hungary Settlement Network” was set up, which currently includes 16 non-governmental organizations from 13 settlements, with the aim of helping the Roma to catch up, especially children and young people.

Introduction of the project: Their program aims to intervene in the lives of the children and their families living in the Eger Béke Settlement, with the aim of compensating for the disadvantages brought from home by developing the children's skills and expanding their knowledge. Their long-term goal is for the children growing up in the Béke Settlement to obtain a marketable profession, a high school diploma, a diploma, a profitable job and to live their lives in an integrated living environment. This would interrupt the process of reproducing poverty and end the Béke Settlement as a segregation. The specific goal of the project is to develop the skills and abilities of the children aged 0-6 living in the Béke Settlement, to expand their knowledge and awareness in the world, thus to put their basic literacy and math skills on a stable footing. Due to poor living conditions, lack of playground and traditional parenting habits, children’s development under the age of three does not reach adequate levels of growth, and as this interacts with cognitive development, the latter is also inadequate. Adequate freedom of movement for development is therefore needed for young children. These opportunities are offered to them and their parents through developmental sessions. During the sessions, children are divided into two groups, within which progress takes place using indirect methods, initiative and guidance. Classes are thematically designed to increase children’s awareness and school readiness. They want to deal with the children intensively, 4 days a week. As a result of the project, at school they will perform much better if they want to be monitored for years with learning support sessions. Other planned activities: Saturday playhouse, one parent’s club per month, three-day summer camp.

2. RECD_2021_02 Tarnagyöngye Association – Tiny Mini

Introduction of the organization: The Tarnagyöngye Association was founded in May 2013 in order to promote the interests of the Roma of Ószajla. Their aim is also to promote the improvement of the social and employment situation of the people living here, and to achieve

results for the development and improvement of the settlement. A lot of energy has been put into community organization lately. They can also count on their members and volunteers to organize programs and think together. Their members include the poor and non-poor, Roma and non-Roma, but most of them are Roma living in the Ó-Szajla settlement. The association holds regular meetings, participates in and organizes civil workshops in the settlement. Their decisions are made at their public membership meetings, and then the various activities and tasks are also discussed. Their establishment was encouraged by the “Seven Villages - One Network” anti-poverty program, which affects several nearby settlements, and they are currently receiving professional support from the Settlement Network in Northern Hungary. The association cooperates with the local government of the settlement and the Roma ethnic self-government, and they are members of the Heves33 Rural Development LEADER Action Group.

Introduction of the project: There are no public institutions in Ó-Szajla, so the children go to kindergartens and schools in other settlements. The experience of recent years shows that children have difficulty completing primary school, with most of them not completing their secondary education due to school failures. The long-term goal is to establish the skills that will ensure success in school, for the children of Szajla to obtain a profession, a high school diploma, a degree and to live in better living conditions, to reduce the number of people living in deep poverty in the village, especially in Ó-Szajla with this, ending the process of reproducing poverty. The specific aim of the project is to help women in maternity leave in Ó-Szajla in raising children, developing skills and methodological knowledge, and to provide progress for 0-8 year olds that will help them reach school maturity. Therefore, the emphasis is on the development of the 0-8 age group. Children take part in thematic sessions twice a week in age groupings, with one time focusing on movement and the other focusing on learning. Led by a specialist, they also organize classes once a week within the framework of the „Manó Club”, with methods of acquiring knowledge and skills, and with playful learning. They want to expand the parental competence of the parents of the affected children with knowledge transfer and skills development, so they acquire knowledge about the age characteristics and needs of the children, as well as expand their practical and household knowledge and develop their creativity. During the program, family days are held once a month for the whole village, so that the activities and results of the project become as widely known as possible.

3. RECD_2021_03 Real Pearl Foundation – The whole picture

Introduction of the organization: The foundation began its work as an art school in 1999, with a focus on nurturing talent, especially among Roma, disadvantaged children. Recognizing that it is not only necessary to help children in the classroom, but also to reach out to them and their parents in order to achieve change, their range of activities has expanded. Today, in addition to education, they also do fieldwork that creates opportunities. Their complex program rests on three pillars: education, family care, and community development, and an element that generates and mediates collaboration between institutions. Education includes the art school, „Toldi Tanoda”, their scholarship program, school supplies grants, the „Baba-mama” club, and adult education. The second pillar includes crisis management (eg. food donation, pediatric drug program), job creation, community development programs and self-sufficiency development (eg. biobriquette program, Szuno project). In addition, the Social Roundtable is considered important, where problems and cases are discussed with the involvement of the Roma community. The main site of this model development is in Told, a dead-end village of about 300 people, but its various elements are already used in 16 settlements. The head of the

foundation is Nóra L. Ritók. Their staff includes teachers, social workers, psychologists, and accountants.

Introduction of the project: The program is implemented in the settlement of Told, in Hajdú-Bihar county, which is a dead-end village close to the Romanian border, with almost 300 people, mostly of Roma origin. Their aim is to be able to focus more specifically on areas that help children in development to integrate successfully into school and then increase their chances of further education and employment, thereby supporting greater social acceptance and integration. With the support of parents, they would like to be more open and aware of the issues of life management and parenting, and to be able to use the knowledge and experience gained in the program in everyday life. The „Baba-mama” club is an early childhood development session for children aged 0-3, in which parents also participate. At the „KindergartenClub” session, their goal is to get children involved in a positive direction during the sessions. In addition, they want to achieve a change in children’s vocabulary as well as their fine and large movements. The pre-school is aimed at the development of children aged 3-7. By maintaining these activities, as well as parenting clubs, they reach the majority of families with children living in Told, involving 70% of children aged 0-8 in the developments. They are confident that a child aged 0-8 living in a segregate can have a different life than their parents if they receive adequate support. They try to perfect this support year after year to make their impact long-term and lasting.

4. RECD_2021_05 Roma Self-helper Association of Cserehát – Keeping pace

Introduction of the organization: In 2007, they decided to carry out their community activities within the framework of a legally registered organization called the Cserehát Roma Self-Help Public Benefit Association (Cseröke). Cseröke constantly organizes programs for people living in Tomor. The local community house hosts film screenings, sports, leisure (chess, ping-pong) and other community-building programs. Discussions are organized involving young and old alike, as well as excursions in the surrounding forests for children. They are in constant contact with the organizations operating in the surrounding settlements, they are provided with tender information, thus helping the work of the non-governmental organizations there. They helped establishing 12 associations in the county. Their long-term goals include the creation of a "Roma Resource Center" in Cserehát, which could act as a regional management office, bringing resources, job opportunities and trainings to the region. The members of the organization also played an important role in the establishment of the Cserehát Roma Independent News Agency.

Introduction of the project: Their region is also among the most disadvantaged in terms of labor market, infrastructure and education. Objective disadvantages are exacerbated by the social isolation of locals and the lack of formal (ecclesiastical, cultural, etc.) and informal (e.g. leisure groups and larger groups of friends) social organizations. Their main long-term goal in the project is to alleviate the transmission of these disadvantages through generations, to develop the skills of the participating children, and to expand their social network so that they can prepare for school. Another long-term goal is to develop the competencies of low-income parents living in Tomor, Lak, Szakácsi, Hegymeg and Homrogd, thus making them more prepared for raising children. The project involves 12 cumulatively disadvantaged young children under the age of 6 living in Tomor, Lak and Hegymeg, together with their mothers, with the aim of increasing the measurable competencies of young children and mothers. They would like to carry out the filtration and development of the children involved in the program at an early age in the sessions held on a weekly basis, during which they would like to

implement the development of fine motor skills, attention, cognitive and social skills and the development of movement. The mothers also want to increase their child-rearing and developmental competencies on these occasions, so they will be able to consciously prepare their young children for school entry after the program as well. They would also like to see a stronger co-operation within the community at the local level, both between mothers and fathers, by organizing and holding more common holidays. Furthermore, they would like parents (as well as CSERÖKE activists) to slowly become organizers / initiators of programs and events themselves within and outside the project.

5. RECD_2021_06 Village Developers Association of Bükkszentmárton – Children’s Island 3.

Introduction of the organization: The organization was established in January 2013 with the aim of developing villages, primarily improving local human resources, strengthening the cohesion of the village and relations between Roma and non-Roma, and reducing Roma unemployment. They also aim to develop cooperation between the surrounding villages. To this end, civil roundtables were held almost monthly in the past, where they discussed the problems of their village and planned their future together with the mayor and the Roma self-government. Many programs have been organized during their existence so far. They organize monthly leisure-community programs, children's day, Santa's celebration, flea market, quizzes, May Day. They have already managed to continue the development of the children within the framework of two winner tenders (Children's Island 1-2.) to create a suitable room for the sessions in a municipal building. An important resource of the association is that the parents concerned, the association, the local government and the Roma self-government also support our efforts.

Introduction of the project: Bükkszentmárton is socio-economically disadvantaged and has significant unemployment. There are no public institutions in the village, so the children go to kindergartens and schools in other settlements. There is no personal relationship between parents and teachers, therefore, and due to the low level of education of the parents, the development of the children is lagging behind that of their peers. The aim of the project is to give children a chance to catch up with developmental activities, thereby compensating for the lack of cultural capital of their parents. The project deals with children aged 0-8 both individually and in groups. In the regular sessions for young children aged 0-3 (5-6 people), their social skills develop, their level of movement, speech and intellectual abilities reach a level appropriate to their age characteristics, they use toys and devices that develop large and small movements safely. The aim of the sessions for children aged 4-5 (9-10) is to meet the requirements of school maturity and to have the knowledge and skills to perform well in school. The aim of the developments organized for 6-8 year olds (9-10 people) is to enable them to progress in their studies according to their age and to feel successful based on their results. In addition, parents also provide participation for young adults in order to expand their skills in raising children, to acquire and strengthen the knowledge and skills that are necessary for the conscious development of children.

6. RECD_2021_07 Hungarian-Roma Association in Szomolya – „I am rocking you, my darling!”

Introduction of the organization: The association was established in 2005 on the basis of a local Roma initiative with the aim of improving the quality of life and social mobility

opportunities of the Roma community in Szomolya, representing their interests and mediating between them and the decision-makers of the settlement, non-Roma society. The majority of their membership is local Roma, who consider it important to improve their own situation and that of their community. In 2008, they managed to buy a property where their office and community house still operate. They provide regular services to local families. Their core activity is assistance in social administration, advocacy. They provide computer and internet access in their community house and regularly organize leisure, community programs. Between 2007 and 2009, a housing and integration program was implemented in two rounds, which supported the relocation of families living in cave dwellings (cellar houses) to an integrated environment. After the closing of the “settlement program”, a garbage collection and cleaning campaign was organized in the empty cellar houses, for which they managed to mobilize the entire Roma community and some non-Roma as well as volunteers. In 2009-2010, Roma Service Offices were operated at the regional level with the support of OFA. It was then that they first came into contact with the village of Sály, where a settlement liquidation program was implemented in 2010-2011 as the consortium leader. In 2009, an empty cellar house was renovated with the support from the Norwegian NGO Fund in order to save and populate the village and the surrounding area. With the help of the Swiss NGO and Scholarship Fund, a 24-month scholarship program was launched to keep marginalized Roma children in school.

Introduction of the project: Szomolya is located in the southern part of Borsod-Abaúj-Zemplén county, part of the Mezőkövesd district, but Eger plays a significant role in its life, of which it is 20 km away. The population of the village is around 1,600 (CSO 2016), and the proportion of Roma reaches 25-30 percent, which is a significant Roma community. The majority of Roma are characterized by low educational attainment, unemployment, housing and income poverty. Most young people drop out of high school and have children at a very young age. Their specific goal is to provide young parents (aged 17-28) with a program and activities that expand their general and parenting knowledge, develop their skills, abilities and parental competencies, and raise their caring and care for their children more consciously. Therefore, their target group is Roma women aged 17-28 living in the village, approx. 17-18 people. They aim to achieve their goals through the following activities: Parent Club once a month, rocking once a week for children under three, once a week after the fair for children aged 3-6, and Family Day once a month: open programs for children and their parents.

7. RECD_2021_08 Association of Gypsy Minority Representatives and Advocates of Nógrád County – Iny-Tiny People

Introduction of the organization: The organization was founded in 1996 and operates as a non-profit organization in Nógrád county, headquartered in Bátorfyerenye. The main goal of their organization is to help out-of-school educational and leisure opportunities for socially disadvantaged children and young people. They have been running a school-type program in Bátorfyerenye for 18 years, and since 2011 in Kisterenye. In Mátraverebély, Lucfalva, the operation of a teaching network was started. The development also provided an opportunity to start a unified approach - building on each other - taking into account the individual development needs of children in all four locations, thus laying the foundations for the development of children's social competence areas. The families of children face many problems, the biggest and deepest disadvantage of which is the lack of a presence in the open labor market and all the backlogs that result from it. In this situation, for children, the Tanoda is not only a place to study and spend their free time, but also a place to warm up and eat. Not only children but also parents are happy to take part in these types of games, and they always

bring smaller children with them. The joint competitions organized at the family days, the cultural events, help the parents to get rid of their worries for a few hours and to feel free with their children. Cooperation agreements have been concluded with secondary schools for the performance of voluntary assistance activities in the public interest, which include 50 hours of voluntary activities for young people. Five years ago, for 16 families, the settlement began a complex rehabilitation program for those living in settlement-like living environments. Their aim is to develop voluntary work activities, not only in the four municipalities, but also in the whole area of the district. A social distribution point has been set up, distributed to 120 people a day, and lunch is delivered as part of a social meal.

Introduction of the project: Their program aims to support the physical, mental and social development of young children from disadvantaged families to be included, thus ensuring that they will have an equal chance to start their schooling with their peers in better social conditions. The program is not only and exclusively focused on the children, an important element is the cooperation with the parents, the creation of a supportive community in which the child can develop according to his or her age. From an early age, it is important to give children from more disadvantaged backgrounds the same chance of starting and participating in life as those born in better conditions. Their goal is to track the early years of a young child, to provide the necessary framework for the child's healthy development. Reducing the transmissible factors of poverty, so that the programs implemented in order to break the intergenerational transmission of poverty change the culture of childbearing and childbirth in the long run, both for families, parents and professionals, and for this purpose as civilians, provide appropriate support, methodology and other social assistance. Their programs include the Kindergarten Fairy Tales, which are held in local kindergartens in Mátraverebély and Lucfalva with the participation of 15-20 people. These activities have a complex effect on children, their vocabulary expands, the tale relieves tension, teaches them to concentrate, and later helps them to learn to read. The Baby-Mama Club sessions and the Rockers also cover the former two settlements, with a total of 10 small children and 10 parents on a weekly basis. With the help of a personalized development plan in these sessions, it becomes possible to develop the competencies of both the child and the mothers, to prepare the children for school.

8. RECD_2021_09 XXI. National Association of Roma Women of the Century --Petal Playhouse - We learn by play! 2.0

Introduction of the organization: The XXI. National Association of Roma Women of the Century was founded in 2016. The establishment of the organization is due to the initiative of ten active Roma and non-Roma women. Their association is a non-profit social organization that helps to represent the rights and social interests of Roma and non-Roma women, promotes their participation in public life and improves the quality of life of their families. The aim of the organization is to promote volunteering, to catch up with primary school children, to help high school students to stay in school and to provide information through preventive education and training (self-knowledge, personality development, etc.). From the very beginning, they have been doing significant field work, visiting and assisting mainly Roma families living in the lagging settlement. Here they discuss different topics and give information on certain issues. Today, they have more members and men have been involved in making the organization as effective as possible. They regularly hold community programs, development trainings, and events that nurture Roma traditions. Most of their volunteers are Roma students and retired women. The organization operates in the area of Nyíregyháza, including the most backward and segregated settlements and housing estates in the city. In 2018, they won the award for the most active organization in Nyíregyháza.

Introduction of the project: In Nyíregyháza, and within it in the Jóságos housing estate, there is a growing demand and need to develop the abilities and competencies of children of Roma origin, as many children have moved to the housing estate, partly as a result of the settlement liquidation project in the city. Their aim is to provide early skills development sessions for 15-20 people with disabilities and 0-6 year olds of Roma origin living in the Tower House once a year, once or twice a week (broken down by age group), where speech development can be ensured simultaneously within the framework of playful development sessions movement development, socialization and play activities. Through these sessions, parents learn the activities they then practice at home with their children. Thus, the parents of the children will be involved in the program, who will be assisted by professionals in gaining access to the appropriate information regarding child development, so that the programs will help them to become responsible and conscious parents. The aim is to compensate for the disadvantages of the children so that the skills / ability deficiencies can be identified in time, so that they can receive targeted development with the involvement of a specialist if needed. Another element of the 5-6 year old development profession is the gardening program. The association has the opportunity to use an orchard 4 km from Nyíregyháza, so the children of the city living in the concrete jungle have the opportunity to learn the tricks of planting and caring. They go out once a month from spring to autumn, each child (4-6 years old) gets a small part of the crop, which is provided with a photo and puts the seeds in it, which he takes care of and takes the harvested home home or uses to the boiler club. With this, they learn to take care, be patient, use garden tools. „Kukta Club „, is planned to be held a total of 5 times. Not only cooking together bring adults closer, but children also enjoy it, as they have the opportunity to experience and perceive food with different textures, as well as try out kitchen utensils. The Mother Clubs, organized once a month, aim to move mothers out of their everyday monotony. On these occasions, they share their parental problems, difficulties, exchange information, and help a specialist with solutions as needed. By organizing community programs, events and excursions, they increase the strength of the community, bring Roma and non-Roma people closer together and bring them to common experiences. A professional forum and a round table discussion are planned 3 times.

9. RECD_2021_10 Grantee: Give me your hand assisting in the creation of equal opportunities in education and the labor market nonprofit Association– Let’s Continue! Play is for everyone

Introduction of the organization: The organization has been present in the segregated Huszár housing estate in Nyíregyháza, the site of the project, for more than seven years. The basic principle of their association is to provide their target groups with help and programs that are based on real needs and are in line with the needs. Cooperation and common thinking are important and decisive in the operation of their association, along which they have developed the professional content of their current program, which responds to the problems of the target group. For a long time, their organization has been involved in the processes promoting domestic and international social integration, especially in the activities promoting Roma integration.

Introduction of the project: The program and related services are designed to meet the real and current needs of young children and their parents living in the settlement, there by helping them to find an effective way out of poverty. Through support for families, the program aims to eliminate inequalities and barriers for a variety of social and individual reasons, and to address problems, conflicts, and crises in family life. The program contributes to solving the

everyday problems of families by transferring socially relevant knowledge. The aim of strengthening families is to reduce their social disadvantages and, in the long run, to break the cycle of deprivation. A further aim of the program is to reduce the number of children aged 0-8 who live in a household where no one has a job. The program gives participating children and their families a chance to receive help with their physical, intellectual, emotional and social development at the earliest stage of their lives. Early detection of problems, ongoing support from professionals involved in the program, and direct engagement with children and parents contribute to the successful start of school for children participating in the program. The specific goals of the project are to prepare and assist young disadvantaged Roma parents in the home development of the 0-8 age group; establishing and strengthening the working relationship between the professionals working with local early childhood development and the families living in the Huszár settlement; creating a volunteer support network of parents who have been working on the project for a long time and are happy to help families and young parents living in the target area.

The long-term and specific goals described above are to be achieved through the following sessions at the Huszár site: holding a “Play Time” development session twice a week, occasionally attended by 15-20 young children and parents. Community activities, retention of parent clubs, operation of support groups, and a monthly Knowledge Day all aim to develop participants’ life skills, key competencies, and identities, to participate in a coordinated, common-minded support process, and to together, find a solution to the problems that arise.

10. RECD_2021_11 Laskó-spring Association – We play together, we learn together 3.

Introduction of the organization: The Laskó Spring Association of Hevesaranyos, founded in 2013, aims to create a strong local community that can influence and shape the development of the settlement. They want to find a way out primarily for the unemployed who are stuck in the system of public works by taking advantage of the potential of the settlement. Their goal is to organize programs and services for the local community - a significant part of whom are poor and / or Roma people. They want to become an organization that can have a say in the decisions and practices that affect the people of Hevesaranyos, including the poor and the Roma. In order to realize their ideas, they receive help from a part of the local intelligence, on the other hand, from the experts of the SZETA Eger Foundation, and they also receive support from the local hunting company. They gained project experience as a target group, the implementer of which was the SZETA Eger Foundation. In this way, they learned to organize community programs and civil roundtables, and they also mastered the project approach, the need to prepare, and the way to resolve conflicts. From 1 March 2015 to 30 April 2016, an independent project was carried out with the support of the Norwegian NGO Fund, aimed at developing local democracy and community life. Subsequently, within the framework of another project, based on the traditions of Hevesaranyos, a gypsy dance group was formed from young people who have already had several performances. They are very proud of this group, and this group makes a major contribution for strengthening the cohesion of the local Roma community.

Introduction of the project: Hevesaranyos is located in the northern, ghettoising part of Heves county. 35-40% of the village's population is of Roma origin. Adults and parents have a low level of education and live in income poverty, therefore they cannot provide the optimal conditions for the development of their children. For this reason, the overall goal of the project is to help parents and their children grow, develop their skills and expand their knowledge. They want to replace the public services that help children in the village, to help them and their parents succeed in school, to acquire marketable knowledge, so that they can get out of the

poverty trap, the reproduction of poverty, thereby improving their life chances. These goals are to be achieved through the following activities: the development of children aged 0-8 in early childhood, which aims at motor and cognitive development, and the abilities and skills that underpin the acquisition of knowledge at school. They develop local human resources, transfer knowledge, skills and knowledge to local young people and involve them as volunteers in the implementation of services (eg in the preparation and running of children's club sessions and family days). They organize common togetherness for the whole village community, which on the one hand allows for parent-child play together and on the other hand has a positive impact on the development of the community living here.