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Rovinj, the 29th July 2021

Dear friends, donors and sponsors!

Below is a brief report on the work of OAZA for the first semester of 2021.

In this period OAZA helped 37 children in 15 foster families, by providing financial assistance every third month (700 kn per child), by organizing the purchase of food, clothing and footwear. In this semester we have raised enough funds to be able to cover the cost of vehicle insurance for foster families, which is a great help to them. We advised foster families according to their needs when they had problems with foster children, their parents or the competent social welfare center.

This year, with its program, OAZA competed for funds to organize a national meeting of foster families in the camp "Flores" in Rovinj, for 12 foster families, with a total of 54 people. The tender was successful and funds were received from HEP in the amount of HRK 12,000, from the city of Rovinj HRK 2,500, from the Evangelical Pentecostal Church in the Republic of Croatia HRK 3,000, and from Discount Valalta we received a food donation in the amount of HRK 5,000. These funds cover the costs of 4 days of camping and socializing, and 50% of the travel costs of foster families to Rovinj. At the meeting, the foster parents shared their experiences and talked about their nice but also sad moments with the foster children. The children, many of whom saw the sea for the first time, enjoyed swimming in the sea and the pool, walking around beautiful town of Rovinj, were very excited about the boat ride and were looking forward to the clown entertainment program.





As shown in a subsequent report on children, most children are well adjusted in families, the health status of most is stable, and symptoms of illness or disorder have disappeared or decreased. All the children have recovered well, are going to regular check-ups and treatments, and are making excellent progress. School children progress better and master the material in primary and secondary schools, and there is also a Roma law student. Some young people are still in families, even though their schooling has been completed and they have stopped being accommodated through the social welfare center. Since they have nowhere to go, and especially now in the time of COVID, the family continues to care for them and help them find work and become independent. This semester was somewhat easier for foster parents, as measures for younger children were abolished due to COVID, and older children were already accustomed to online classes.

OAZA continues its work in helping foster parents and foster children, and others in need. Through various churches it also seeks to encourage the development of foster care, and helping children in need. This year, OAZA plans to encourage a larger number of churches to celebrate Orphan Sunday, on November 5, 2021. (that Sunday is celebrated all over the world).

All your donations are a great help and encouragement to our work, and if you want to continue helping, you can send your help to the account: OAZA, Children's Aid Center: HR 8023400091118004590, SWIFT CODE / BIC: PBZGHR2X.

On behalf of all our children and foster parents, I thank all those who have followed and supported this work so far. We wish you an abundance of God's blessings and all the best this year, and we cordially greet you.

**1 Below, after the financial report, follows a report on the children in our foster families**

INCOME 01.- 06.2021.	HRK	OUTCOME 01.-06.2021.	HRK
		Help for children	55.900,00
Donations from Croatia	46.720,00	Office charges	1.656,43
Donations from abroad	36.595,78	Bank charges	803,20
Interest	0,53	Phone charges	460,00
Other	1.508,90	Mailing charges	1.036,30
Total income 2020	84.825,21	Fuel costs	5.538,69
		Vehicle's service + insurance	29.711,69
		Equipment	20.360,30
		Program costs	16.637,05

**OAZA donations in kuna 01 - 06.2021.**

Aktiva plus d.o.o. Đakovo	100.00	Grad Rovinj, projekat OAZE	2,500.00
Anonimni donator Pula E.J.	1,400.00	HEP d.d. projekat OAZE	12,000.00
Antal Balog, Osijek	100.00	Kornelija Lekić, Novska	300.00
Blanka Pleš, Novska	5,000.00	LVANS Ana Lukačinec, Koprivnica	15,000.00
Buljan Ivan	300.00	Nomis d.o.o. Stupnik	1,000.00
Dragan Lukov, Pula	120.00	Oleochem d.o.o. Zagreb	300.00
Dražen Vukotić, Pula	300.00	Robert Velenik, Veleniki	300.00
Dubinović Džemal, Pula	100.00	Rusmir Agić, Pula	100.00
Duos usluge d.o.o. Zagreb	1,000.00	Snježana Mekota, Poreč	500.00
EPC Stijena Spasenja Zagreb	2,500.00	Trgograd d.o.o., Varaždin	400.00
EPC u RH, Zagreb	3,000.00	VAMA J.d.o.o. Mirkovci	100.00
Eramba Limited, London	15,000.00		

**Donations from abroad in Euro 01-06.2021.**

Christliches Centrum Bethesda, Offenbach	300,00 €	CSH Christliches Sozialwerk Heilbronn E.V.	€
Associazione Cristiana Evangelica KERJG MA	1.020,00 €	Eine-Welt-Kreis e.V.	1.000,00
		Flach Werner	300,00
		Kortkamp Lars+Tea	500,00

<b>Donations in services and material 01.-06.2021.</b>	
05 Vizija.net, Pula	Kuglični ležaj d.o.o. Split
Association Partir offrir, Francuska	LPRON Obrt za promidžbu i usluge Koprivnica
Autoservis Turek, Zagreb	Marija Đaković Sekulić
C&A Poreč,	Marija Pavičić, Svijet Dekora, Draganići
Code Zero d.o.o. Zagreb	Marija Verdnik, Rovinj
DEBELJUH FRIGO, Bale	Marun Prijevoz, Slavonski Brod
Fabiola Beltran del Rio Puente, Rovinj	Obitelj Gaffal, Njemačka
Kanal Servis d.o.o. Bestovje	Tekspro d.o.o. Zlatar
Kristijan i Angelika Poropat, Starići	Ugostiteljski obrt VRSAR



## Report from our foster families

**1. Foster D. writes:** There are 3 children from the same family in our family, and also one little boy. The oldest brother S. is a healthy 13-year-old boy. At home he is good, obedient and gets along well with all the household. He finished the 6th grade of elementary school according to the customized program. In the school he has a good behavior but the grades are pretty bad, especially in geography and math. His sister A. is 11 years old, and is a very quiet, calm and withdrawn little girl. She is obedient in the family and does all the tasks on time. She finished the 5th grade of elementary school with very good results. Their younger brother S. is 9 years old and at home he is very playful and obedient. He finished the 2nd grade of elementary school with great success. He is hyperactive at school, although he does all the tasks on time. All three children hear from their mother twice a month, she is currently in prison.

The youngest boy B. is 5 years old, and he is a very sick child, with many diagnoses. He had 3 heart surgeries and is now ordered for 4th. He is good and very kind, very attached to our family, and we started the adoption process, because it would be fatal for him to be adopted by someone else, it would be such a shock for him that he probably would not survive. He hears his parents 1-2 times a year.

**2. Foster mother K. writes:** I have a five-year-old girl I. and a twenty-year-old girl R. I. came from an orphanage at the age of 2.5, severely abused by her parents with severe physical and psychological trauma, and as a result she has a developmental delay. With a lot of effort and work, she progresses slowly but surely. She walked at the age of 3 and slowly started talking even though they said at home that she would never walk or talk. I. is progressing slowly but well, he still has problems with his left leg, and he speaks quite hard and does not want to talk, but he understands everything and progresses slowly in speech. She was recently adopted to the delight of the whole family, because if she had remained adopted there would have been the possibility of someone else adopting her, which would have been a terrible trauma for her. He behaves great in the family.

The young Roma girl R. fit into the family as her own, participates in all activities and calls me mom. When she arrived from a Roma settlement, she was finishing 8th grade and did not have enough prior knowledge, but she was very intelligent and with a strong desire to attend high school. With a lot of effort and work, she graduated from high school in economics with very good results, and passed the state graduation exam. She managed to enroll in law school, and is now a second-year law student, which is a real miracle for a young Roma woman, especially since she is not yet married. She learns a lot and tries very hard to achieve the best results. She is great in the family, modest and hardworking, and gets along great with little I. and sees her parents twice a month.

**3. Foster mother A. writes:** There are two sisters in the family, and one new boy. Older sister A. is 12 year, and finished 6th grade of elementary school with very good results. He has been in a foster family for 6 years. She is in most cases very kind and open, but at home she shows resistance to any obligation or responsibility whether it is school, hygiene, household chores or whatever. He argues a lot and almost never obeys right away, and often acts as if he doesn't hear our instructions. Sometimes she has problems in relationships because she expects everything to be as she wants and finds it difficult to agree to agreements, but we see great progress and we are aware of what her life would look like if it were not settled with us. She is the child we have the most challenges with. He has no contact with his mother because his mother never calls, nor does she ever ask about her mother and father, nor does she need to have a relationship with them, she only mentions her sister Sara from Zagreb.

Her sister A., 8 years old, has been with us since she was 6 months old and she completely behaves as if she is a biological daughter, so she communicates with her family. Lately, he has been occasionally questioning about his biological family, but there is no emotional connection but only curiosity. A. had problems adjusting to school, and the situation with online teaching did not contribute to that in any way. After the examination, the specialists estimated that an individualized program should be obtained and concluded that she was a "miracle" of a child, very warm, brought up and that since she went through it was a real miracle that there were no major consequences. She finished the 2nd grade of primary school according to an individualized program with very good results. He has no contact with his mother because his mother never calls.

Boy F. is a seven-year-old child who arrived to us a week ago. He has adapted and fitted in perfectly, almost as if he has always been with us. His biggest challenge is adjusting to sharing with other children because he grew up alone with his

much older sister who took care of him from birth because his mother had a stroke right after giving birth. Until recently, the sister lived in an extramarital union that broke up and suddenly fell ill, and F. ended up in an orphanage, fortunately only for a few days. The boy was well cared for and brought up, as can be seen by his behavior. She hears from her sister every day and they both hope to be together soon. And we hope so because they only have each other, but there is a possibility that it doesn't happen so quickly, which could be a big disappointment for both of us, and for us it's an opportunity to give him all the care and love he needs.

**4. Foster M. writes:** We host 8 children and young people in our family. I. and D. are Roma sisters (3 and 5) years old who were placed in our family at the beginning of the year. They arrived very scared, thin and spoke only Romani. Luckily, we had older siblings, so communication was possible. Now, after 6 months, they already speak Croatian well. They love to go to kindergarten, and once a month they have contact with their parents, whom, although they are looking forward to, they do not want to go home to the village, but meetings are held at the Center for Social Welfare. Their 15-year-old brother M. finished the eighth grade of elementary school with good grades. She plans to enroll in high school education as a traffic technician. M. is a very intelligent guy, but quite uninterested in learning or any extracurricular activity. He has only had contact with his parents once this year, and although the younger sisters have a meeting with their parents every month he does not want to go to those meetings. Their sister M. will soon be eighteen years old. She finished the second grade of high school for beautician with very good success. She is very active in all fields, sports - she trains karate and boxing, art - she acts in the theater, singing - she finished the first year of music school for solo singing. At the moment, her greatest joy is that with her school, through the Erasmus project, she will do the practice of a beautician and go to Tenerife. She has no contact with her parents, this year she saw them very briefly, only once and at their insistence. Their brother M. is 19 years old. He graduated from nursing high school and graduated with honors. Subsequently, he successfully completed his training as a waiter and sports educator at the People's University. He is currently being educated at the Humana Nova Social Cooperative. He applied to the Police Academy and is waiting for the results, but he is afraid that he will not be accepted because his entire education was according to a customized program.

If he will not be accepted, he wants to continue his other education. His greatest love is running and he continues to win medals and cups, and he is currently among the best long-distance runners in Croatia. Sometimes, while training with a bicycle, he also visited his parents in the village, but most often he would come across them when they were drunk, so he did not want to go there anymore.

S. is a 13 year old boy who has been in our family for two years. He finished the sixth grade of primary school with good results according to the customized program. We are proud of him for that success, because when he started fifth grade he didn't know how to read at all. He is very kind and affectionate, but we still struggle hard with his propensity to lie and steal. We notice small shifts and he tries, but he can't seem to resist when he has a chance to steal something. He rarely contacts his father, once every two months, and only when we call. She is more likely to have contact with a sister who is placed in another foster family.

E. is a 12-year-old girl who finished the fourth grade of elementary school according to a customized program with good results. She was placed in our family as an 18 month old baby with a lot of health problems, several heart and bowel surgeries. At this age it is quite difficult to deal with all the visible scars on the body from these surgeries. Although we managed to adopt her, she occasionally visits her biological family, and her biological sister comes to us regularly during the school holidays.

N. is a young man of 29 years, but due to his diagnosis of mental retardation he is at the level of a child of six to seven years. He likes to play computer games and is very attentive to younger children. He goes regularly to the Center for Education, where he spends time with his group socializing and playing, and he likes going to swimming pools the most. He's a very happy guy and he often shows it by hugging all the housemates.

**5. Foster J. writes** I. is an 11-year-old girl who finished 4th grade of elementary school with very good success. The progress in the school is very big, so she is very satisfied with the success she has achieved. He has some congenital physical illnesses and currently has no therapy. He goes to check-ups regularly and so far everything is fine. At school she is calm, withdrawn and shy while teaching, and when there is no teacher she is very abusive and quarrelsome. Her friends have a lot of empathy, but she always thinks someone is against her so she gets offended. After such situations with friends at home, she intentionally causes vomiting, and that is her reaction to any stressful situation.

He spends little time at home because he is constantly seen by doctors, examinations, psychologists. And when she is at home we usually study with her and write homework. Now that school is over we hope there will be good changes as well. She has no contact with her biological family at the moment and it is very difficult for her.

**6. Foster A. writes:** A. a 5-year-old boy and his 1-year-old sister S. are children of my ex-adopted girlfriend M. She is homeless and unemployed, and moves from one man to another, so when they get bored they kick her out with children on the street. As an unemployed person, he has maternity benefits until July, and no other income. With the help of financial resources that I receive for these children from the association Oaza, I can enable children to have the necessary food and things for life, but also clothes, toys, scooters and more. I try to persuade the mother to give the children to our family for foster care, so that she can get a job and arrange her life, because the children are often in our family and know us well, they gladly come and they are good there. However, she is still not willing to change her lifestyle, so I have talked to social workers on several occasions that these children should be placed in a foster family. No matter what conditions they live in, children are advanced.

**7. Foster A. writes:** A few years ago we moved from an apartment in the city to a house in a small village. After moving we had a lack of a foster room. The Oasis Association helped us adapt and adjust the house to be able to accommodate a child in need. After the staff of the Center for Social Welfare inspected the house, we were approved to engage in foster care. From the end of January, we are waiting for the Center for Social Welfare from the children's home to place a girl D. (14 months) in our country. My husband and I go to visit the orphanage every week and she has become very used to us. D. has developmental difficulties due to parental neglect. Two days ago they called me from the Center that all the documents were finally resolved and these days we have an agreement to come to the orphanage where we will take the girl.

**8. Foster A. writes:** L. is a 14-year-old girl and was adopted by a 5-year-old Roma family. She came in a very neglected physical condition, malnourished and ill. She gradually recovered in the family with a lot of effort and visits to various specialists. She finished 7th grade of elementary school with very good results, and chemistry is her favorite subject. She is very intelligent, curious, fun, she trains tennis which she loves very much. The current health condition is kept under control with regular visits to a specialist. L. calls me mom, and our little daughter (1 year old) accepted me very nicely, and she is still in the process of accepting my husband (I got married 2 years ago). He has not had any contact with his parents for 3 years.

**9. Foster D. writes:** N. is a 16-year-old girl. who is obedient and hardworking at home, and with very good success finishes the first grade of high school - hairdressing. She is very happy with this choice, although at first it was a great stress for her - school change and enrollment, and then a new society at school, young people who swear a lot and are rude. As a result, her diopter rose and her eyesight deteriorated a little from the shock, now it has somehow calmed down and started to get better. She has no problems with grades and absences, regularly solves all tasks on time and learns diligently. She loves practical classes, washing her hair, blow-drying and everyone praises her in practice. As for her parents she doesn't mention them and doesn't want to talk about them and they never call or ask for her.

**10. Foster I. writes:** S. is a 16.5-year-old girl who came to me 9 years ago from a family with seven children in which the father has been in prison all his life, and the mother is illiterate and addicted to alcohol. She lived in very difficult conditions, without water and toilet in one room of several square meters. She was less than 7 years old when she came to me and she was supposed to go to elementary school. She did not know the Croatian language at all and generally had very poorly developed communication skills. Through these years, S. has mastered Croatian with a lot of effort, discipline and sacrifice, and now she is a beautiful, cheerful and positive girl. In addition to school, she loves to play the guitar, sing, make jewelry, enjoys entertaining others and daily prepares surprises and gifts for those around her. She is extremely considerate, gentle and compassionate. This year she finished the first grade of high school with very good results. She fit in very well with the class and is very happy with the choice of school. He has very rare contacts with the biological family. Here she found her place, her home where she knows she has a mom and family, that she is safe and that she belongs somewhere.

**11. Foster N. writes:** In our family there are 3 children from one family, and 2 more brothers from another. L.'s oldest brother is a 13.5 year old boy. At home, he often changes his mood, is good and suddenly nervous. When we ask him to do something, he refuses, quarrels and in the end does it anyway. He finished the 6th grade of elementary school with good results. He is bright but very lazy, and we must constantly encourage and encourage him. He behaves appropriately at school, but sometimes insults his peers. Physically very advanced, he is a good swimmer and trains water polo, and in the competition between schools he won 2nd place in the 600 m run, so in the fall he will go to the competition in Zagreb. His younger sister L. 11 is a very calm girl. . She wants to help at home, but it doesn't work for her, so we give her and invent some easy jobs. She finished the 5th grade of elementary school with good results, and attends classes according to a customized program. This has now become difficult, as he is unable to follow classes for all subjects, due to very poor memory. She is quiet, withdrawn and very sensitive to everything. It is easy to grieve and just as easy to cheer up. Physically very advanced, she trains swimming and football. Their youngest sister, J.9.5 years old, is very hard-working and stubborn at home, it is difficult to make her write homework every day, and we have to communicate with her teacher every day.

According to the adapted program, she finished the 3rd grade of elementary school with a good grade. She has problems with behavioral disorders, and at school and even in the association for helping children with disabilities, "Butterflies" find it difficult to cope with it. She is healthy and is progressing physically well, she trains swimming, football, folklore. Their mother is of Roma ethnicity, she lives nearby and communicates only with her eldest son and only through social networks, and she has the most bad influence on him. When he wants to go to her to see his siblings she does not allow it, and then he gets nervous and angry. The other children have no contact with her, and their father is unknown. D. and K. are brothers who came to us 9 years ago when they were taken away from their mother for neglect and neglect. The mother sometimes calls but does not participate in the upbringing of the children. Older K. is a healthy 10.5 year old boy who is very communicative. He loves all children very much and does not know how to be angry. He is a bit lazy, but since he has a teaching assistant he is much better. According to the adapted program and with a teaching assistant, he passed the 4th grade of primary school with very good results. He behaves well at school, has a lot of friends, likes to help. He trains swimming and football. His brother D. 9.5 g, is healthy, is good, obedient and the best peacemaker at home and at school, does not allow children to quarrel. He passed the 4th grade of primary school with very good success. He is the only one of all able to write homework and save books for school. He is very good at school and the teacher always shows him as an example. He trains swimming and football. Both brothers see their mother once or twice a year, and the father is unknown.

**12. Foster R. writes:** 2 years ago, our family received a girl S. (11 years old) who knew the bad side of life very well, never had regular meals or brushed her teeth, she was very neglected and abused. Her mother left her, and her father only worried that he had a lot of women, alcohol and drugs. S. really wanted to leave home, and her recovery began as soon as she arrived in our family. She ate regularly, took a shower, learned to brush her teeth, go to school, which gave her joy every day. There were harder days when it came to parenting, because she was taught that bad behavior is normal after all. With a little harder upbringing, we have no problem with her, she accepts guidance and progresses well. With a lot of effort she finished 5th grade with good success, because she is still learning how to have work habits and why she should go to school at all. Over the past year she once visited Dad at their house for 24 hours and it was a very traumatic experience for her. When she returned she was quiet, sad and angry. Even at school, teachers noticed that something difficult had happened that weekend.

Girl L. came to us at the age of eight. Due to abuse by her mother, she was adopted from the age of two. The father reported the abuse because he was afraid for the child, but he could not take care of her himself. He works in Germany and when he comes home he regularly takes L. home during the day and is grateful to have her and take care of her. She is emotionally very sensitive and tender, and she is emotionally very attached to our family. She also has some physical problems, scoliosis and a shorter leg, which she needs to learn to live with, especially now that she is older and more self-aware. L. has intellectual difficulties, and because of that she has a customized program at school, but her progress in these 2 years is very great, which is noticed by both the teacher and the speech therapist, and everyone who knows her. She finished the third grade with very good success.

D. is a 1.5 year old boy who is our third foster child and we got him from the hospital at 9 days old. We all fell in love with him right away and spoiled him a bit. He is, thank God, healthy and normal considering that his mother was addicted to alcohol and drugs throughout her pregnancy, without a regular diet. Since his parents are deprived of parental rights, he



has no contact with them. We are glad about that, because when the decision says that the parents are life-threatening for the child, deprivation of parental rights is the best for his future. Unfortunately, the day awaits us when we will have to give it to the adopters which will be very difficult for both him and our family!

**13. Foster J. writes:** At the end of last year, a boy A. (17) arrived in our family. He lived with his uncle until then, but due to frequent conflicts he was placed with us. He has been diagnosed with an adjustment and behavioral disorder, regularly goes to a psychiatrist for interviews and uses therapy. When he is attacked by depression or aggression, he always has to bang on something, so he breaks his things that his uncle brought him with his fist (two monitors, a keyboard and a few mobile phones), miraculously he doesn't break other people's things. When he catches it, he fights with himself, but he doesn't touch any of the housemates. I've noticed when he uses someone else's stuff, (for example a computer from another child), then he pays close attention to them. He is very good-natured at home, and when he notices that he is depressed or aggressive, he immediately looks for a sedative. A. finished the third grade of technical school with great success - majoring in electrical engineering. He talks to his mother on the phone and visits her. I. and D. are two brothers whose accommodation was completed through a social welfare center, but as they have been in the family since they were little, they have remained there because they are considered family members. In June, both were hired as seasonal workers. I. got a job as a cashier at Konzum, and temporarily moved in with his grandmother for transportation, but always returned to me when he was free. Until he gets his first salary, I still help him financially to get food. His brother D. got a job at a beach bar as a chef and I transport him to work every day because there is no public transport to get there.

**14. Foster mother Lj. he writes:** In our family is located I. (17), who has several diagnoses: psychomotor retardation, attachment disorder, separation disorder, and hyperactivity. Before retiring, I myself was an employee at a hospital for chronically ill children. There was a custom sometimes to take one of the children with them to experience the home atmosphere, because these children have been in the hospital all their lives. My husband and I started taking I. over the weekend, and we did that often. During those visits he became very attached to us and we to him, so we decided to take him completely to ourselves. He is a mentally ill child who has been in the institution since birth. His father is unknown, and his mother is not able to take care of herself. Before coming to us, I. vomited every meal he ate and ate that vomit again, but when he first came to us for the weekend it was gone. He also had chronic constipation, but he also recovered completely from it. He was completely dumb as a small child, we prayed that he would speak, and at the age of 7 he spoke, and then he immediately received a complete speech. (did not learn word for word). At the age of 10, he learned to swim and ride a bicycle. At the moment, his health condition is very good, ie he is physically completely healthy. His behavior at home is impulsive, he shouts, slaps his feet on objects and people, but that is part of the disease. I. finished the 8th grade of a special school, and although he could not write, he successfully mastered all the material. It was a special pleasure for him to stay in the camp in Rovinj, enjoy the clown, ride a boat, swim in the pool, and meet many other foster children. He has regular contacts, with his mother, they see each other and she is motherly towards him.