



Family V.

N. is an 8-year-old girl who came to the family at the end of 2022. She is healthy and cheerful, with a normal physique that is appropriate for her age. Due to very poor prior knowledge and insufficiently mastered subjects in school, she repeated the first grade of elementary school. She attends classes according to an adapted program due to speech therapy difficulties and poor concentration in class. This school year is easier for her and she has improved a lot since last year. She is cheerful, sweet and behaves well at home, and has good relations with all the household members. Since she came to into the family, she has not seen her mother, who is being treated for addiction. However, she sees her grandmother an hour every week. The father is not interested in the child and she does not know him.

A. is a 6-year-old boy who came to the family at the end of 2022.

He is somewhat smaller and thinner, but also in very good health.

He is very curious and interested in everything, but he is also very bossy and tends to try to control everything that happens around him and likes to order other children around. Otherwise, he is good and obedient, and he likes to play with other children in the family. Just because of his nature, he easily quarrels with the others, but he reconciles just as quickly. He attends kindergarten as a preschooler, and he does very well there and his educator praise him. He remembers letters and numbers well, and together with N., who attended 1st grade. He quickly learned reading and writing. Quicker than her. He is most often visited by his uncle, whom he loves very much, and he sometimes takes him home, where he also sees his mother, who only rarely visits him here. The mother does not have a developed sense of responsibility and motherhood, and his father is unknown.

A. is a 6.5-year-old boy, who came to the family at the end of 2022 from another foster family, because the former foster mother could no longer take care of him due to her health issues. She calls him every month and came to visit him once which made him very happy. A. is a healthy child but very small stature, very lively, always on the move and interested in everything. He also likes to be in charge, so he quarrels easily with the others but also reconciles quickly. He treats the other children and all members of the household well. He is also in kindergarten in the preschool group, where he is good and obedient, and is often praised. He likes to work and make various things with his hands, and he really likes to draw. When he is told stories, he remembers them well and knows how to retell them immediately. His parents did not visit him because they have been deprived of their parental rights.

K. is a 4-year-old boy who came to the family in June 2023. He, too, has a very small stature, but is also a very healthy child, the only thing he needs is an ophthalmologist's examination because his eyes are a little sideways. He still defecates in diapers, although we have been trying to teach him to go to the toilet since his arrival. He likes to eat everything, both fruits and vegetables, and is always hungry. He is a lively and obedient child, but he does not allow other children to impose anything on him and always fights to have things his way. He does not go to kindergarten yet because there is no place for now. As for visits, both divorced parents have the right to visit, and the mother rarely comes. The father also comes regularly, but the child is very upset after his visits. The father is very unpleasant and does not follow any rules. We asked that the father's contact with the child be supervised in order to protect the child.

The A.A.V. family

Boy A. is 7.5 years old. He goes in the first grade. He is very good in learning and behaving in school. At home he is not as obedient as at school. He is a very active child. He does not see or hear from his father, and his mother can not take care of him since she is unemployed.

His half-sister S. is 3.5 years old. She is quite small for her age, but is very smart and obedient. She goes to kindergarten and behaves very good there. She is often sick and has just gotten over mononucleosis but is better now. Her father sometimes contacts her, but he has his other big family that he doesn't take care of like he doesn't care for S.

Brother and sister A. and S. love each other very much, and A. takes protective care of his sister. Their mom was in a children's home and foster care while growing up.



Family K.

L. (17 years old) was placed in our family when she was less than 5 years old (and I was single then). She is from a Gypsy family and has six other brothers and sisters. Her dad is mostly in prison, and her mom lived in very poor social conditions along with the other children. Without electricity, water and sanitary facilities.

L. is the oldest, but she was also in the worst state of health when she arrived. When she came to our family we did a lot of tests and she was diagnosed with a rare disease of adipose tissue deficiency that requires special diets, skin treatments and constant check-ups. Her current state of health is under control and we are waiting for the Institute of Health Insurance to approve an expensive medicine for her.

In the family, she managed well for the most part, although we also have difficult moments. L. is calling me mom, and she has accepted my younger daughters very well, they love to play together. However, she is still in the process of accepting my husband. L. is attending the 2nd grade of grammar school and is a very good student. She is intelligent, curious, funny and in puberty, and has been training tennis for 6 years. She has had no contact with her parents for several years.



Family D.

The girl L. is 13 years, and she was with us for almost 5 years. She arrived scared and quiet. We worked a lot on self-confidence because she has intellectual difficulties, so she lags behind in her development and is attending school according to an adapted program. Now she is behaving well in the family and with the children at school. She completes the tasks herself without any problems and has quite good grades. In addition to intellectual difficulties, we are struggling with mental health (we are going to see a psychiatrist), and also we are preparing for surgery on the shorter leg, which will be performed by an orthopedist in Zagreb when it is the best time, considering the growth during puberty.

L. sees her father one weekend a month when he comes from Germany, and she is looking forward to these meetings. Our cooperation with the father is very good and he is grateful that she can be with us.

V. is a girl almost 9 years old, she came to the family 4 months ago. The parents are separated, the father is an alcoholic, and the mother is a former drug addict who currently lives with a former addict in a bad relationship. She is a healthy girl, but closed as far as everything she's been through is concerned, so we'll go to a psychologist and a psychiatrist for advice, so that she can get over that part of her life more easily. The relations in her family were bad, so now she doesn't know how to control her emotions and actions and often hits our 4-year-old child, which is very difficult for him and especially for me. She attends the 3rd grade and does not like school, because of major gaps in knowledge, she is afraid of failure and does not want to learn. However, she made some progress here. She is quite rude to other children, so her friendships at school are superficial. Twice a month she goes with her mother to the grandmother's for the weekend, and that

time is difficult for her because her mother and grandmother do not have a good relationship. There she meets her older half-sister, who has been fostered by her grandmother since she was a little child.

D. is a 4-year boy who was placed in our family when he was 9 days old, because of alcoholic and violent parents. They were deprived of parental rights and the child was ready for adoption. We became attached to him and decided to adopt him. Now we are undergoing therapy with a speech therapist and an occupational therapist because D. is late in speaking and probably has ADHD due to alcohol during the mother's pregnancy. He goes to kindergarten, which he doesn't really like, because he has to be separated from me, and it's harder for him to cooperate with his peers. At home, he is very active and sometimes difficult to calm. He has no contact with his biological parents, even though they live 13 km from us.

Family V.Š.

We have four foster children in my family and one adopted. S. is an 11-year-old boy, and he is with us from since he was five. He is in good health but of smaller stature and has a weaker physique. He is a little hyperactive and sometimes disobedient at home, but in school (he goes to the 5th grade) has a pretty good behavior and has good grades. He accepted the foster family well and fit in nicely. S. plays football and is very gifted. He has no contact with his mother.



L., L. and M. are from the same family and arrived to our family a year and a half ago. L. is a girl of 7 years and she goes in 1st grade of elementary school. She is in good health, but still has problems with bedwetting at night. At home, she is not allways obedient, is often irresponsible and does only what she wants. She difficulties in learning and has not yet mastered the numbers or letters in school. Her behavior in school is very appropriate. Her sister L. is 6 years old, tiny and small. She is in very goods health. At home, she is good, obedient and playful. Her brother M. is 3 years old and has kidney reflux. He has tubes installed and we are going for regular check-ups in a medical centre in Zagreb. All three are in contact with their parents, hear from them regularly every saturday and see each other once a month.

B. is a boy of 7 years that has been with us for 6 years. He is in the 1st grade of elementary school. He has mastered numbers and letters. At home and at school he is quite good. His health is not very good. He has a heart defect and has an artificial heart valve and a pacemaker (till now he had 4 heart surgeries). We measure his blood density every day, give him a certain therapy and drive him every 3 months to Zagreb for check-ups. After many years of fostering, we adopted him.



The family G.

Our little girl L. is now 2.5 years old.

It's wonderful to see her grow and thrive. She is healthy, eats well, and makes big progress in her speech. She learns rhymes, loves to dance, sing and play. L. has strabismus and we regularly go for check-ups with an ophthalmologist. They said she would most likely need surgery when she grew up, but it is a simple procedure. L. is everyones favorite in the family, for she's the youngest so maybe we spoiled her a little bit. She goes to kindergarten and loves hanging out with the kids and the creative work they do there. Her parents may see her only

twice a month for half an hour, but they're not regular in that either. We also had unpleasant situations with the father, so the police also responded to his aggressiveness and threats. Parents are addicts and don't want to go for treatment.

Family M.

We have 4 children from the same Gypsi family. The eldest boy A. is 16 and is communicative, cheerful and his peers love him. He likes to work with his hands and fix bicycles, clean the yard and mow the grass. He still goes to elementary school in the eighth grade, because he failed two classes when he lived with his parents. Now he regularly attends classes and is looking forward to go to school, primarily because of his friends, and he is also better with learning. This semester he didn't have a single bad grade. Since he's been with us, he is happy to come home from school with a good grade and a smiling face, while nothing of this has mattered to him before.



He's thinking about enrolling in a high school in a vocational field and we hope that he will finish it too. He joined the choir at school and performed at the Christmas event. This year his behavior improved, even though at the beginning of the school year he received a warning from his classteacher. He threatened another boy to break all his bones, which the boy took seriously and conveyed to his parents. It all ended, thank God only with the threat, because he used to fight a lot in previous classes and before he came to us he had a few reprimands for fighting. We are thankful that he took seriously our warnings that we would not tolerate violence either at school or in the family. We were also at the Center of social welfare, because they invited us to talk to him. There was some report from a neighbor who saw him exchanging some packages of suspicious content. His parents send him cigarettes that they make from tobacco they buy in Bosnia. We forbade him to smoke in a circle around the house and to stay next to neighboring houses, because we realized that the neighbors are not comfortable when some boy of Rom nationality is around their house. Now, while smoking, he walks around the block, and does not linger in front of the houses. Although he smokes, he likes to go training with friends on gadgets next to school.

His sister, A. is 14 years old and goes to the sixth grade of elementary school in a special class due to large holes in knowledge and the inability to learn and understand the material with her peers. She failed one class and didn't like going to school. At the beginning when she came to us she avoided classes in all possible situations by often pretending to be sick. Now the situation is different. She likes to go to school and likes to socialize, although she is not very received by her classmates due to a difficult temper and quarrels. Only two friends came to her birthday party. A. often falls in love and has stories from school about boys, mostly romantic and fictional. Now she reads books on her own, and with our help she learns history. Her grades are very good and she's making more and more progress. She's less good at math. We had to take her cell phone and take it to the police since she had received messages and calls from an unknown male person. We made it a rule that she doesn't have a cell phone anymore for a period of time. Since then, she changed for the better. She is not withdrawing into herself and her world, but socializing and helping in the house. She likes to work in the kitchen she is dexterous with her hands, and she prefers to make cakes. She gets along with her sister in the house, but they often quarrel and they need some time to be alone. This school year we introduced a rule that in the afternoon each of them, goes to their own room and they have time all to themselves. This has greatly helped in their relationships, since they go to the same class together and spend all their time together. In the afternoon they have a little rest and this brings more peace in the house.

Younger sister E. is 12 years old and goes to sixth grade. She is very sociable and is loved at school. She had 15 friends that came to her birthday party. She joined the school choir and sings beautifully, also goes to volleyball, even though she's not a sporty girl. She constantly wants to stay with his older sister and older brother in their room because they have a TV and she has no tv in her room. E. now reads and calculates better, though she remains not interested in learning. This summer we realized that our money was missing, and later she admitted to stealing it. She said she spent it all on candy after school, which we find hard to believe. We assume that they all spent it together, because she normally gives her brother pocket money, but she was the one who pleaded guilty.

The youngest brother A. is 7 years old goes to kindergarten. He learned to read and write while we were teaching his little sister and now he reads almost better than she does. We took both younger ones to speech exercises and now they have a better pronunciation, although they have a lot of grammatical errors. A. loves to cuddle, he is obedient and playful. When he came at the age of 4, he still had diapers, now he does everything on his own. Although he lagged behind motorically when he arrived, he now runs, he has learned to ride a bicycle without auxiliary wheels and loves to play outside with our youngest child. If he wants to get something, he's willing to lie, and when we catch him in a lie, he cries immediately. For punishment, he takes a time-out to think in a quiet corner a little. Once he saw his mom a few months ago after almost two years. Then he stiffened and had no emotional reactions even though mom was crying. A couple of weeks ago, he saw his dad from afar and immediately recognized him, but dad didn't approach, but contacted him from a distance. After that meeting he became disobedient and angry and said that we were not his parents, it surprised us because we had not heard it from him before.

All of our foster children are from the same gypsi family, and the parents have a court injunction to see the children. The older brother has a cell phone and is in constant contact with his parents and family. The others hear from them when he lets them use his cell phone. They are seeing their eldest brother, who was fostered by us a year ago, but left when he turned 18. Now that he comes to visit, he talks that he would like to go back to school, but he has no finances to finish his education. Their grandmother and uncle are also in contact with the children.



Family N.

A year ago, 2 sisters were placed in our family, and when they came they were both in very bad condition, scared, full of lice, worms, sick and hungry, with great difficulty speaking, without any knowledge of the Croatian language.

The younger M. is 4 years old, slightly smaller in stature, but of normal build for her age. She was born with 6 fingers and toes on her hands and legs.

We took her to surgery on the fingers on her hands (so that her friends would not mock her), and we will take care of her toes later. She is often sick, and on antibiotics, because of the poor nutrition in her own family. However, she is gradually getting less and less sick. She is mostly obedient at home, but sometimes not. She has a good relationship with all household members, while in kindergarten sometimes she has difficulties, but it is getting better..

Her sister V. is 5 years, and she is of small stature but she has improved a lot since coming to our family. At home she is also mostly obedient, and occasionally she is not. She also attends kindergarten, and no longer has problems in relations with other children as at the beginning, and lately both sisters are very praised by their educators. She too was often ill from her arrival, and especially has great difficulty breathing, and has frequent cough and bronchitis. However, we see that her immunity strengthens, because she gets not sick so often anymore.

Both sisters have already learned the Croatian language well. Once a month they have contacts with their parents, but after that they are very upset and scared. After these contacts both have insomnia, wet and defecate in their pants or bed, which lasts about 2 weeks. Unfortunately, after 2 normal weeks, they have this contacts again, so all their traumas and fears are repeated and again it takes them about 2 weeks to stabilize.

Family J.

There are two sisters in our family, A. 11 years and A. 15 years. The younger A. was placed first, at the age of 6 months and was then in a very bad condition after a long starvation and neglect. She has been with us for 11 years now and, although she has knowledge of her family, she does not have feelings for them as for us, who she considers real parents. The older A. came at the age of 6.5 years, just before starting the first grade and it is felt that for 6 years she grew up and learned behavior that is not acceptable, with all the neglect she



has suffered. In the younger sister, this was reflected in certain difficulties in school, and in the older one on the behavior and methods of how she gets what she wants, which is very often telling an lie. Both of them are very dear and there is tremendous progress made in their behavior. The younger has no health problems, but the older one has a dimple in her heart so she actually has to be supervised. They both are normal body constitutions, and they both refer to us as mom and dad and we function more like they're our children. The younger one goes in 5th grade of elementary school with an individualized program due to emotional immaturity and is quite independent. I work with her every day for up to two hours, and, with a lot of effort, she has very good grades. She is also training karate, and goes in 2nd grade of the music school and plays violin. The older one goes in 1st grade of high school, direction hotel tourism. She is in the 6th grade of music school and plays cello, and she can not play any sports because of her heart issues. The older one is independent from the 5th grade and with a small effort has very good grades. She could be better but it is difficult for her to take any responsibility or effort, whether in school or family obligations. They have almost no contact with their parents, only with their sister who is in another foster family, and with their brother who was in our family. The older one is sad because the parents don't call her, but she asks less and less about them, while the younger one doesn't miss them.



Family O.

The boy Đ. (5.5 years old) came to our family in August 2023 from the Children's Home. He spent two years in the house. Due to neglect in the biological family and certain innate genetic modifications Đ. shows a lag in development and therefore we perform examinations with geneticists, pediatricians - neurologists, physiatrists, ophthalmologists to determine and monitor the state of health. Also his condition requires a polyvalent early intervention service that includes working with a speech therapist, occupational therapist and educational rehabilitator. We will do this after the assessment,

commissioned in march 2024. When he arrived, he spoke very poorly and we often did not understand him, but now we are already seeing progress, especially in speech. Now he speaks much, much more, examines and interacts with our son (6.5 years old) Đ. speaks more understandably, makes sentences, grammatically corrects himself a bit. However, we can't wait to get appointments with speech therapists to help him professionally. He goes to kindergarten and is enrolled in a sport group, which he attends 2 x a week. Although he physically looks a bit clumsy, he rides a bike without auxiliary wheels, tried skating school, wants to try everything, is very brave and loves animals. In kindergarten and home, he still examines the boundaries, complains when he has to perform the usual daily routines (brushing his teeth, going to sleep, eating meals, etc.) and it is necessary to develop social skills, because although he is warm and good-natured, he does not know how to play with other children. He is oriented towards adults and on the things that he wants. His contacts with his mother are once a month and with the father once in another month. The father has still not contacted, and the mother is sticking to the agreement.

We are happy how much Đ. can progress and has a desire to learn and explore since he has been in our family. In the children's home, due to despondency and rare visits of parents, he did not have motivation. What sense does it make to distinguish colors or know how to count or solve tasks, when there is no one of his own, and he lived in anticipation of someone coming to visit him. We are happy because he is part of our family and we want to give him the conditions for his maximum progress. He is a proof of how crucial it is to look from a near-backward child, to a smart, curious and warm child who now has the motivation to learn, progress and develop.

Family H.

M. is 18 months old, and she came to our family at a little less than a year old. Because of her severe and rare genetic disease, she weighted only 5 kilograms. We feed her on a probe through the nose and for now she is progressing very nicely. She has contact with her parents once a month in the premises of the Institute for Social Welfare, and sometimes her parents can call her on a video call. She is literally the "boss" in the house because she is adorable, and because of her illness, all the household members pay more attention to her, which she now knows how to use well.



Although we have a lot of sleepless nights (we feed her several times at night) she has brought us a lot of love and joy into the house, especially when we see her progress.

L. is a 26-month-old girl and has only been with us since recently. It is obvious that she lags a lot behind in development, especially intellectually. She doesn't say a single meaningful word, but she's extremely cheerful and fun. Uncontrollably and wants to eat lot for which we are glad because it is a very great motivation for M. who so far did not want to eat anything by mouth. She began to eat a spoonful of some softer food, for example pudding or yogurt. It is fortunate that L. sleeps peacefully all night in her crib. Because of her cheerful nature, L. was accepted very nicely by all the household members, especially little M. who now has company to play with. L. has no contact with her parents because they are deprived of parental rights which means she could probably go for adoption soon.

M. is an 11-year-old boy who arrived in our family at the beginning of this school year. He attends the fifth grade of elementary school. The arrival itself was very traumatic. He did not even want to enter the house, but after talking to a little girl who was with us, and she knew him from a Rom settlement, he somehow calmed down and began to trust us.

After a few days, he said on his own initiative, "I decided I wanted to be happy here." This unexpected statement of his made us both very tender and encouraged at the same time. Starting fifth grade, M. couldn't even read and it took a lot of effort to slowly get better. It's still not easy, but he has the desire and that's why he's making progress. The problem is that so far he has neither work habits nor learning habits, nor has he learned to respect the authority of teachers. At the beginning of school, we had daily calls from his classmate, but after the phase of getting used to it, we are now seeing progress for the better. Once a month, he has contact with his parents and with his sisters who are fostered in different families. He has done very well in our family and everyone has accepted him nicely because he is very communicative and likes to help with household chores. He also really likes to be hugged and cuddled.

S. is a 15 year old boy and is a student of the first grade of the High School - direction waiter, on the island Brač. Considering that he attended the entire elementary school according to an adapted program, and that his learning was very difficult, we are happy and proud of him for managing to enroll in the direction he very much wanted. He comes home for holidays, and otherwise we hear each other almost every day by video call. He still has a problem telling the truth, as well as accepting the house rules in the student dormitory where he is housed within the school. Hopefully, he'll be able to finish his education after all. He only occasionally hears from his father on the phone. We notice that he is very much looking forward to us when he comes for the holidays, and all the children are very much looking forward to him. I have a feeling that he values and respects us more now than when he was with us every day.

M. is a young man of 17 years and is a third-grader of high school, majoring in road traffic technician. We're struggling with his typical teenage behavior. The problem is regular studying, hiding for smoking, and sometimes stealing money. But since he has been with us for a long time, we see that he respects us more and more, and I would say he loves us in his rebellious way. Although his parents are deprived of parental rights, he occasionally hears from them on the phone. He also has good contact with older brothers who were fostered by us and are now independent or have started their own families.

E. is a 14-year-old girl and a seventh-grade elementary school student. Due to her numerous health problems (several heart and bowel surgeries), she later started school, which she attends according to an adapted program. Although she is aware of her intellectual difficulties and problems due to learning, she is extremely fond of school and tries very hard to perform her tasks, which is why teachers reward her. E. loves to help with household chores, and especially likes to hang out with little girls, even likes to change and feed them. Although we adopted her a few years ago, she still has occasional contacts with her biological family. She doesn't have any particular attachment to them because she came to our family as a baby at 18 months. Her current state of health is under control and she doesn't have to take any medication.

N. is a young man of 32 years, but due to mental retardation is at the level of a child of 7-8 years. He is still a participant of the Center for Education where he has a lot of his longtime friends. In the family, as well as at school, everyone loves him very much because he is very peaceful and nice. Although he does not handle a lot of words, his smile and firm handshake show that he loves everything around him very much. He also loves to play with little girls, and they love it when he holds them up and when he plays with them. His health is permanent, but he doesn't take any medication. He cannot live independently, so he will forever need a person to take care of him.



Family M.

L. is a 7-year-old boy who came to our family six months ago. He's physically healthy, but he's quite small and hyperactive. He experienced violence in his biological family, after which he was placed in a children's home and in two other foster families. We are his third foster family, and he is sadly separated from his younger brother. He is in 2nd grade, where he doesn't want to be bothered, it's easier for him to say he doesn't know, than to answer for a grade. In the family, he is good, obedient, nice and always very curious. Our older children always protect him and take care of him at school. His father is in jail, while his mother has a new boyfriend. The

judge allowed meetings with his mother and his father once a month under the supervision of social services. He is reluctant to go to meetings with his parents, but is looking forward to see his younger brother, who is in another foster family.

J. is a 12-year-old girl who came to our family at the age of three from the children's home, where she had been since birth. According to tests by psychologists from the center of social welfare she has a behavioral disorder. She has now been commissioned for a complete examination by a psychologist and psychiatrist. She has good success in school, and attends classes according to a customized program. She is physically healthy, and although cheerful and

nice, due to her hyperactivity and intrusiveness in the family often causes restlessness and quarrels. Her 15-year-old sister L. also came to us eight years ago from her family. It's a very well physically developed girl. She is a great swimmer and athlete. She also attends classes according to a special program, and has excellent success. In the family, she is withdrawn, calm, quiet, dear, always ready to help. Both sisters have no contact with their parents, because the parents have been stripped of their parental rights.

D. is a boy of 13 years, of a slightly smaller stature and in good health. He is an excellent athlete, plays football, is an excellent swimmer. He attends the 7th grade of elementary school according to an adapted program, and is a very good student. His behavior at school is good, but also quickly bursts into misunderstanding. At home, he is good and obedient. His brother K. is 14 years old. He is also in good health, sportingly developed, plays football and is an excellent swimmer, and loves fishing very much. He attends the 7th grade of elementary school too, under a customized program and is a good student. At school he is obedient and quiet, and in the family he is nice and good, and he is always a peacemaker for everyone. Both brothers have been with us for 12 years. Their father is unknown, while his mother lives at a distance of 500 kilometers. She calls on the phone and the boys see her during the summer holidays.

D. is a 14-year-old boy from Ukraine, who also came to us 6 months ago. He is pretty small for his age, and yet he's in good health. Here he learned to swim and skate, he is a regular in football practice. Upon arrival and for some time afterwards he had strong tics, but they have all disappeared by now. He attends the 8th grade of elementary school and is a good student who learns very quickly. At home, he is obedient and hardworking. He speaks to his mother several times a month.

Family S.

There are three children in our family, whom we adopted after foster care. N. boy of 9, his brother D. 5.5 and girl B.J. 1.5 years. They are of orderly development, advanced and very active, each in their own age and interests. They train gymnastics, attend music school, gladly participate with us, parents in all our activities. Each of them has their own small tasks and obligations in household chores in which they are mostly happy to participate. Most often they get along well, except when they want the same thing at the same time, then they have their own methods and tactics how to get what they want and of course, they rebel

when it doesn't work out for them. Motorically they are very skilled, so from an early age they ride a bike, roller skate, swim. They are also gifted in music, so from an early age they participate in musical activities and get acquainted with various instruments. They defend and protect each other when the need arises, like real brothers and sister. The older son is an honors student at school, but he likes to have his own ways of solving tasks. The younger son often copies it, which is sometimes interesting but sometimes it bothers him. Their sister watches and learns everything that needs and is good, but also the less valid. They are playful and cheerful, often tireless that sometimes it is too much for us as parents, so we are lucky to have a healthy and young grandmother who occasionally jumps in. On our husband's side, our family is quite numerous, so they always have this experience of a large warm family, of different ages, but of closeness and acceptance. Our children are a great gift from God to us and arrived in perfect timing.

We never at any point suspected that this was not our role or that we should/could have done otherwise.

Many couples have witnessed our experiences and we always do so with the same zeal and joy. Although we do not lack anything, we gladly receive gifts, as we ourselves like to give them. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all you do for us and thank God, that he sent you to us. We send warm greetings and a firm hug.



Family P.

R. is a Gypsy girl of 23 years, she is of a smaller stature and skinny. She has been with us since she was 15 years old. Since her arrival, she has made great progress, with very good success graduated from high school, and is now a student in the 3rd year of the Faculty of Law in Zagreb. She repeats this third year because this year has been quite difficult for her. In the family, she behaves and feels like she is in her own family, and although she sees her parents almost every Saturday, she always says that her real home is in our family.

She is interested in trading cryptocurrencies, about what she reads a lot and wants to try her hand sometime in the future. She plays a little piano and sings, loves to cook and try new recipes. She very much loves her sister I.

I. N. is a cheerful and warm girl of 8 years, severely abused in her own family and damaged by her parents. She was so damaged by the abuse that doctors thought she would not survive, but she was very strong and survived. Since coming to our family, she has made great progress and now she loves music, singing, playing drums, dancing. She's going to school soon. She also very much loves her bigger sister R., whom she tries to copy in almost everything, and likes best when they cook together or play together. I. loves animals very much also. I. was fostered for years, and now she is adopted. With her smile and cheerfulness, she attracts attention wherever she goes.

Family P.

Our boy S. is one year old, and we have him for eight months. He is a little smaller in physique, but he is relatively healthy, only sometimes he suffers from bronchitis, and recently took his first steps. He is a very nice child, he likes to laugh and touch things. He likes to play with other kids, and other kids love him too. Unfortunately, there is no contact with his parents, only on one occasion they contacted us to come and see him, but even then they gave up. We were recently contacted by the social welfare center that they would initiate the adoption proceedings where we told them that we have the intention



to adopt him, and now we hope for a positive response. In addition to S. few days ago, his little brother K. arrived in our family. He is two and a half months old, and he's a smaller build, too, and he's malnourished. This is a new situation for us and we are struggling a little with his feeding. K. is not eating enough and drinks less than he should for his age. But we are persistent in trying to do everything for his better, and we hope that with God's help all this will be better, and that he will progress and develop more every day.



Family B.

My wife and I are fosters of a three-and-a-half-year-old girl. She's been with us for three years and she's fully fit in with our family. Her name is J. and she is a child with normal health development, but only with our regular visit to treatments with a defectologist, sensory therapist and speech therapist. J. goes to kindergarten where she is assigned a personal assistant for the purpose of her progress. She fits well into the environment that surrounds her, kindergarten, family, friends. Every day, better progress is being observed, which is affected by all of the above things. In our family, she feels safe and calm which she clearly shows. Contacts to the biological family are currently prohibited by court decision.

Family K.

S. turned 19 this year. She came from a family with seven children where her father spent his whole life in prisons and her mother is illiterate and an alcoholic. She lived in very difficult conditions, without water and toilets, in a room of several square meters. She was less than 7 years old when she came and was about to start elementary school. She did not speak Croatian and had very poorly developed communication skills. Through these years, with a lot of effort, discipline and sacrifice, she mastered what she did not know and could. She is a beautiful, cheerful and positive girl. Now she goes to the 4th grade of economics school for administrative clerk.



She's a great student, extremely responsible and disciplined. She has a great desire to enter college for preschool education. In addition to school, she likes to play the guitar, sing, enjoys making others happy and daily prepares surprises and gifts for those around her. In the church group, she plays kahoona (drums) and leads one small group for

girls from 10 to 13 years. She's very attentive, gentle and compassionate. S. feels just right in our family - like her own home, and it's the only family she knows. She has very rare contacts with her family, and when she calls them, they never call her back. However, she contacts often by phone her two sisters who are also in another foster family.



Family D.

In mid-October 2023, a little girl, S., came to our family, who turned 9 months old at the time. She came from the Children's Home and was motorized quite badly - she did not crawl, she did not hold the bottle on her own, she could not lean on her legs at all, she could not chew and only ate smooth porridges structures. Shortly after she came, she began to hold the bottle on her own, began to descend to the floor by herself, and after 3 weeks she crawled for the first time. Now at 11 months she crawls, gets up on her feet, eats and bites bits of food, develops speech and loves to repeat and learn new things. Our two daughters accepted her very well and she is our smallest cuddle in the family.

The last and only contact with her mom was made by phone a week after she came to us. There was supposed to be a meeting then, but mom didn't show up or call back since.

Family D.

The adorable little girl N. arrived in our home 5 months ago at the age of 3 years. She is very lively, joyful and fidgety. She is small in build, very skilful and resourceful. Her lungs are not fully developed, and for now she has to take therapy, but with a positive and healthy environment, the condition is improving at a rapid rate. When she arrived at our home, she asked for my complete presence and the next day she called me "Mom." Also "dad and sister" were immediately her favorite names. She played cheerfully with her new "sister" from day one. During the first 2 months, she often had nightmares, when she asked for a hug in bed and during the day she wanted to be in our arms. Slowly, she began to accept the new environment and family. She was enrolled in kindergarten where she also got used to it, with a little crying at the beginning. She loves her educators and best friend "Rara" (Lara).



At home, she likes to clean dishes from the machine, wash mirrors and like to fold clothes. Dolls are her favorite toys and running is a great joy. She easily asks forgiveness and likes to share food with her sister and others. It was not easy for our daughter, (the bigger "sister" 4y.) to accept that she had to share, but now she loves her and is happy to help her. N. still learns about safe and good behavior (not to put her fingers in the stream, to use scissors only for paper and not for fingers, sheets, hair and pants, we must always remove the knife, walls and furniture paints with felt-tip pens, and the like). Once, when she had a nighttime fit of suffocation, she hugged me tightly and repeated "thank you Mom, I love you Mom". Also on the evening when we put on pajamas she can say by herself "I'm happy that we have a house and sister and dad and you and for eating and toys"; "and I'll be a good mom like you"; "and I will have a good husband as a dad", followed by a hug and a kiss. Every night before bedtime, he joyfully says in prayer "thank you God that you love us and we have such a beautiful everything". And then we ask ourselves, "How does such a small head already think about big things?" It took her a little longer to connect with "dad", because her biological father was not present while living with her mom. While she was in the childrens home, he visited her twice with her mother.

She talks a lot about her mom and grandmother, but no one asks or wants to know about her. She says that mom "vaccinates" a lot (mother is an drug addict), and at first she used to stretch out her hands and ask me if I had "change", which indicates that she was begging with her mom. Social Services has initiated proceedings to allow her adoption, to which we will apply. We would love to foster more children and give them a home. Currently, the housing situation and finances do not allow us to do this, but we believe that in the future we will be able to provide other children with love, support and a happier future.



Family H.

R. is a boy who is 6 years old, and he arrived in our family a year ago. He's a beautiful boy, thinner and a little smaller considering boys his age. He hears a little less because he came to us with ruptured eardrums that we recently operated on and "patched up". This all affected his speech as well, so he has problems with correct pronunciation and stacking sentences. It seems to us that he sees less and we are waiting for an examination to start wearing

glasses. We also treat his teeth because unfortunately they are all rotten, but now he is growing two new healthy teeth. R. goes to kindergarten and preschool program with our biological son J. It is difficult for him to follow the program and solve tasks, and because of the poor understanding of other children and his personal difficulty pronouncing, he is quite withdrawn and says that he does not like to go there. Otherwise, he is calm-tempered and obedient. His sister M. is a 4-year-old girl, and she arrived in our family at the same time as her brother. A beautiful, healthy little girl with big eyes. Normally developed, but less height given the girls at her age. We have not noticed that she has any health problems, unlike her brother R. She still does not attend kindergarten, because unfortunately we have not been able to get a place there. In the fall she will go to the kindergarten, and there she will more practice the Croatian language, since she and her brother are from a Roma family, where Croatian was almost not spoken at all. As much as her brother is calm and obedient, so much so is she his contrast. Extremely active nature and often prone to cunning and more often disobedient in a way that every day repeats the same things that we have been struggling with for months in the educational sense. Unlike her, Brother R. is extremely obedient and often expresses love in a way that hugs us, kisses us and gives us gifts and shares his sweets that he receives. He treats our son like his own brother and loves him more than his real sister. Their contacts with their parents are going well. The little girl does not even remember her parents, and when she sees them she is happy, but she does not cry for them. She says that she wants to live with us, not with mom and dad. R. wears it a little differently since he's older. In his spare time, he remembers them and tells us how his dad builds a house so they can get back there. This is his hope that he clings to, and which will most likely in reality be extinguished because parents are given another two months to improve housing conditions so that the children return which in practice will not happen (admitted to us by their dad when they had the encounter). Before their meetings, the boy is withdrawn and deep down he carries it at the same time cultivating love, but also anger towards them, aware that they are guilty of something (he does not know exactly what) why he does not live with them. After meeting them, he cries and is sad, but it all lasts one or two days until he forgets about it. When my husband and I draw the line and turn backwards, I can certainly say that the children are beautiful, and if we went back in time, we would again decide on the same, and for the same children to be entrusted to us in care. As much as we help them, I can say without any false humility that just as much they enrich our entire family.

Family D.

D. is a girl of 3.5 years, she was placed in our family 2.5 years ago. Before she came to us, she was in a nursing home. When she came, she had motor and sensory problems, and she was very scared. She soon progressed with us and is now completely healthy. D. is a very nice and cuddly little girl, eager for a lot of attention and playful. We have three more of our children of kindergarten age and one schoolboy and she fit in well among us and is accepted and loved. Her parents are not interested in her, her father has signed that she can go for adoption and that he does not want her, and her mother comes to see her occasionally- every few months even though the court has granted her contact with the child twice a month.





Family K.

N. is one special girl who has been with us since she was two years old. She turned 18 in September and is a real girl. She stays in our family until she on her own decides to leave in her own life. She is very hardworking and obedient as she has been all these years. She didn't have any major problems at school or with her parents. Her parents haven't called for years, nor does she want to know anything about them, she doesn't even ask about them. She graduated from hair dressing school and is currently taking a nanny course. She loves children and wants to work with small children. She is a real big girl who takes care of herself independently, she loves us very much and we love her.

The family G.

I. is 19 years old, has a beautiful physique. The state of health is neat considering the medical records where there are still recorded mild mental impairments and autism. I. behaves nicely at home, he has matured very much, he is obedient, there have been some problems with releasing certain people and impatience when he would not get what he wants, but he has matured a lot now in this regard. He often goes with his foster mother to Zaprešić where she occasionally takes care of her grandchildren. Together with his „brother“ he likes to work around the car. He's still in elementary school, now he's attending a group of work training where he can go up to 21 years. He mastered large printed letters and numbers. Every Thursday they have a household as part of work training, and cooking together. He's good at gym. At home, he knows how to put laundry to wash, goes to the store and buys what he is told with the previous list, which he then gives to the lady in the store, and goes independently to milk mat to get milk. He likes to go to extracurricular activities such as handball, and is by nature competitively oriented and it is important for him to be the first, and in order to reach this goal he tries to bypass certain tasks in order to be as fast as possible, but with good coaches it does not pass. We are currently working on including him in the „Silver Association“ where he can go to therapy with dogs twice a month because he loves dogs, but is afraid of them. For a short time we turned him on riding where he first showed no interest, and then as a repetitive process as soon as he entered the barn he straightened up because he would know that the coach was demanding it of him. He is very responsible for his things, he is interested in everything about the car and remembers all the things related to it, he is very focused on the task that interests him, which is mostly around the car. He has a very good spatial orientation and temporal orientation although he still does not know exactly the clock, as if he has his own clock that is never late and is always on time. Since I love painting, of course it's also one of his hobbies. Mom is currently the only person who takes the main care of I. with the possible help of her biological children R., D. and me H. This year I moved to the Netherlands, and until now we lived together I., mom and I, but our communication continues since he is an expert in calls and video communication, and now he has additional motivation in performing the task of learning to merge letters into words. Therefore when I come to visit them, I exam I. How he progress . He is looking forward to the summer and the camps in which he is involved, and this year he made his own decision that he wants to be baptized. He is trying to read the children's Bible with the help of his foster mother. His biological mom is housed in a nursing home.



Attached is a family picture with I: the eldest - mom, brothers, their wives, three children from each brother's fit, and in the middle I his sister.