

Project description

Our goal is to give teenagers who live in institutions -and from this year forward their parents- a method that can be helpful to them, so they will not isolate themselves off. To show them an alternative with easy solutions against a faulty approach to harsh life situations such as giving up, deviance, and substance abuse.

Working with kids living in institutions, be it drug prevention, mental hygiene, or artistic activity, it is a challenging task. The institutional placement presupposes a lot of problems that could not be fixed in any other setting. These problems cause a tremendous sense of failure for the family and children alike. The intention in institutional placement is to mitigate prevailing serious problems or to prevent their emergence or aggravation. All these come with conflicts within the self as well as in the social surroundings. The placement and the problems that require it in the first place unavoidably inflict damage. It is increasingly true for adolescents, for their personal development and socializations.

What could we, filmmakers and helping professionals, adults, offer people living in these situations that they could find useful and interesting?

We always have two goals during our team works. Throughout our 12-14 group sessions, one objective is to have the participants learn about themselves and advance their self-knowledge, the other is to have them attain a knowledge that may help them avoid becoming a victim (prevention), get them to learn to consider and to make deliberate choices later in their life, all this by cooperative tasks, games, in group and personal talks. We would like the members of our groups to create a real community. A community where its members care about each other, and make up their own rules and stick to them and make sure they are kept. These are essentials in creating the foundations which allow us to achieve the realization by artistic methods (joint story writing, script writing, drama, filmmaking), that persistent work and creation are values that -besides being highly therapeutic- are also immensely rewarding. And if it brings success, it becomes clearer that whatever they made together holds real value, because they materialised a product that not only the creators, but the audience finds interesting and significant

.As in regards to reaching the kids we always asked the help of the given institution. The home's workers encouraged them to participate, although it was not obligatory. The children were not only from other age groups, but had pretty different habits and problems as well. Some needed more time and motivation to open up and be an active part of the team, others caused a considerable amount of tension, when things did not always go by their will. During the first meeting we all introduce ourselves, us, group leaders tell our previous works, we discuss the goal of the meetings, then together we identify the group norms that will regulate the function of the group. It usually took four sessions until now to form the final team and see who can and wants to work together.

The thematics of the sessions were built according to the appointed goals, therefore at the same time there was a self-knowledge group and a workshop. As for the motivation of the children the dramatization and situation games seemed most effective. On the other hand different self awareness games with specific game rules proved to be too restricted, while storywriting from life experience and role playing evoked almost the whole group's liking and active participation. These sorts of games give us an opportunity to address the problems, the kids are

personally affected by, without making it bothering or overly personal. (third person singular) Nevertheless, sometime it can be felt that for some of them besides the carefree fun, the game had a deeper meaning. We can focus on basic things such as relative and family relationships, their hardships and joys, friendships, relationships, drug use or even social norms, their current situation, the determination of their goals and the realistic way to achieve them, all by through these means. Maximally avoiding the didactic approach and focus on the basis of what they bring in. The kids chose their character and with help made their own dialogue later in the film accordingly.

About the production, we discussed two things at the beginning of the first session. That we will depict real personal stories, experiences, feelings and that the actors will be those who volunteer to be in it. Additionally the preparation for the joined creative works was constantly present as a part and the element of the self-knowledge block of the project. During the games the observers practised the use of the equipment, we talked about the rules of recording (film and photo), meanwhile the actors were learning how to act natural near cameras ect. The proportions gradually shifted, while at first the self-knowledge part dominated, by the end of the sessions the creative work, that is still inseparable from the first part, got more room. The language, the playing, the community, paying attention to ourselves and others, getting to know ourselves, these are crucial factors in term of finding our place in the world. By our experiences so far examining our thoughts and feelings either in words or by the devices of drama proves to be the self improvement, the creation, and the artistic expression's effective tool. We were able to contribute to the participants' progression in their personal and social skills in a way that they at the same time could find it meaningful, exciting or fun yet it was still learning. We successfully formed an intimate atmosphere in every single group, in which the members could loosen up without feeling like they are vulnerable. Every single member went through a serious improvement in regards to debate culture, the discussion, interpretation, acceptance or simply respect of an opposing notion.

All of this simply summerized the workings of the groups, it did not indicate, how many fun experiences and how much knowledge they gained through music, lyrics writing, choreography, acting and filmmaking. Or how strongly their own dreams and wishes and thoughts about the world, about themselves and their families appear in their films from 2018, but as their success clearly demonstrates from the perspective of both genuineness and quality they hold real value. Consequently the dedicated and persistent children can get a taste of what recognition and success feels like, and can experience what can be done with it. Furthermore, they understand that they are not only important, also they can affect and shape the picture the world has about them. That they are so much more than what others thinks about them. That with persistent work, with cooperating with others, with their talent and aptitudes they are not somebody who has to feel ashamed of their situation, origin or hardships.

Between 2011 and 2017 we worked in 7 institutions, all in all 290 children visited our groups and we made a total of 19 films. For years, many came back to the short film workshop. In 2018 we had 4 groups and we reached approximately 80 kids. Most of them were in between the age of 12 and 18, although there were some younger kids who joined the groups through their older siblings.

The funding of the projects was secured by the Életrevaló Charity Organization from the support of ministries (Ministry of Human Resources, Ministry of the Interior) and the MOL Child Healing Program.

The Életrevaló Organization's winner tenders, that went into the execution of the ÖFM:

KAB-ME-12-7936 winner, year 2012. 800.000 Ft

KAB-GY-12-10109: 350.000 Ft

KAB-ME-13-B-13349 2013: 915.000 Ft

KAB-ME-14-B-14795 2014: 1.182.500 Ft

Ecumenical Aid Organization Tandem Development Fund

TANDEM-04-0128 2014 (complex program, for ÖFM 2500000Ft was used): 3.930.315 Ft

KAB-ME-15-B-21810 2015: 2.000.000 Ft

KAB-ME-16-C-25510 NORSA tender: 3.000.000 Ft

BM-16-MI-0095 Ministry of the Interior and National Crime Prevention Council's tender, crime prevention (complex program, with other elements: 250.0000 Ft was used for ÖFM)): 4.500.000 Ft

MOL New Europe Foundation Child Healing Program 2017: 1.968.720 Ft

KAB-ME-17-KMR-C-25868 Directorate-General for Social Affairs and Child Protection tender 2018: 5.000.000 Ft

MOL Alapítvány 2018 (2019): 1.880.000 Ft

KAB-ME-18-KMR-C-26141 2019 Directorate-General for Social Affairs and Child Protection: 2.500.000 Ft

The Északi Támpont Organization helped complete the program with filmmaker, program manager, managerial knowledge and activity, volunteers and with the involvement of other supporters (private persons, companies (CANON))

Referencial projects:

2017. TELEFONOK/PHONES series' shortfilms

In 2017 our theme was about raising awareness to dangers catalysed by mobilephones.

- Összetörve-Broken /BMSZKI Rákosszeg Családok Átmeneti Otthona/ Temporary Home for Families

https://indavideo.hu/video/Telefonok_-_Osszetorve

- Célkeresztben-In reticle /Bárka Gyermek Átmeneti Otthona/BÁRKA Temporary Children's Home

https://indavideo.hu/video/Telefonok_-_Celkeresztben

In 2018 the themes were rap videoclips introducing both groups.

- Hiába is hisztizel- Your tantrums are in vain /BMSZKI Rákosszeg Családok Átmeneti Otthona/

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=4&v=I4lk8mbpRtc

- Verset Írok-Im writing a poem /S.O.S. Krízis Alapítvány Családok Átmeneti Otthona/ Crisis Foundation Temporary Home for Families

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CyGmn7Oj9pA>

- REZILIENCIA-RESILIENCE /Bárka Gyermek Átmeneti Otthona/ Temporary Children's Home

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lZ8uuwH3pqq>