

The family home "Small School"

The family home "Small School" is a community type of the host family for children and young people with the personal problems within their families who have a negative impact on their lives, growing up and their development. The small school has existed since 2009 and is founded by Scooll Franciscan sisters from BiH.

Main purpose is, therefore, to welcome the children and young people as they are, doing everything possible to make them feel at home, to accompany them through an individual project and in the process of personal development so that one day they can live as independent individuals able to cope with all challenges life place before them. But they will also adopt fundamental human and Christian values during their staying in our house.

Furthermore, the intention is to grow, develop, improve people's lives in cultural and social context in which they live and enable them to strive for a common good.

The objectives

1. The admission and educational work with children and young people neglected and without adequate parental care. The reception of children in the home should be temporary. During they stay in the family house the child maintains contact with his own family, where they should be returned as soon as the situation of crisis and difficulties will be overcome. As a result the following main objectives:

* Return to their own families - cooperation with other relevant institutions, as well as to follow development of the child's family in order to remove the reasons that brought a child to our institution in the first place and to find the way to return the child to his/her family.

* Foster family – to create an environment in which families in this parish would want to take these children to their homes even for short period of time (afternoon, weekends, holidays ,...). In this way children would experience warm family atmosphere outside our institution.

* Follow development of these children until they become independent in case that any of above mentioned solutions wouldn't work. In that case we plan to take new steps in order to follow and monitor these persons until they reach legal age.

Activities to achieve the objectives

Our house has a goal to respond to the children's needs, it's open all year round, 24 hours on 24th. There is possible to accommodate a maximum of 32 children aged between 0 and 18 years, divided according to age into four educational groups. At the moment we have 23 children from 8 to 23 years old. They attend the elementary and high school. We also have one student here.

Among the benefits offered by the family home are:

- Accommodation, observation, support and the design of an individual educational plan for each child and their implementation;
- Accommodation and proper care of the child, taking into account all its dimensions;
- Cooperation with health and social services, with the objective of ensuring the necessary care for every child;
- Maintain relationships with the families children are coming from, as well as the potential adoptive and foster families;
- Speech on resocialization and socialization of children;

- Organization of Leisure (recreation, sports, holidays);
- Insert school and collaboration with the school.

2nd Working with parents and families

a) Work with parents

- the educational work with parents (to have present the needs of parents and age of children with their needs, help them discover more appropriate training methods)
- help and support parents in training their personality for greater parental responsibility
- offer parents training and advice
- mutuoaiuto of parents from the region of Vares

b) Work with the potential foster families, aims to:

- promote, in the area of Vares and around, a culture of acceptance and solidarity
- raise the openness and availability of families to accept children into their home
- support the efforts of families or individuals who want to host a child in difficulty
- facilitate the birth of the family networks of solidarity and support

Activities to implement the objectives of working with families:

- Organization of educational meetings with families, in collaboration with the Social Center and other experts in the field
- Meetings to provide information and awareness
- Training
- Meetings of support and assistance for foster families

3rd Youth work and pastoral work in the parish

a) Work with young people

- Counseling for young people;
- Educational work with young people in the form of training seminars, workshops and other activities;
- Awareness and integration of young people to volunteer with children (time preparation and training of young people to volunteer with children)
- Help and support youth develop their spiritual potential

4th Cooperation with local communities

Staying of children within our facility should be only a transitional phase for them before they return to their own families or being integrated in the social community. Therefore, cooperation with the local community is essential in order to avoid possible risk of isolation of our institution benefits from the opportunities offered by the local community and at the same time provide our helpful activities to those who needs them. In order to accomplish abovementioned objectives, apart of the educational team employed in our institution we also have other members of our community who take part in this process, but also everybody else interested in common good.