



Cramo extends SOS Childrens Villages sponsorship to include family program in Russia (April 2009)

Cramo extends its SOS Children's Villages sponsorship to include also a family support program in St. Petersburg, Russia. Since 2008 Cramo is a main sponsor of SOS Children's Villages first Ukrainian village. "Much positive is coming out of our engagement in this sponsorship", says Anders Collman, Head of Corporate Communications, in a comment. "Most importantly, of course, a better life for kids in extremely difficult situations. But also in terms of us - Cramo employees - being proud of our company".

For 2009 Cramo decided to extend the sponsorship to include also the SOS family support program in Admiralteisky, St.Petersburg. "St.Petersburg has been vital, when expanding our operations into Russia. Thus it felt natural to supprt this project".

Cramo still stays as a sponsor for the Ukrainian Childrens Village.

The SOS Family Programme in Admiralteisky, St.Petersburg

The project has been in operation since autumn 2007. Capacity in the program is for 117 children and 100 adults. The programme provides help to families that are at risk of breaking up.

The goal is to:

- Ensure that children have access to basic services like adequate nutrition, schooling and leisure activities as means to giving children a secure, stable upbringing
- Help families to improve skills in childcare so that they can care for and help their children
- Support the local support organization for children who are vulnerable or at risk and their families in cooperation with local authorities

The SOS "Family Rehabilitation" Programme is a preventive measure to keep children from becoming orphans and support families at risk. The target group for the programme is families whose parents abuse alcohol.

Social conditions in the neighbourhood where the project is run and the background to the initiative for the project

Admiralteisky is a neighbourhood in St. Petersburg with 148,986 inhabitants. More than 20,000 of these are children under 18. Many children here become social orphans because of their parents' alcohol abuse. That means that the parents are living but do not have legal custody of their children. In 2005, there were 435 children who lacked parental care. As many as 66% of these children come from families where the parents have alcohol problems. Most are placed in institutions. There are 112 children in the neighbourhood who are biological orphans, that is, both of whose parents are dead.

More than 15,000 people live under the poverty line. There are 3,123 single-parent families in Admiralteisky, with 67% of these headed by women.

Analyses of households in which children have no parental care indicate that they mainly consist of families with 2-4 children between the ages of 5 and 15 whose parents do not have a permanent job because of alcohol problems. They lack the financial means to take real care of their children and improve their living situation. Children who grow up in poor families where the parents abuse alcohol are often at great risk. This can lead to them having problems in school, developing alcohol problems and becoming involved in criminal activities more than children in more stable families. There are 380 children registered with the police because of their criminal activities.

Programme content and progress

The establishment of the SOS Family Programme has been delayed because of administrative problems, but in autumn 2007 the first family was added in the programme. When the programme is fully functional, 117 children and 100 adults will be getting help to lead a better, more stable everyday life. The target group for the programme is mainly families whose parents abuse alcohol.

The Family Programme offers family counselling, psychological help, legal help, social training, and leisure and outdoor activities, as well as vocational training and help in finding a job. It provides support in crisis situations including housing and the donation of food and clothing. Those in the programme can take part in a special rehabilitation process. This means that families have an opportunity to use a special apartment where they can separate themselves from their negative environment and develop a normal child-parent relationship with the support of social workers and psychologists. The aim of the programme is to give support to families at risk and prevent children from being left alone without care.

There is good collaboration with the local social security office and considerable interest in testing the assistance programme so that it can be extended to other cities in Russia. The programme is independent of other SOS programmes in the country but is willing to work together with the closest SOS children's village in Pushkin if necessary.