



# NARRATIVE PROJECT REPORT

Art Therapy for Vulnerable Children

**Implementing partner:** SOS Children's Villages Armenian Charity Foundation

**Project site:** SOS Children's Village in Kotayk, Kotayk Province

**Implementation period:** October, 2022 – October, 2023

**Reporting period:** January 10, 2023 – April 10, 2023

Yerevan 2023



## Introduction

Art therapy classes help children interpret, express, and resolve their emotions and thoughts. In the frames of "Art therapy for vulnerable children" project children together with their teachers use art to explore their emotions, understand conflicts or feelings that are causing them distress. Currently the project has 46 beneficiaries. To promote social integration of children from Kotayk Village, children from neighboring communities are also engaged in the project activities.

## Puppetry workshop

Puppet making is an activity that children always do with joy and excitement. 16 children participate in the hobby group, 7 of them are from the community, 9 from the SOS village. The children are very excited to work as they have learned to make dolls with a new technique using glue, cotton and starch. When the doll is ready, it is painted with acrylic paints and colorful figures are obtained.

The kids are currently busy preparing for the performance. They made the decision to perform "The Wise Men" by the Grimm Brothers and "The Talking Fish" by Hovhannes Tumanyan. They are currently learning the words for their characters and also creating puppets. They have to work hard because the play is set to be performed in the second half of May. The SOS caregivers, the children from SOS and the community children will be invited to watch the performance.



The children expressed their will to use their newly acquired skills to create the small heroes of fairy tales in addition to puppets for the play. So, along with the performance, a small exhibition will also take place.

## Pottery workshop

There are 15 students in the pottery group. 5 of them are the children from the community. They prepared beautiful Easter decorations and gifts for the 8<sup>th</sup> of March during this period, working extremely pleasantly and productively. Receiving plates, coffee and tea mugs, and vases with their names on them made mothers very happy. The kids also crafted tiny chickens and bunnies for Easter.



Besides that, youngsters have begun using the pottery machine more skillfully. First of all, it has a very relaxing effect. Also, it significantly improves motor abilities and expedites work. Working with a pottery machine is one of the favorite activities for children.



An interesting excursion was organized for the students of the pottery group. They visited “Mane Tiles” handmade mosaic and ceramic tile workshop to learn about the details of the production process. They learned new details even though many processes were familiar to them. The staff of the company was pleasantly surprised by the children's knowledge. The acquired knowledge and impressions will definitely help the children in creating their future works.

### **Sand Therapy**

The work of this hobby group took a brief halt due to the group leader's illness. Now the classes have resumed. 15 children are attending the classes, 7 of them are from the community. The therapeutic sessions are held twice a week, but we had to divide the group into two parts, as it was too big. In accordance with the teacher's directions, children complete sand projects on subjects that interest them as well as on friendship, honesty, family, etc.



Sometimes the teacher works with the children individually. Individual approach helps to overcome children's aggressiveness, regulate relationships, emotions.