



SINGLE
PARENTS'
CENTRE

FOURTEEN SEASONS IN THE SINGLE PARENTS' CENTRE

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June 2018 – November 2021



In Hungary a parent is absent in 300,000 families. Thus 500,000 children are brought up by a mother or a father alone. It is they whom the Single Parents' Centre helps.





The Single Parents' Centre opened for Hungary's largest minority, single parent families, in May 2018.

Since then

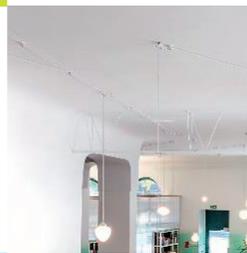
24 300

families have been given help with services, assistance and access to a community



164

parents have found employment with our help



800

specialists have participated in our professional events



1198

families have received donations of food, toiletries and computers



80

volunteers help the Centre

50

NGOs have benefitted from workshops and professional training sessions we have organised

7470

parents and children have benefitted from holidays and camps we have organised



150

children and parents living over the borders of Hungary have participated in our events

The 400-square-metre communal and assistance space of the Single Parents' Centre provides single parent families with *free services and events, as well as support and donations.*

The Centre is at the same time a crisis centre, a space for getting assistance and support, a play centre, a café and a venue for events.

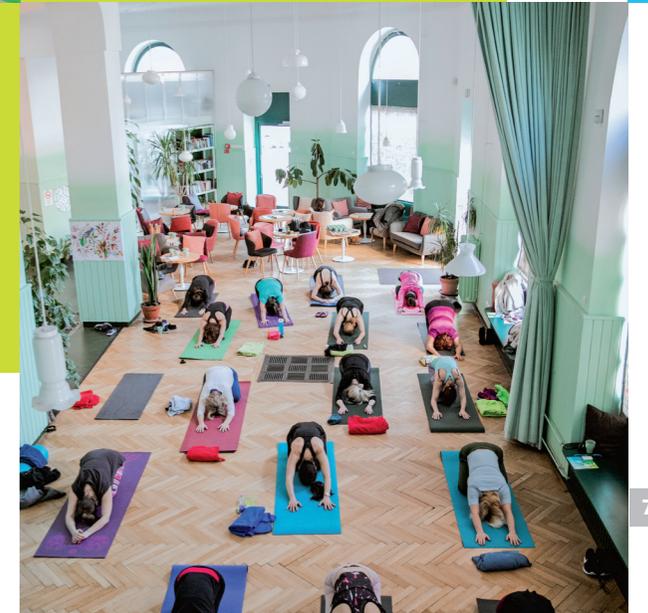
As a Treasure Island our play centre welcomes little pirates with lots of new experiences and adventures. Among other facilities, a slide, a ball pit, swings and many educational toys make time memorable, both for healthy children and for children with special needs.



WHAT DOES THE SINGLE PARENTS' CENTRE PROVIDE?

The Centre is developing a national network – at present there are 10 regional and 7 clubs over Hungary's borders.

Our operation is regarded as a *unique social innovation internationally*, which we were able to introduce as good practice in the UN.



We have increased the number of places where the Single Parent Card is accepted and single parent families can benefit from significant discounts.

HELP IN CRISIS

- legal advice
- psychological assistance for adults and children
- mediation between parents
- donations (clothing, non-perishable food, school equipment)
- support groups



2

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- thematic and self-help groups, clubs
- art therapy groups for parents
- physical and psychological health projects
- community development projects
- art and craft sessions, events connected to holidays and important days



4

PARENT HELPING PROJECTS

- Parents' Academy
- "digital parents" events
- family therapy

5

PROJECTS FOR CHILDREN

- daytime and overnight camping, holidays
- study groups based on the Study groups for children between 10 and 17
- extra school tutoring for children between 8 and 17
- preparatory courses for entrance examinations
- "Adolescent Complaints": mediation between parents and adolescents
- drama education
- thematic art and craft sessions
- events for children



SINGLE PARENTS' CENTRE 2018-2021

3

ASSISTANCE IN FINDING A JOB

- work placement
- job fairs
- individual advice, writing CVs, preparation for interviews
- "return to work" project for young mothers
- foreign language and professional training
- START business development incubator project
- guidance for business development



6

PREVENTION

- events for blended families
- self-help groups for those living in blended families
- mediation



OUR SERVICES



INCORPORA CAREER PROJECT

Our foundation, a partner of the INCORPORA project, helps single parents and women to find work in the labour market.

- we have found jobs for 164 people in the labour market
- we have formed 95 contacts with companies
- we have participated in 14 career events

SUMMER EVENTS

Various camps were among our most popular programmes. Single parent families could participate in:

- *summer Erzsébet camps*
- *Erzsébet family weekends*
- *family holidays in the Kolping Hotel*
- *the Zobor Theme and Adventure Park*
- *the camp in the Vértes Hills*
- *daytime camps*
- *week-long holidays in Gyula, Zalakaros and three locations by Lake Balaton*



- *thematic camps:*
 - discovery camp
 - water adventure camp
 - yoga and well-being camp
 - DUE media camp
 - international adventure camp
 - Contact camp (for families bringing up children with special needs)



UNIQUE PARENT AWARD

The Unique Parent Award is announced every year. It is awarded to single parents or grandparents who have excelled as sole breadwinners. With the award, we would like to increase the *social appreciation of single parent families*.



SOME OF OUR PROJECTS

EARTH DAY

A day for environment protection for 140 children of nursery school age, during which they learnt how they could look after the well-being of the Earth and how much we are receiving from the planet.



MORE THAN HEALTH – FAMILY EVENT

An open-air family programme aiming at *health consciousness*. Sports, physical exercise, a healthy way of life and nutrition were in focus during the day. More than 700 participated in the event.

END PERIOD POVERTY – CAMPAIGN FOR DONATIONS

In cooperation with Body Shop, we held a collection for single mothers and their daughters who have no access to female sanitary products. Mobilising throughout the whole country, in a few days we collected donations for 1500 women and girls in need.



BEAUTY DAY ON MOTHER'S DAY

For Mother's Day we organised a 'Beauty Day' for mothers who have little time for themselves during the year. Beauty treatment, dermatological diagnostics, hairdressing and make-up advice were just a few of the opportunities mothers could try out during the Beauty Day.



SUSTAINABILITY IN FOCUS – FAMILY DAY

The sustainability family day focussed on an environment-friendly attitude and a zero-waste way of life. It included presentations, quizzes and games. Children learnt about recyclable materials at art and craft sessions.



FATHERS IN FOCUS

A Father's Day event about fathers' joy and challenges. Psychologists, journalists, actors and well-known dads talked about the world from the perspective of fathers. Creative sessions and contests were aimed at parents and children in order to share experiences and be creative together.

ANGELS DO EXIST – FULFILL A CHILD'S DREAM!

500 children wrote and drew pictures of their wishes, which Santa Claus fulfilled at an intimate festive celebration with the help of voluntary donors – the event made the children very happy.



ACTIVITY OF THE SINGLE PARENTS' CENTRE DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC

During the pandemic single parents' difficulties have multiplied and their problems which caused unease before have increased. Therefore during the state of danger the following can be accessed online:

FOR PARENTS

- legal assistance
- individual and group psychological counselling
- help with seeking and finding employment

PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE HAS BEEN PROVIDED IN BUDAPEST AND ALL OVER HUNGARY

- nearly 18 tonnes of non-perishable food have been provided for families in the most difficult situation
- 181 laptops have been donated to families so that children can participate in online education
- we have launched an intensive campaign to collect donations in order to help families with food, cleaning materials, toiletries and laptops

Changes in legal provisions helping single parent families

ONE OF THE IMPORTANT TASKS OF THE SINGLE PARENTS' CENTRE INVOLVES REPRESENTING SINGLE PARENT FAMILIES. SINCE THE OPENING OF THE CENTRE

- the minimum child benefit for orphans is more than doubling: from 1 January 2022 this sum will rise from 24 250 forints to 50 000 forints; with the change, the monthly benefit relating to almost 42 000 children is increasing
- obtaining maintenance is easier, quicker and more effective
 - the state assures in advance any maintenance which is owed, thus recovering any amount owing is the task of the state and not the parent
 - the highest advance payment of maintenance is increasing from 14,500 forints per month to more than 50,000 forints per month
 - irrespective of family income, every single parent family can request the advance payment of maintenance owing for more than three months; the earlier legal provisions only allowed this possibility in the case of one person's income being lower than 57,000 forints
- children of single parents can enjoy an advantage for crèche admittance, thus making it easier for the parent to take up employment

THE SINGLE PARENT'S CENTRE ON THE INTERNATIONAL SCENE



- New York – Anna Nagy, head of the Single Parents' Centre gave a presentation about the activity of the Single Parents' Centre as good

practice and the situation of single parents at the two-week session of the *UN Commission on the Status of Women*.

- Warsaw – the Single Parents' Centre presented itself at a function of the Polish Ministry of Labour, Family Affairs and Social Policy.
- Berlin – presentation of the Single Parents' Centre as international good practice at the international conference of the German AGF.
- Brussels – Anna Nagy, head of the Single Parents' Centre, gave a presentation on single parent families in Hungary and Europe in the European Parliament.
- Online forum of experts of more than ten countries with the cooperation of COFACE Families Europe and Hungary's National Association of Large Families.
- Besides the good practices of the United States, Australia, Hong Kong, South Africa, Germany and Italy, the Budapest Single Parents' Centre also presented its activity at the series of events of the German AGF.

THE SINGLE PARENTS' CENTRE – AWARDS



- “Communal Space of the Year”, special prize
- “Highlights of Hungary”, special prize
- *Family Friendly Workplace*, certification at bronze level
- *Family Friendly Services Provider*, certification at bronze level
- *Female Entrepreneur of the Year* awarded to Anna Nagy for establishing the Single Parents' Centre



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