

Close Neighbour



1990-2023

Over 33 years of working with Roma children

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CLOSE NEIGHBOUR



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Blízký soused

Introduction



At the beginning, there was the enthusiastic individual - Pavla Fáberová (born Knoblochová). After that, there was the commitment of a single family, and over time, there was a team of passionate enthusiasts. After the organization was founded, the activity was built primarily on a volunteer basis. In recent years, we have succeeded in building an increasingly professional team and we are getting better at what we do.

- ▶ **Established on:** November 2, 2010
- ▶ **Main activity:** Leisure and educational activities intended mainly for children and youth coming from the Roma community and living in socially excluded localities based on Christian values. Apart from activities for children, we also offer educational and leisure activities for whole families.
- ▶ **Motto:** "Helping kids be kids, so they can grow up to be better adults!"
- ▶ **Origin of the name:** "A neighbour close by is better than a family far away." - Proverbs 27:10, The Bible
- ▶ **Location:** Pilsen (Czechia) and nearby towns (Nýřany, Chotěšov, Stod, Merklín...)
- ▶ **Activities:** hobbies clubs, tutoring, workshops, project days, trips to nature, cultural events, sports and educational events, summer camps and summer holiday program, trips for families, educational seminars and other seminars.
- ▶ **Scope of activity:** 300+ people per year, 200+ children, 20+ volunteers, 50+ events per year
- ▶ **Involvement in projects:** "Neighbour Day", 72 Hours, Free Time Festival, Lively Street, Pilsen Courtyards

MILESTONES

- 1990 - 2007 supporting the Roma community on a volunteer basis throughout the Czech Republic and abroad (England, Ukraine, Russia, Romania...)
- 2007 continuous activity in Pilsen
- 2008 cooperation with the shelters ("Hope" and "St. Zdislava")
- 2010 the organization established
- 2012 first extra-curricular activities, summer camps for children
- 2013 writing three methodologies on working with children with social disadvantages at summer camps and leisure activities
- 2014 the organization has its first official premises and international cooperation, first summer Scout camp - Bochov-Javorná (Czech Republic)
- 2015 involvement of Roma employees
- 2018 trips for families with children, first two projects from the European Social Fund
- 2020 new premises in the Komenda building rented from the City of Pilsen
- 2022 first project from Norway Grants: "Family Teaching Family"
- 2023 three more projects granted by the European Social Fund

OUR GOALS

- To support families in building a stable environment for raising their children
- To mitigate the effects of social exclusion
- Motivate the families to effectively integrate into the society
- Provide opportunities and space for meaningful family activities
- To support all-round education and development

TARGET GROUP

- Families with children
- People living in socially excluded areas and socially disadvantaged people
- Persons who lead a risky lifestyle or are negatively impacted by this lifestyle
- Ethnic and national minorities (Roma, including immigrants from Slovakia, Romania, Ukraine and other countries)

OUR PRINCIPLES

- Individual approach
- Free of charge
- Voluntary access
- Discretion
- Encouraging active involvement