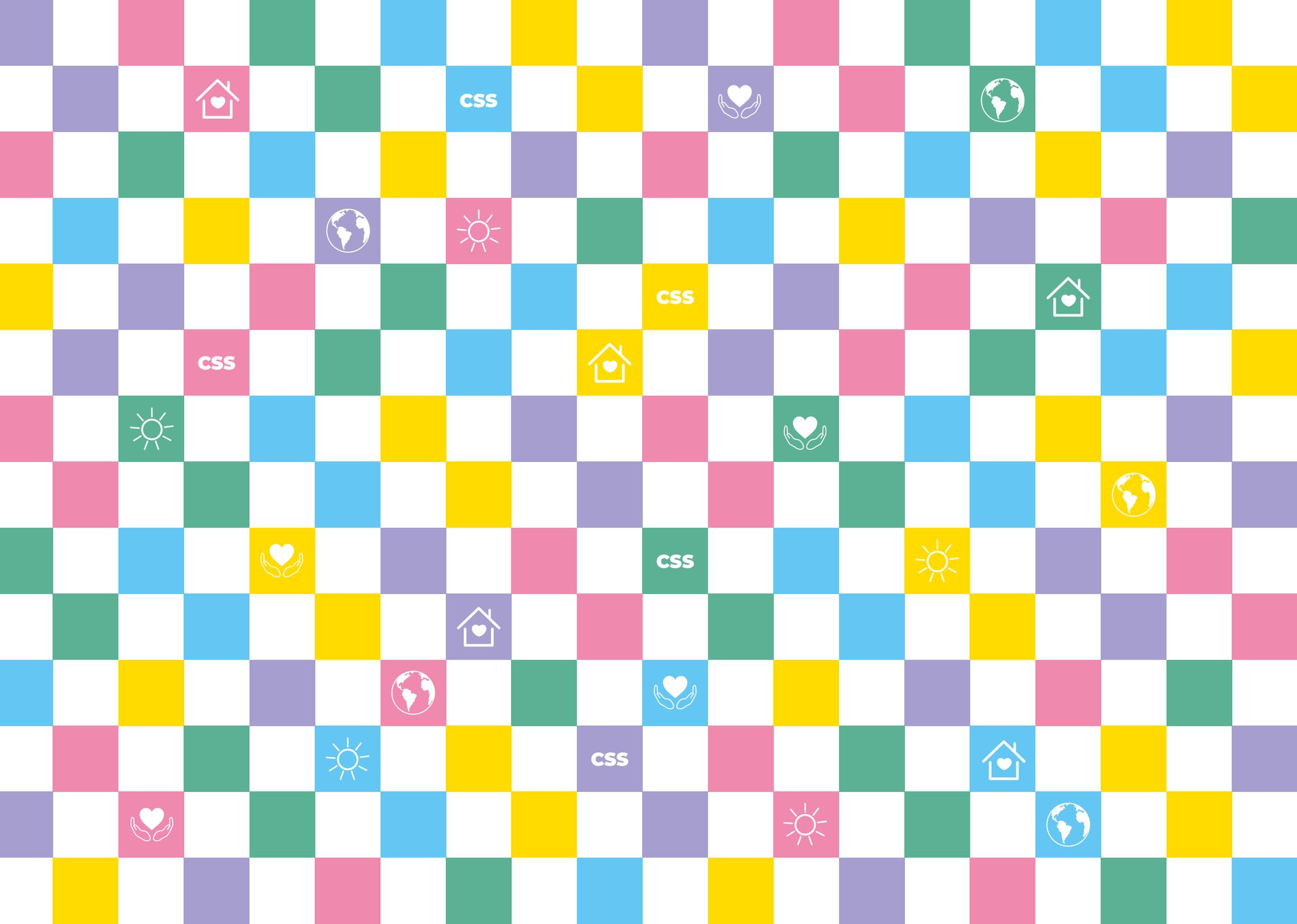




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# ANNUAL REPORT





CSS



CSS



CSS



CSS



CSS



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The only thing stopping those vulnerable members of our community to thrive and prosper is for good people to do nothing.

As an organization without any political or religious affiliation, CSS remains proud of its ongoing support, education and care for vulnerable Russian children and families.

In 2021, CSS successfully completed two (2) further grant competitions, taking our support to over 205 million rubles, across 87 projects operating within 61 regions across Russia.

CSS is nurturing over **8,500 children and families** through over **19,000 lessons**, activities and training programs across education, vocational training, sport immersion and psychological support.

In addition, CSS expanded its network of specialists, educators and volunteers to over **2,097** with hundreds of sponsored events, in person and internet based training and educational programs. Importantly,

through the support of CSS' growing number of specialists, we have co-developed **92 published works** and educational programs which have already received over **147,000 open sourced views**. This is allowing us to extend our work and support to those in remote areas and regions across Russia.

2022 has already commenced where 2021 finished, with incredible growth and ambition and we wish all our staff, partners and beneficiaries every success in their endeavors.



“

*In 2021, CSS successfully completed two (2) further grant competitions, taking our support to over 205 million rubles, across 87 projects operating within 61 oblasts across Russia.*

”

*WITH HOPE, ASPIRATION AND BEST WISHES*

*DAVID RUSSELL, FOUNDER*



Dear Friends,

Summing up the results of 2021, I must first of all thank my colleagues for the fact that, despite the challenges of the persisting pandemic, **the CSS Foundation team was able to mobilize its capabilities and direct all efforts to provide assistance to our beneficiaries as usual, because help was needed more than ever before.** We strived to bear in mind the difficulties experienced by our partners, responding flexibly to all changes and adjusting our plans: the Foundation simplified its requirements for applications and reporting forms, and showed understanding when events were cancelled or rescheduled, or project estimates amended. Addressing new challenges requires nonstandard solutions and quick adaptation to the changing environment.

I am therefore proud and happy to note that despite all the challenges of 2021, the Foundation's team has tackled the tasks and fulfilled all our plans. This year we held

two competitions for grant funding intended to help children and families in difficult situations. We provided assistance to thirty-seven non-profit organizations, and funded forty projects. Total grant funding in these two competitions amounted to approximately 100 million rubles. We also continued to support our regular partners with direct non-competitive funding. **The amount of financial assistance provided in 2021 increased by more than 20% against the previous year.**

At the end of the year, we held a New Year's Eve meeting with the Foundation's partners, where we had the opportunity to share our deliverables and plans for the next year and get to know our grantees' teams better. Our plans for 2022 include new Stronger with CSS grant competitions, which will become more focused, targeting specific areas, such as social sports, education, etc. - but our target audience will remain unchanged. We will also continue our work on the Foundation's

strategy and a performance monitoring and evaluation system for the projects that we finance. **Thanks to the support from our founder and partners, CSS Foundation is looking into the future with confidence.**

“

*We provided assistance to thirty-seven non-profit organizations, and funded forty projects. Total grant funding in these two competitions amounted to approximately 100 million rubles.*

”

**NATALIA KOVALENKO, CSS PRESIDENT**



# ABOUT THE CHARITY FOUNDATION

CSS Charity Foundation was registered in Russia in February 2019. We provide financing to Russian non-profit organizations that implement socially significant projects to improve the circumstances of vulnerable children and adolescents.



## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to build an effective network of partners who are able to help children and teenagers in difficult situations throughout Russia to unlock their innate abilities and fulfill their potential.



## OUR GOAL

Our goal is to strengthen those non-profit organizations that share and practice the principles of a comprehensive approach to development of children and adolescents to form an active, engaged, and competent young generation.



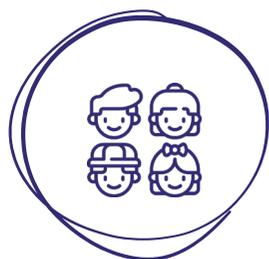
# WE PROVIDE THE FOLLOWING FORMS OF SUPPORT

1. Supporting families in crisis to prevent institutionalization of children.
2. Assistance in training and support for foster parents.
3. Improving the quality of education and socialization, vocational guidance and initial vocational training for children and adolescents in difficult situations.
4. Social sports.
5. Improving the skills of professionals and mentors.
6. Assisted living and employment.



# VALUES AND GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Our belief in preventive support for children and building a professional helping community of partners throughout Russia shapes the following seven core guiding values of the Foundation:



## 1. COMPREHENSIVE APPROACH TO CHILD AND TEENAGER DEVELOPMENT

We are certain that young people who received the greatest amount of developmental support (knowledge, skills, competencies, self-confidence, leadership abilities, etc.) in their childhood and adolescent years are more likely to succeed in studies, to have better economic prospects, and to fully come into their own and become civically engaged individuals.

We believe that this approach produces better results than addressing the consequences of adverse developments among the young after they have already occurred.

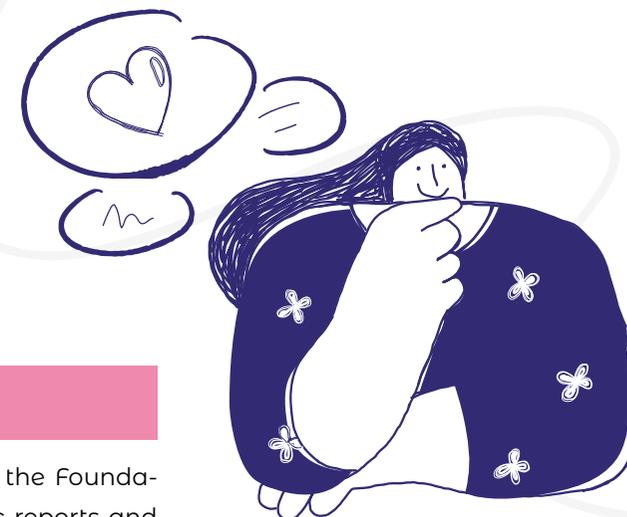
## 2. OPENNESS

We strive for maximum transparency in the Foundation's activities - we regularly post public reports and discuss the projects and life of the Foundation on our website and in social networks. We are open to honest and equal partnership.



## 3. RESPONSIBILITY

We acknowledge our personal and collective responsibility for the decisions we make and for the actions we take.





## 5. SELF-IMPROVEMENT

Our team members are constantly working to become better and to self-improve, enhancing their personal and professional abilities.



## 4. PROFESSIONAL EXCELLENCE AND EXPERTISE

Our team consists of professionals who possess the necessary knowledge and competencies and love their work. We also engage outside experts. This enables us to efficiently address tasks and achieve the best results, both in the Foundation's activities and in our choice of partners.



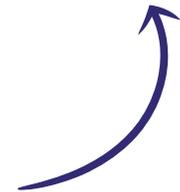
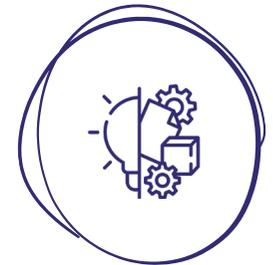
## 6. EQUAL PARTNERSHIP RELATIONS

We create equal conditions and provide equal opportunities for cooperation to all partners and participants in the Foundation's programs.



## 7. FOCUS ON RESULTS

We seek to invest the available resources in those initiatives, programs and projects that demonstrate sustainability and aim for long-term social impacts.



# THE TEAM

**THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE FOUNDATION** - the supervisory body



**DAVID RUSSELL**  
Founder, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

**THE PRESIDIUM OF THE FOUNDATION** - the supreme collective management body



**ANDREY YAKIMOV**  
Presidium chairman

**THE PRESIDENT OF THE FOUNDATION** - the one-person executive body



**NATALIA KOVALENKO**  
CSS President, Presidium member



**OLGA SUSLOVA**  
Director of project activities



**VICTORIA PETRUHINA**  
Project manager



**ASYA BULYCHEVA**  
Operations manager



**ELINA AFANASIEVA,**  
PR-director



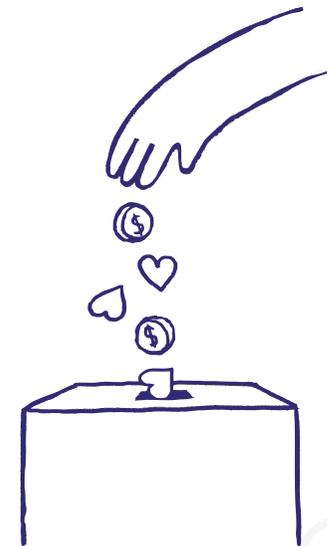
## “STRONGER WITH CSS” CHARITY PROGRAM

Projects are financed on the basis of the Supporting Partner Initiatives charity program and “Stronger with CSS”, a competition for projects by non-profit non-governmental organizations. This year’s competition sought to identify the most promising projects designed to improve the life situation of vulnerable parents and children, to preserve birth families and support family forms of orphan placement, and to enhance parental competencies by providing quality counseling support. The amount of financial support for each project was up to RUB 5 million.

The Foundation accords priority to projects:

- that promote successful social initiatives and assistance practices at regional level, beyond Moscow and Saint Petersburg;
- projects with proven performance record, partner projects and projects;
- designed to introduce new forms of assistance and services.

The charity program is focused on achieving sustainable and scalable results and lasting impact. The key principles are openness and transparency, awareness of the deliverables, customized approach, consistency and commensurability.



## GOALS:



Assisting the development and implementation of projects that provide comprehensive support and assistance to the program's Beneficiaries.



Assisting activities in the areas of education, science, culture, awareness and physical development.



Assisting activities in the area of preventive healthcare and public health, promotion of a healthy lifestyle, creation of a healthier moral and psychological environment.



Assisting in the acquisition of occupational skills by Beneficiaries.



Promotion of volunteering.

## OBJECTIVES:



Identifying, through competitive selection of Applicants, the best projects that help address the issues highlighted by the goals of the Charity Program.



Supporting the Applicants chosen on the basis of competitive selection with voluntary cash donations to fund the implementation of the Applicants' projects.



# TARGET AUDIENCE:



**Non-profit organizations** without political affiliation implementing efficient social projects and programs.



## **BENEFICIARIES OF NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATIONS:**

- Children left without parental care.
- Children and young adults up to the age of 44 with disabilities, i.e. physical and/or mental development conditions, and their families.
- Children in extreme hardship and their families.
- Victims of child abuse and their families.
- Children from low-income families.
- Children with behavioral issues and their families.
- Children from foster families.
- Foster families.



**Professionals** working with the above groups.



- Children whose lives are objectively disrupted by their circumstances and who are unable to handle such circumstances themselves or with the help of their families.



# “STRONGER WITH CSS”: PROCEDURE FOR COMPETITIVE SELECTION OF APPLICATIONS



## STAGE 1

Submission of applications.



## STAGE 2

Technical review of applications by employees of the Foundation for compliance with the formal criteria set out in the competition documents.



## STAGE 3

Consideration of applications by independent experts. Based on the evaluations of the expert panel, a short list of participants is compiled who are then invited to a video interview.



## STAGE 5

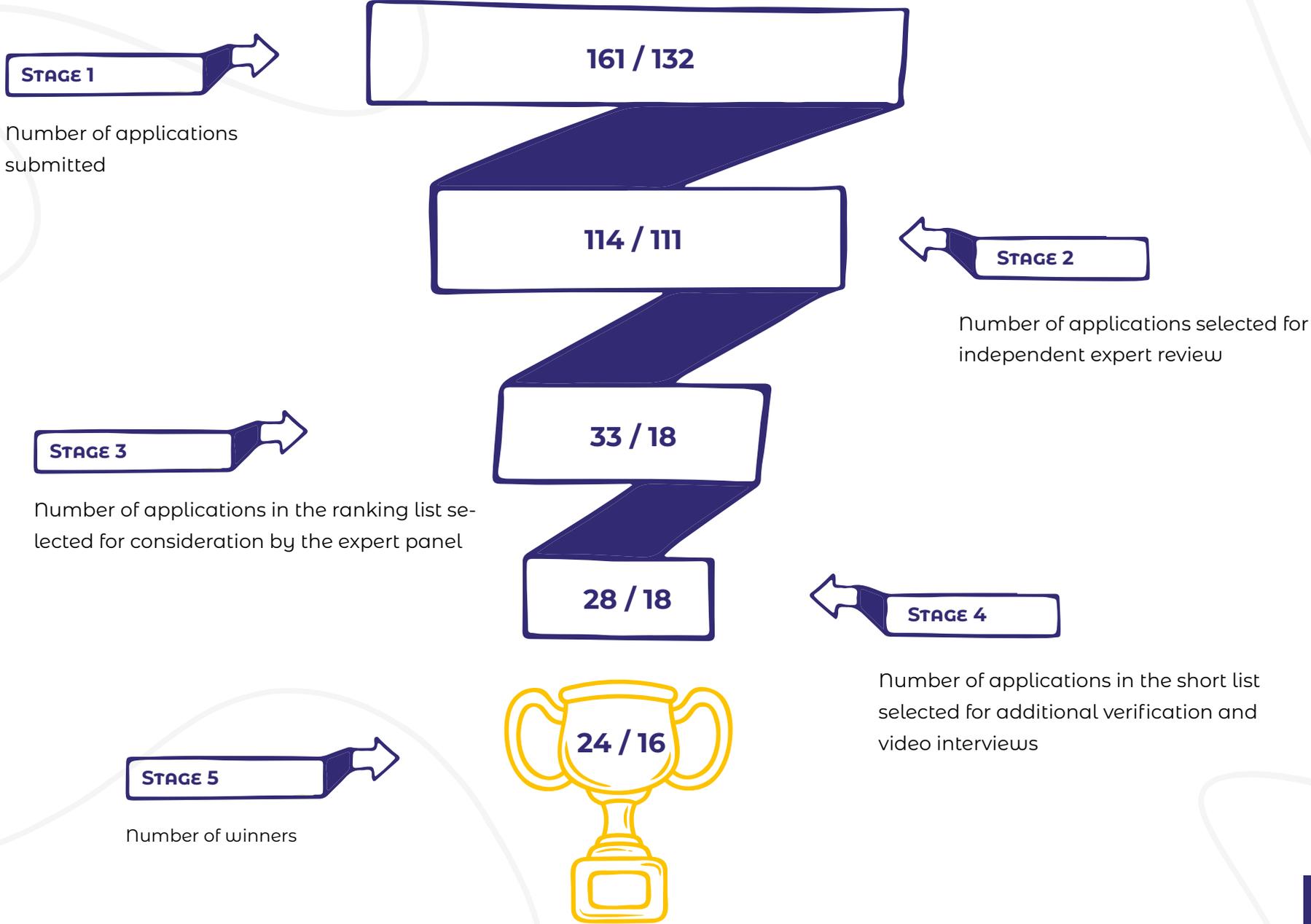
Selection and announcement of competition winners.



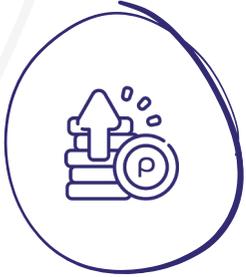
## STAGE 4

Video interviews and additional verification.

# COMPETITION I / COMPETITION II



# FINANCIAL RESULTS

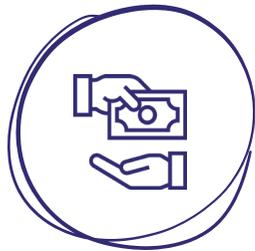
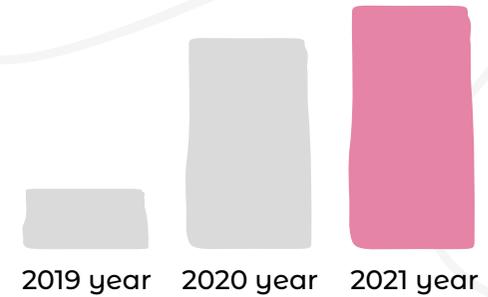


## TOTAL REVENUES

2019 year – 32 241 077,59 ₺

2020 year – 110 872 270,00 ₺

2021 year – 124 002 585,40 ₺

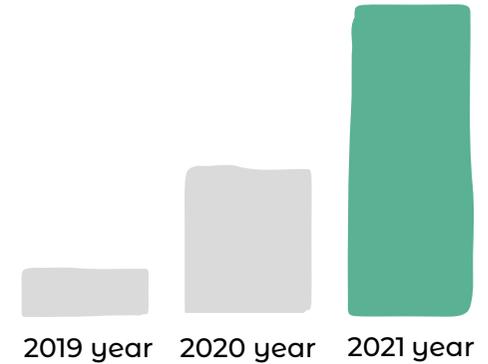


## TOTAL EXPENSES

2019 year – 23 931 846,42 ₺

2020 year – 70 200 003,99 ₺

2021 year – 145 403 490,80 ₺

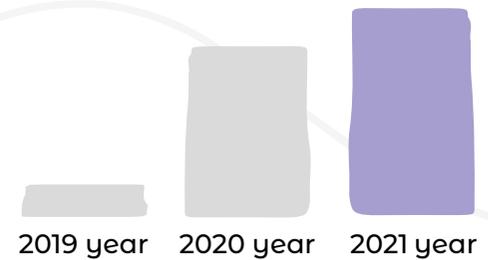


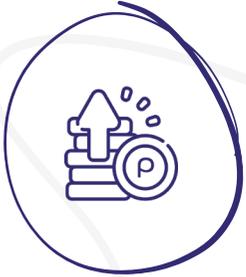
## TOTAL CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS FOR GRANTS

2019 year – 17 025 400,80 ₺

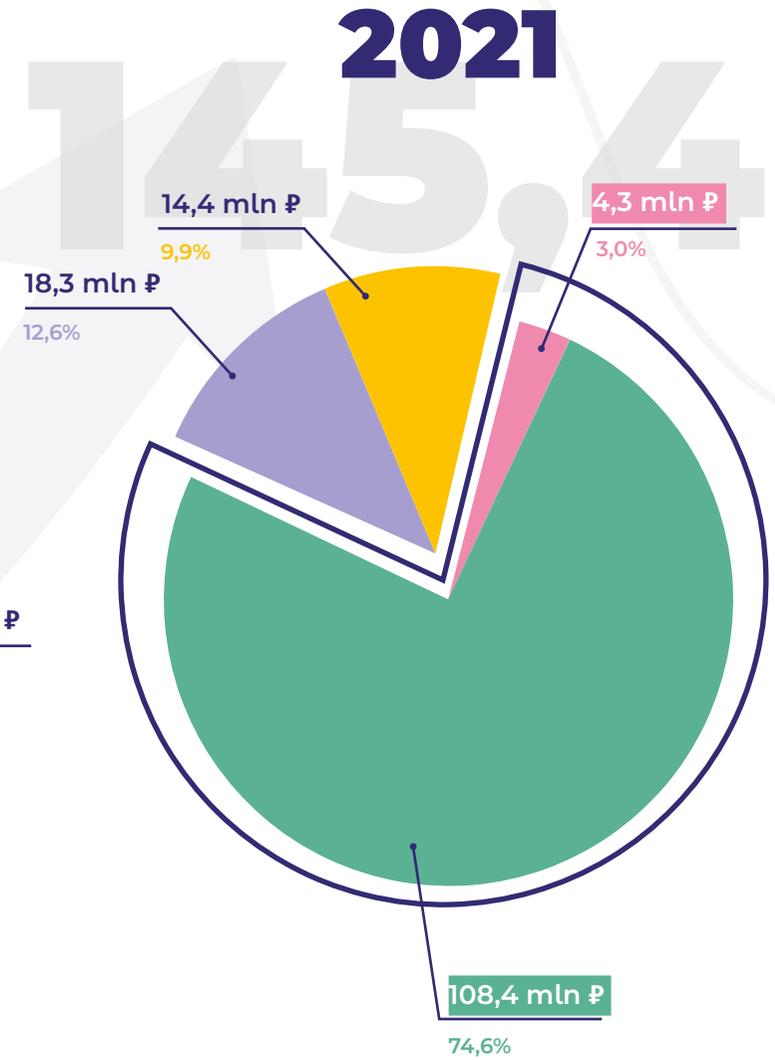
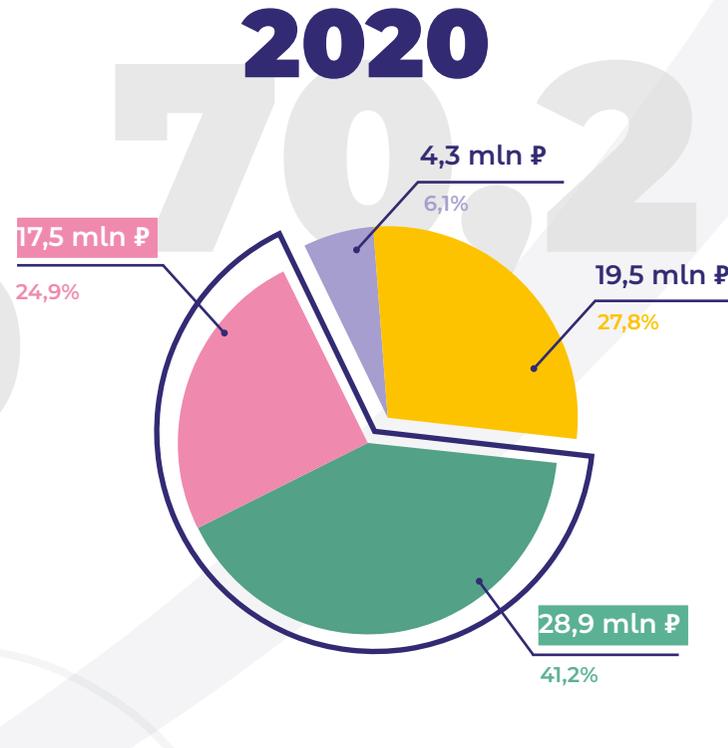
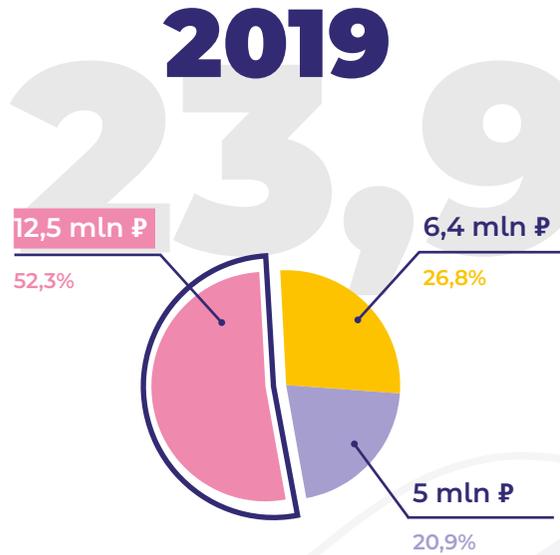
2020 year – 85 565 394,35 ₺

2021 year – 102 910 981,20 ₺





## EXPENSES BREAKDOWN IN MLN ₺



- Supervision of projects
- Administration and overhead, including foreign exchange loss
- Grants in the "Supporting Partner Initiatives" Charity Program
- Grants in the "Stronger with CSS" Charity Program



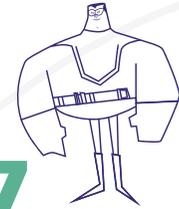
**147 795**

Total public views



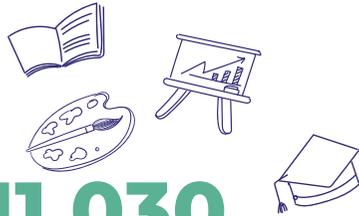
**4 302**

Number of children and young adults involved



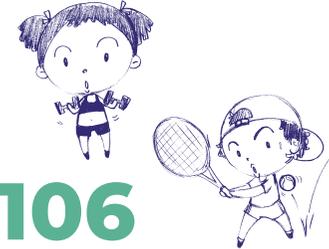
**2 097**

Number of professionals, mentors and volunteers



**11 030**

Number of held individual and group training sessions for children and young adults



**106**

Number of offline and online events held



**7 776**

Number of held individual and group training sessions for families

**2021**  
**CSS IN NUMBERS**



**4 145**

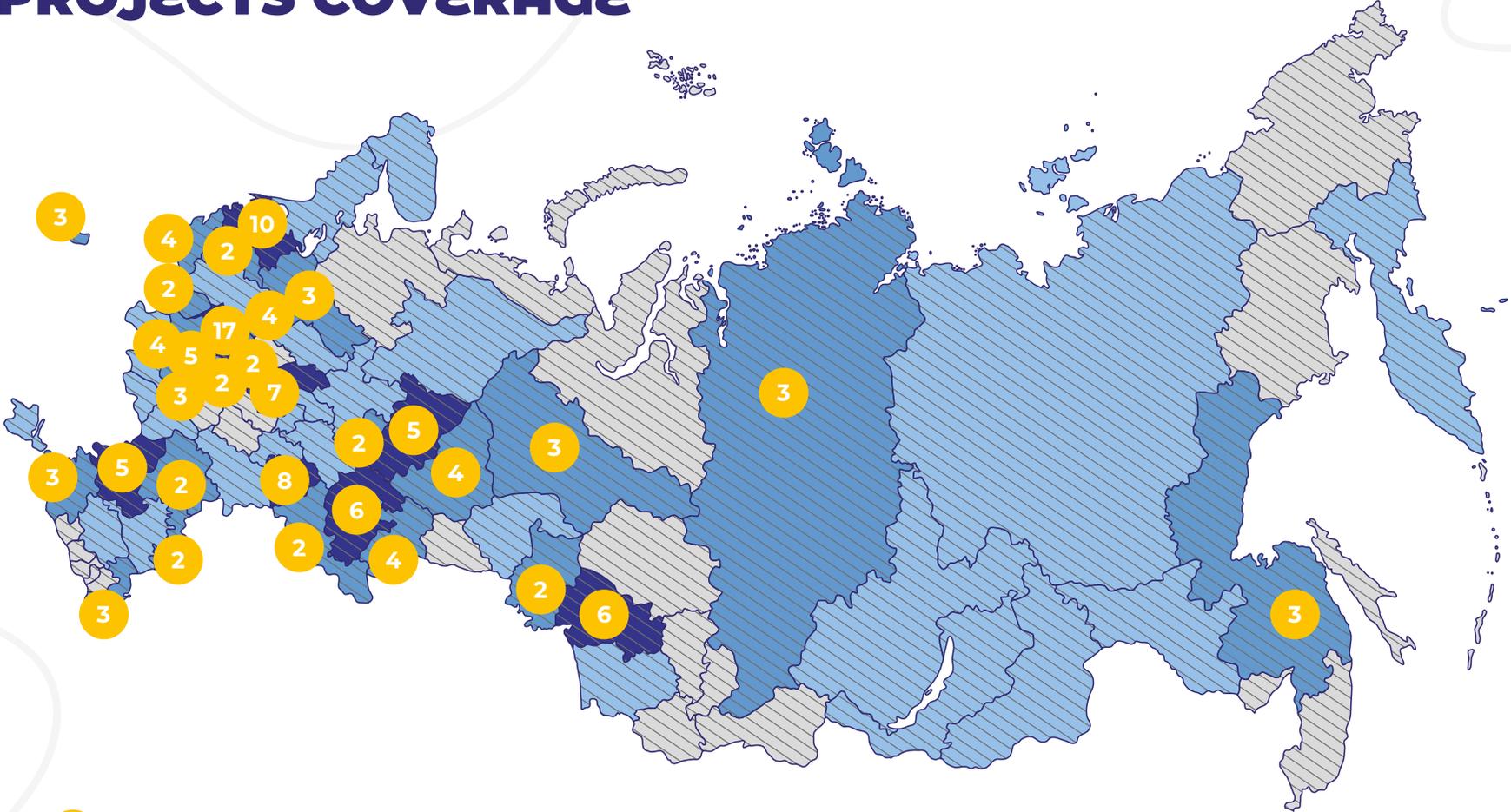
Number of families involved, including foster families



**92**

Number of educational programs and books developed

# PROJECTS COVERAGE



- number of projects
- regions with one offline project under implementation
- regions with 2 - 4 offline projects under implementation
- regions with more than 5 offline projects under implementation
- regions with online projects





# AREAS OF PROJECT ACTIVITY

*BELOW IS A DESCRIPTION OF THE RESULTS ACHIEVED BY THE 2020 AND 2021 WINNER PARTNERS WHOSE PROJECTS WERE IMPLEMENTED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD.*

# SUPPORTING FAMILIES IN CRISIS TO PREVENT INSTITUTIONALIZATION OF CHILDREN

**The epidemiological crisis, which continued into 2021, exacerbated the situation for families in Russia.** The COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic seriously disrupted the normal course of life, with many families losing their loved ones, including the only breadwinner in the family. Many lost their jobs as a result of post-COVID complications or closure of businesses that failed to survive the new challenges. All these factors caused an increase in the number of families on the brink of crisis.

In the course of implementation of their projects, our partners responsively addressed the situation, taking every possible effort to support the families that found themselves in difficult circumstances, including through development of remote services. Covering **10 Russian regions, Partnership for Every Child, No Child Is Somebody Else's Child, The ABCs of Family, Our Children, The Little House of Childhood and the Karelian Education Development Fund** provided comprehensive support to vulnerable families,

helped create supportive communities, assisted in preventing re-institutionalization, and facilitated the replication of best practices in the regions most in need.

Families raising handicapped children and/or children with disabilities require special support; this is one of the most vulnerable groups. Such families face not only physical obstacles in overcoming a difficult life situation, but also psychological distress that affects the parents' emotional resourcefulness. Thanks to the projects by such organizations as **Space for Communication, Region of Mercy, Volga Region Mental Health Center, Hesed Tikva, Sodeistvie, Siyanie, Proliv, Equal Opportunities and Special Childhood, 693 families from 12 Russian regions** received support on a range of matters, from human rights to rehabilitation.

Despite the efforts of many public organizations and governmental agencies, most families raising children with special needs continue to face difficulties in exercising their

and their children's rights to opportunities for socialization, education, and quality medical care, due among other things to insufficient awareness and expertise in legal matters.

*I found myself in a difficult life situation, so I ended up in a crisis center. We had no home, my children and I had nowhere to live, and there were many other problems. An acquaintance suggested that I contact your organization. Thank you very much for the opportunity to stay in the crisis center. The people here are very nice; I got help not only with residence registration, but also with applying for child allowances and renting a place to live. Now we do not need anything, we've got everything: a place to sleep and to live, and food for the kids. I am very grateful that there is such a help center!*

**Olga,**  
beneficiary of a project by No Child Is Somebody Else's Child



Lyudmila's family applied to the foundation (Our Children) because both parents had lost their jobs. Lyudmila was a cleaner at a health resort, and Alexei worked as a feller in the woods—but after the lockdown last spring they lost their sources of income. There are no alternative jobs to be found in their village. After three months, the money ran out. To somehow get by, they had to borrow food from the local store (Lyudmila's mother would then pay off the debts from her pension). That was a turning point, and the family decided to ask for help from the foundation.

The foundation provided support in this crisis situation, including food assistance, legal counseling (on converting the family's state-owned house into private ownership), and advice on how best to apply for child allowances and register with the employment center. By the end of 2021, Lyudmila's family managed to resolve the crisis situation and was motivated to move on.

#### **The story of Lyudmila and her family, July 2021**

Through Patronus, a one-of-a-kind long-term project run by the **Space for Communication center**, a nation-wide system of online legal counseling was set up in Russia to provide advice to families raising children and youth with physical and mental disabilities.

Project beneficiaries received a wide range of services including oral and written advice, clarifications, assistance in drafting complaints, applications and litigation documents, and litigation support.

*In the course of implementation of their projects, our partners responsively addressed the situation, taking every possible effort to support the families that found themselves in difficult circumstances, including through development of remote services.*

Over the year, the project team helped applicants to procure apartments, medications, disability pensions, allowances, and other payments. In monetary terms, the aggregate amount of payments and compensations during the project year totaled more than **45 million rubles**, a testament to the outstanding performance of this project, fully funded by CSS Foundation.

Sadly, an HIV diagnosis is still a stigma in present-day society. People affected by this disease choose to hide it from others, thereby also cutting themselves off from the opportunity to obtain help. HIV-infected teenagers form a special category of children.



Teenagers with HIV are the type of patients showing the lowest rate of treatment adherence.

For that reason, they need additional psychosocial assistance: it is essential to improve their awareness about HIV, help them in accepting the diagnosis, and procure support from a significant adult. With our financial backing, the team of **Children+** foundation, as part of its Invisible Families and Springboard projects, provided assistance to **260 teenagers and their families** by spreading and introducing efficient psychosocial support practices and implementing a mentoring program.

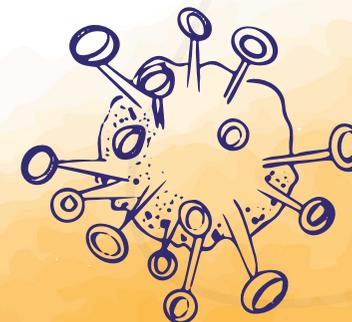
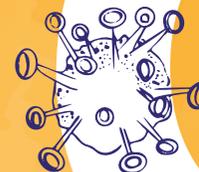
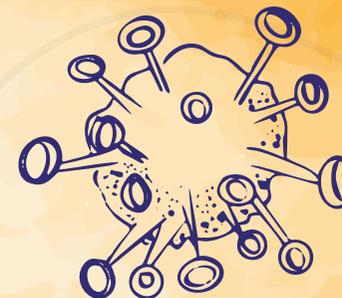
The projects of our partners are versatile as there are many ways to overcome a crisis in a family; everything depends on the specific circumstances in each particular case. For a number of years now, our Foundation has been supporting programs that apply efficient and innovative approaches. 2021 was no exception: we supported and financed the development of a teen club (in a project by **Crossroads Plus**), a social repair shop (by **Second Breath**) and a rehabilitation program for premature infants (by the **Patients Advocacy Chamber**).

*I met my mentor at the center. I discuss with him all the questions and problems that worry me because I trust him as a best friend. During the lockdown, I continued to communicate with him. We remained in contact through video and phone calls. For my birthday in April, he gave me a present through my tutor. I was very pleased and excited. I would very much like to meet and talk with him. I am really looking forward to this meeting. I am happy that I have such a friend and mentor who can help me at any time!*

**Seryozha, 16**  
a beneficiary of Children+

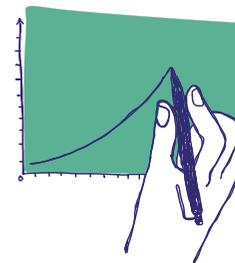


**CSS Foundation is ready and willing to become a pillar and support for other non-profit organizations and our beneficiaries in any difficult situation.**



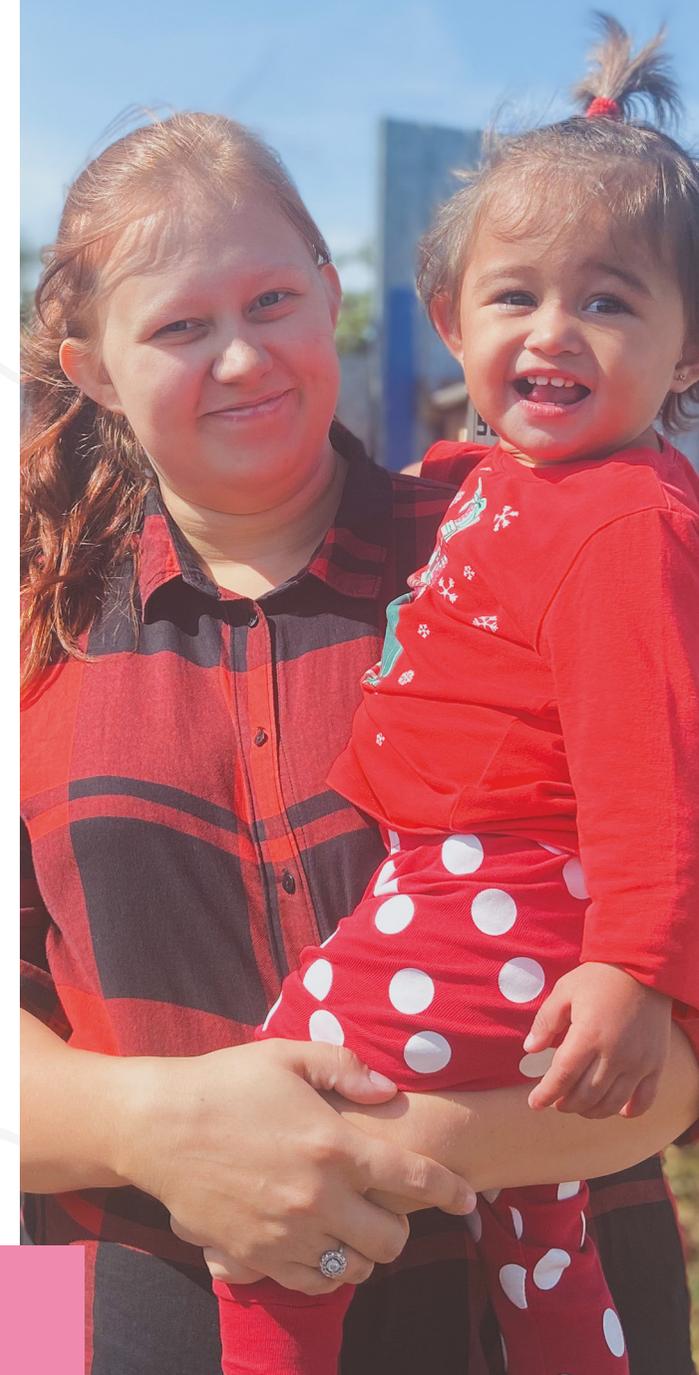
# PARTNERS, PROJECTS AND FUNDING

	<b>SPACE FOR COMMUNICATION</b> Patronus	2 563 000,00 ₽
	<b>REGION OF MERCY</b> Inclusion family camp for children with mental disorders	667 111,00 ₽
	<b>SECOND BREATH</b> Repair Cafe	699 950,00 ₽
	<b>VOLGA REGION MENTAL HEALTH CENTER</b> Creation of Happy Parenting and Childhood, a system of remote support for children with autism spectrum disorders and their families	698 788,00 ₽
	<b>CHILDREN+</b> Springboard	4 990 000,00 ₽
	<b>PARTNERSHIP FOR EVERY CHILD</b> Active Family Support Service in the Leningrad Region	4 998 774,70 ₽
	<b>SPACE FOR COMMUNICATION</b> Focus on Family	699 089,00 ₽
	<b>CROSSROADS PLUS</b> Environment of Opportunities	699 426,00 ₽
	<b>NO CHILD IS SOMEBODY ELSE'S CHILD</b> Home for Mom	3 635 833,15 ₽



## PARTNERS, PROJECTS AND FUNDING (CONTINUATION)

	<p><b>THE ABCs OF FAMILY</b> The ABCs of a Happy Family – Regional Clubs</p>	808 000,00 ₺
	<p><b>HESED TIKVA (Mercy)</b> School of Joy Family Center</p>	911 000,00 ₺
	<p><b>PATIENTS ADVOCACY CHAMBER</b> Preemies: Program for premature infants in the 2nd stage of nursing care, 2021 continuation phase</p>	999 835,00 ₺
	<p><b>SODEISTVIE</b> Developing Together: Group sessions for families raising children with disabilities aged from 2.5 to 18 years</p>	1 861 097,00 ₺
	<p><b>OUR CHILDREN</b> Sticking Together</p>	4 850 983,00 ₺
	<p><b>SIYANIE</b> Happy Together: Supporting parent-child relationships</p>	3 180 156,00 ₺
	<p><b>THE LITTLE HOUSE OF CHILDHOOD</b> Support Service: Social patronat care for families in difficult circumstances</p>	1 397 312,00 ₺
	<p><b>PROLIV</b> Andrey Afonin's School of Parenting Skills</p>	1 977 102,00 ₺





### EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Open Doors: Integrating children from families in difficult circumstances into society

1 348 163,00 ₺



### KARELIAN EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT FUND (KFRO)

Coming Together to Help the Family

3 873 540,00 ₺



### SPECIAL CHILDHOOD

Circle: System of comprehensive support for children with disabilities

1 752 022,00 ₺



### CHILDREN+

Invisible Families

4 000 000,00 ₺

## TOTAL

# 2 403



Number of families involved

# 2 998



Number of held consultations for parents / training sessions for children

# 531



Number of professionals / mentors trained

# 46,6 MLN. ₺



Funding in this segment

# 21



Projects in this segment

# ASSISTANCE IN TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR ADOPTIVE PARENTS

According to a study by analysts from the Help Needed foundation, in 2021, of all the families in Russia who wanted to take a child into care, only 34 percent were able to do so. This figure has not changed for three years now. At the same time, the number of families with a successful adoption experience has halved since 2010. In addition, statistics show that the sad trend of re-institutionalization of children has been on the rise. Why does this happen? Most often, a child is returned by the adoptive parents or at the initiative of child protection agencies because of abuse or failure to discharge parental duties.

Quality support plays an important role in preventing repeat child abandonment. The projects of our partners - **Big Change, Find a Family, Branch Hut, IRSU, Sverdlovsk Region Association of Foster Families and Volunteers to Help Orphans** - are designed to help adoptive families, including those raising children with disabilities, to address this issue.

Adoptive parents are often inadequately prepared to deal with the peculiarities of an

orphan, have no knowledge of the methods for adaptation and psychological rehabilitation of children, and need the professional help of various specialists, such as psychologists, social workers and lawyers, as well as assistance from other parents whose successful examples and life experiences could inspire a new family to work its way through the arising difficulties and have faith in building up a relationship and a special bond with the child. Thanks to our partners, **636 families received such support in 2021.**



*They are very empathetic, accepting, sensitive professionals. They do not lecture on what's right, they do not rub your nose in it when you make mistakes, they do not reprove, not to mention the many other "don'ts" that adoptive parents encounter every day. They are on the side of the family, the child and the parent. They help the family through the challenges, and rejoice in its victories—in my opinion, just as much as the family itself.*

## **Participant,**

Federal Remote Support Service for Adoptive Families, a project by the Find a Family foundation

*Adoptive parents are often inadequately prepared to deal with the peculiarities of an orphan, have no knowledge of the methods for adaptation and psychological rehabilitation of children, and need the professional help of various specialists, such as psychologists, social workers and lawyers.*



*It is great that you can join the lectures in the online format, and it was very interesting to learn about what it's like to raise adopted children. It turns out that love alone is not enough.*

### **Participant**

Project to create and implement a Program of abuse prevention in adoptive families in the Sverdlovsk Region by the Sverdlovsk Region Association of Foster Families



*Over two years, my child has caught up on studies, after five years of underachievement in school, has psychologically matured by a great extent, and became socialized...*

### **Adoptive father**

Project by the Big Change foundation

A special mention should be made of the projects by the **Big Change** foundation (Community of adoptive parents concerned about children's education and Creating the Big Change inclusive center on the basis of the Family Fairy Tale community in the Novosibirsk Region) that were intended to bring adoptive parents together into a supportive community to handle children's support in the schooling process. Such a community will, in turn, help prevent the emotional burnout of foster parents, crises in the child-parent relationships, and re-institutionalization of adopted children.

As a result, more than 70 adopted children were able to feel the necessary support from their parents, gaining with their help

a successful experience in overcoming difficulties in school, self-confidence and enhanced motivation to study.

In a logical extension of the project, an inclusive space for training sessions with children and parents, including those from regular birth families in difficult situations, was organized on the basis of the Family Fairy Tale community. This project helped enhance the quality of education and socialization of children in difficult circumstances, facilitated a successful integration of adopted children and children with disabilities, and improved child-parent relationships.

Despite the fact that the number of orphans in this country has been declining, with a

two-fold reduction against 2014\* thanks to the consolidated efforts by state, professional and public organizations and concerned citizens, there is still a significant percentage of children and young adults who are living and being taken care of in residential institutions.



*Ilyusha has been moving around the village with much more confidence, he can now communicate not only with his brothers and sisters, but also with other kids.*

**T. Malygina, mother of Ilyusha, who has no legs**

Project by the Big Change foundation



Our partners at Maria's Children foundation, with our financial backing, implemented a project to set up a system of personalized support for such children. Teenagers from orphanages, young adults living at psychiatric care homes, and orphanage leavers, including those who have children of their own, were given a chance to successfully socialize, obtain an education and a profession, and become as independent as possible. The activities involving the beneficiaries included individual psychological counseling, training by tutors, enhancement of social and domestic skills, consultations and sessions with specialists (defectologist, neuropsychologist, speech therapist, educationist, lawyer), vocational counseling, etc.

The problem of child abandonment remains significant in the country. This is why

*I AM AN ORPHANAGE LEAVER, AND THANKS TO THE GRANT-SUPPORTED PROJECTS OF MARIA'S CHILDREN FOUNDATION, I AM TAKING CLASSES WITH TEACHERS AND VOLUNTEERS TO OBTAIN THE EDUCATION, KNOWLEDGE AND INFORMATION THAT I NEED IN MY LIFE. IT HELPS ME TO MOVE FORWARD AND ACHIEVE MY GOALS.*

**Irina**

A beneficiary of Maria's Children foundation



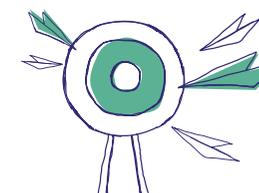
it is so important to support foster families and work with children in orphanages. CSS Foundation is one of those ready and willing to provide such support.

*Teenagers from orphanages, young adults living at psychiatric care homes, and orphanage leavers, including those who have children of their own, were given a chance to successfully socialize, obtain an education and a profession, and become as independent as possible.*



# PARTNERS, PROJECTS AND FUNDING

	<b>SPACE FOR COMMUNICATION</b> Patronus	2 563 000,00 ₺
	<b>BIG CHANGE</b> Community of adoptive parents concerned about children's education	2 648 868,00 ₺
	<b>FIND A FAMILY</b> Federal Remote Support Service for Adoptive Families	4 999 900,00 ₺
	<b>MARIA'S CHILDREN</b> INDIVIDUAL SUPPORT FOR ADOLESCENTS FROM CHILDREN'S RESIDENTIAL CARE FACILITIES, YOUNG ADULTS FROM PSYCHIATRIC CARE HOMES, AND ORPHANAGE LEAVERS	696 300,00 ₺
	<b>BRANCH HUT</b> Branch Hut for Parents: Handling difficult behavior, a course for parents	659 323,00 ₺
	<b>BIG CHANGE</b> Creating the Big Change inclusive center on the basis of the Family Fairy Tale community in the Novosibirsk Region	1 838 630,00 ₺
	<b>VOLUNTEERS TO HELP ORPHANS</b> Children in the Family: Training and support for adoptive families in the regions of the Russian Federation	1 759 451,00 ₺
	<b>FAMILY FOR EVERY CHILD</b> No Child is a Stranger	2 722 032,00 ₺



## PARTNERS, PROJECTS AND FUNDING (CONTINUATION)



### FIND A FAMILY

Find a Family, adoptive family support centers: The crucial things

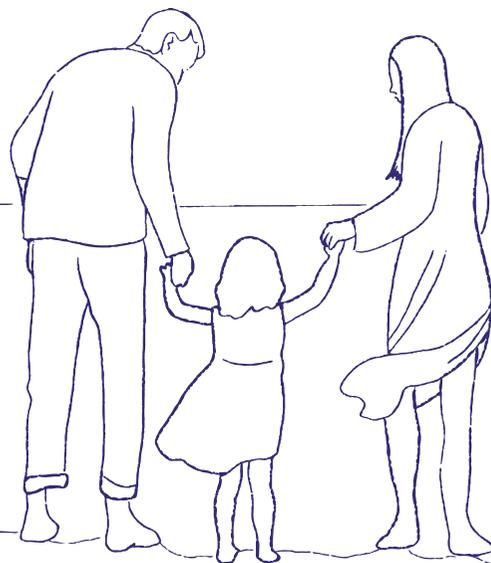
4 000 000,00 ₺



### SVERDLOVSK REGION ASSOCIATION OF FOSTER FAMILIES

Project to create and implement a Program of abuse prevention in adoptive families in the Sverdlovsk Region

2 481 418,00 ₺



## TOTAL

934



Number of families (foster families, candidate foster parents) involved

4 638



Number of held consultations for parents / training sessions for children

12



Number of instructional materials developed (including 3 Adoptive Parents School courses)

6 159



Total public views

24,4 mln. ₺



Funding in this segment

10



Projects in this segment



# IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF EDUCATION AND SOCIALIZATION, VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE AND INITIAL VOCATIONAL TRAINING FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS IN DIFFICULT SITUATIONS

**«Education is not a problem. Education is an opportunity».**

Obtaining a quality education is an immensely powerful driving force for further learning and personal growth. The more a person knows, the better is his understanding of the world around and of himself, and the greater are the desire and ability to move forward and develop further.

The projects of our partners are designed to provide comprehensive and accessible education for children in difficult situations. One of the most illustrative examples of educational programs in 2021 was a project by **Step Up** center, contemplating distance learning in school subjects for children from orphanages and boarding schools in eight regions of Russia. A leaver's life choices after finishing a special needs school are

extremely limited, but our partners have proven that this situation can be reversed. It is incredibly difficult to study school subjects and then pass interim assessments on all subjects in the basic general education program on one's own.

*A leaver's life choices after finishing a special needs school are extremely limited, but our partners have proven that this situation can be reversed. It is incredibly difficult to study school subjects and then pass interim assessments on all subjects in the basic general education program on one's own. It is for such cases that this project was designed, helping students from special needs schools obtain their general education certificates and then go on to the 10th and 11th grades and college.*



It is for such cases that this project was designed, helping students from special needs schools obtain their general education certificates and then go on to the 10th and 11th grades and college.

As part of the project, more than 150 children who had gaps in their knowledge were given the opportunity to improve their educational level and unlock their potential. Thanks to the new knowledge obtained, these children were able to pass the Basic State Exam and the Unified State Exam, and receive a school certificate. This gave them the opportunity to continue their education or find a job, effectively opening up previously unavailable prospects for their development.

Thanks to our two-year **Support Talents with CSS 2020** project, 10 ambitious high school students from low-income families were able to enroll in some of the best universities in this country requiring from applicants advanced knowledge of foreign languages. With our support, the Start in Life foundation gave these children the chance to realize their dreams by providing financial and professional assistance.

A project by the **Bureau of Good Deeds** foundation is yet another way to “give the gift of a profession” to children living in orphanage

facilities. The goal of this project is to help orphanage graduates master professions that for various reasons are not available to them after graduation and that can become a source of additional or primary income for them. By the end of 2021, some 150 orphans received additional vocational training and/or mastered professional skills in workshops.

In addition, our projects are also designed to unlock the creative potential of young adults. The partners of our Foundation give children

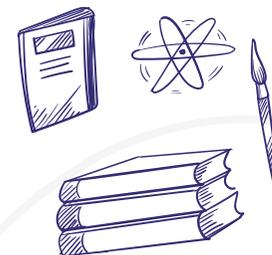
*Many kids at the orphanage dream of getting a driver's license. But for me, to have my own car and be able to drive is not simply a dream. I want to work as a driver . . . I am so happy that I was lucky enough to go to driver's training classes, seeing that many of the kids were not allowed to take the medical exam. I already passed my preliminary theory test with an “excellent” score, and I'm really looking forward to driving practice. A big thank you to everyone who helped organize these courses. It's the best present for my 16th birthday.*

**Nikita, 16**

beneficiary of the Bureau of Good Deeds foundation

from the most remote corners of Russia the chance to develop their abilities in a wide variety of areas. Whether it is master classes in pop and jazz vocal, acting or spoken word, courses in choreography or fine arts, or perhaps lessons on the basics of film editing or the rules of filming and creating animation in videos, we give children in hardship the opportunity to overcome any difficulties and prove themselves. For example, in one of the projects, our beneficiaries living in the Murmansk region in northern Russia acted as researchers, curators, contemporary artists, and tour guides in one of the local museums in the city, creating and displaying an exhibition of their own works.

It is no secret that children and young adults with disabilities are often forced to spend most of their time at home, cutting themselves off from the opportunity to build a communication with the outside world. This, in turn, prevents them from realizing their potential and expressing themselves. That is why we always pay special attention to projects focused on this specific target audience.



Thanks to the efforts of the **Space for Communication** and **Sodeistvie centers**, more than 100 children with disabilities and their parents were able to overcome forced social isolation. By creating a unique educational environment, these projects provided an opportunity for families to successfully integrate into society and for children with disabilities, to gain additional experience of interacting with their peers and to improve their general functional skills.

In addition, some of the 2021 programs focused on providing additional vocational training for children and young adults with disabilities. **Carpentry workshops, a computer-aided design and 3D modeling school, classes in plant growing in a high-tech greenhouse using a specially designed vertical gardening technology—all of these unique projects are intended to develop the aptitudes of children and young adults with disabilities and help enhance their competencies, including for the purpose of future employment.**

One of our objectives is developing and expanding the range of educational materials. The painstaking and fruitful work of our partners has brought to life the following materials:

- **I'm Not Afraid to Grow Up**, a series of books for children with mental disabilities (part of the **Look at Me project**), and video lessons from the **Williams Syndrome foundation**, aimed at educating children about their fears, body changes and growing up - issues that all teens face as they grow up, irrespective of their individual peculiarities;
- a series of 48 educational videos in the Russian sign language for deaf and hearing-impaired children, designed to help children with disabilities adapt to the current social environment.

This list is far from complete, and each new project enriches the methodological and theoretical framework further. This means that even more children in difficult situations will receive much-needed professional help.

*My CHILD GOES TO HIS LESSONS WITH GREAT PLEASURE—HE HAS TAKEN AN INTEREST IN THEM, AND, OF COURSE, BEING IN THE COMPANY OF OTHER KIDS IS IMPORTANT. HE IS GOOD AT TIGHTENING SCREWS, AND UNDERSTANDS THAT HE NEEDS TO MAKE AN EFFORT TO ACHIEVE A RESULT. HE IS NOW SKILLED AT HAMMERING NAILS, DRAWING LINES, WORKING WITH A RULER, WAITING FOR HIS TURN, AND EVEN MONOTONOUS WORK (SCREWING IN PARTS) IS NO LONGER BORING FOR HIM. HE KEEPS HIS ITEMS ON A PROMINENT SHELF, OFTEN GOING THROUGH THEM. HE STARTED TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE HELPING AROUND THE HOUSE . . . THE YOUNG CARPENTER IS A SUPER PROJECT! MANY THANKS TO THOSE WHO ORGANIZED IT, TO CSS FOUNDATION AND ALL THE PARTICIPANTS!*

**Ekaterina, mother of Andrei**

(affected by cerebral palsy), beneficiary of the Growth Without Borders foundation



# PARTNERS, PROJECTS AND FUNDING



## STEP UP, ORPHAN OPPORTUNITY CENTER

Step Up Everyone: Distance learning for children in difficult situations in the regions

4 046 838,00 ₺



## LOOK AT ME, CHARITY FOUNDATION

I'm Not Afraid to Grow Up, series of books for children with mental disorders

606 000,00 ₺



## SPACE FOR COMMUNICATION

Integrative programs for children / young adults with developmental disabilities and family support (2nd year)

699 360,00 ₺



## START IN LIFE, CHARITY FOUNDATION

Support Talents with CSS 2020

2 070 000,00 ₺



## BUREAU OF GOOD DEEDS, CHARITY FOUNDATION

Give the Gift of a Profession

752 415,00 ₺



## WILLIAMS SYNDROME, CHARITY FOUNDATION

Rare Lessons

585 090,00 ₺



## MINT

Green Video

698 207,00 ₺



## PHILANTHROPIST

Let's Be Friends!

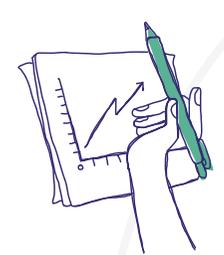
2 985 156,00 ₺



## YES I CAN!

School of computer-aided design and 3D modeling for teenagers and young people with disabilities

972 616,00 ₺



## PARTNERS, PROJECTS AND FUNDING (CONTINUATION)

	<b>GROWTH WITHOUT BORDERS</b> Young Carpenter, carpentry co-working studio	699 200,00 ₺
	<b>THE CIRCLE</b> New Opportunities: Implementation of vertical gardening technologies to provide employment for people with disabilities	4 339 160,00 ₺
	<b>PLANET OF TALENT CENTER</b> Vector into the Future	673 911,00 ₺
	<b>CULTURE IN ACTION</b> Urban Investigation	789 260,00 ₺
	<b>SODEISTVIE CENTER</b> Developing Together: Group training for families raising children with disabilities aged from 2.5 to 18 years	1 861 097,00 ₺

## TOTAL

772



Number of children and young adults involved

8 312



Number of held lessons and training sessions for children

64



Number of video lessons / educational programs / books developed

28



Number of professionals / volunteers trained

21,8 mLn.₺



Funding in this segment

14



Projects in this segment



# SOCIAL SPORTS

The impact of sports on the development of any child and formation of a child's personality is undeniable. This is especially true for children in difficult life situations.

Children in difficult circumstances suffer from low and misguided self-esteem and have difficulties integrating into the regular peer community. Because of this, they often either find themselves completely isolated, especially typical for children with health issues, or join groups exhibiting antisocial and deviant behavior, which is a frequent case with children who have orphanhood and poverty experience.

Sports can become a solution to many of these problems. In addition to the obvious advantages of sports as a tool for physical development and rehabilitation, it is very important that **sports can offer children in difficult circumstances a positive alternative, help with formation of essential social skills, and become a social elevator.**

The projects of our grantees, partners and like-minded people are designed to address all of these tasks. 2021 marked the completion

of a number of our projects that are on par with the Paralympics and the Special Olympics in terms of scope and deliverables. Special attention was paid to development of adaptive sports. Inclusive hockey intensives (**Family Hockey Camp project by the Adaptive Hockey Federation**) and adaptive taekwondo classes

*Overall, I notice that my son has become more relaxed, and how he has opened up when communicating with peers; there is now this new air of self-confidence about him or something, and in general he has become more sociable and responsible, and began helping around the house more than before.*

**Natalia Kuznetsova**

mother of Kirill, a taekwondo-in

(**Special Way for Special Children project by the Taekwondo Federation (GTF) in the Republic of Tatarstan**) made a significant contribution to the development and rehabilitation of more than 180 children. Children with motor system disabilities, sight impairments, and cognitive development conditions, including autism and Down syndrome, were able to expand their circle of contacts and range of interests, and were introduced to a healthy lifestyle thanks to these completed projects.



*2021 marked the completion of a number of our projects that are on par with the Paralympics and the Special Olympics in terms of scope and deliverables. Special attention was paid to development of adaptive sports.*



The taekwondo project will continue in 2022, with more children having the opportunity to fulfil their potential through adaptive taekwondo classes with professional coaches.

*Our children are open to dialog, they took part in creative master classes with great pleasure, and not just that—I saw that they are receptive to instructions even from unfamiliar coaches, although for our children it is a kind of stress. During the joint training session I could feel the unity of the kids, they were all united by hockey. You could say that we had approached what we were striving for—a world of equal opportunities!*

**Elena Prokhorova**

mother of a member of Yeti, a special hockey team in Karelia



The pandemic has brought changes to many aspects of life, and the world of sports is no exception. But despite the closed-down courts, football fields, swimming pools, and the need to maintain social distance, it is extremely important that the training process for special children should continue uninterrupted. It is important to keep up the routine algorithm of activities. Thanks to the Special Sport Online project in the Sverdlovsk region, run by the **Smart Environment foundation**, 30 children and teenagers with ASD and mental conditions, and their parents received 216 online training sessions, including classes in martial arts, yoga and gymnastics. **Such timely remote support helped these special athletes to remain physically fit and retain already acquired skills, including communication abilities.**

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*In the first few weeks, either I or my husband were there, giving advice and showing them around. But the wonderful coaches Dmitry, Konstantin and Daria turned out to be very well prepared to handle special kids. The classes are meticulously structured, and the coaches see the mistakes that the kids make. They give advice, praise and encouragement as and when necessary. Now my sons are looking forward to each session and know the exact schedule. They join Zoom meetings by themselves, and get disappointed if they miss a class for some reason. Getting to know the other kids and hanging out with them online turned out to be one of the special bonuses of the set-up. Now all kids know each other, and keep asking one another for the latest news in their lives. They enter Zoom in advance to talk and share news.*

**Galina Kuznetsova**

mother of Alexander and Igor



We are pleased to once again recognize the **Adaptive Hockey Federation**, with its new project Hockey Brings People Together, among the winners of our first contest for grants in 2021. Our colleagues will continue to involve families raising children with various disabilities in joint sport hobbies. Halfway through the project, more than 150 children and their parents have participated in sports activities and exciting intensives.

Another important sports project, the Friendship Ball: Strengthening the Family program by the **Pskov branch of Russian Children's Fund, was launched in 2021 in the Pskov Region**. The program uses regular football lessons as a means of psychotherapy to reinforce the priorities and principles of a healthy family. Overall, systematic work helps relieve social tension and improve living conditions for children from orphanages and low-income local families.

**By the end of 2021, various sports and mediator training sessions had been held at ten residential institutions and six rural schools. The goal of these events was to bring families together and strengthen family values.**

The projects that we support push the boundaries of what is possible. Children with special needs can find themselves in sports just like

*My son is a wheelchair user. When he communicates with his peers, they say, 'You're handicapped.' To which he answers, 'I'm an athlete.' This is a success zone, it is very important for teenagers.*

**Olga Komarova**  
mother of a hockey player

**More than 300 children with disabilities are already actively mastering this training, letting sports into their lives—and this is only the beginning.**



neurotypical kids, and fulfil their potential. The Fitness in Silence: Teens project by Hear the Silence center has proved that hearing problems are no obstacle for a real athlete. An online software package to teach deaf teenagers on fitness in RSL (Russian sign language) helps them to begin accepting their body and the changes it goes through, to become physically fit, and to maintain or improve health. Professional experts have already created four versions of this program, consisting of 62 continuous exercises. Each program is designed for 2 weeks of training and can be used for 2 months. More than 300 children with disabilities are already actively mastering this training, letting sports into their lives—and this is only the beginning.

*I am 14 years old. I was born deaf. I've always liked doing sports . . . When I moved to another city, sports started to fade away from my life. Our PE teacher does not know RSL, and she has no interest in teaching us . . . People I know from the deaf community suggested that I join the testing of a new project to teach the deaf fitness. I was given access to the In Silence platform . . . Now I exercise every day . . . I told my friends and classmates about the project. They also want to learn fitness and are waiting for the project to start too. It's very interesting to learn fitness in RSL.*

**Testimonial by a deaf teenager**  
who participated in the test run



## PARTNERS, PROJECTS AND FUNDING



### ADAPTIVE HOCKEY FEDERATION

Family Hockey Camp

4 825 680,00 ₺

Hockey Brings People Together

4 000 000,00 ₺

Услышать тишину

### HEAR THE SILENCE

Fitness in Silence: Teens

733 699,00 ₺



### TAEKWONDO FEDERATION (GTF) IN THE REPUBLIC OF TATARSTAN

Special Way for Special Children

4 000 000,00 ₺



### PSKOV REGION BRANCH OF THE RUSSIAN CHILDREN'S FUND

Friendship Ball: Strengthening the Family

2 900 000,00 ₺



### SMART ENVIRONMENT, CHARITY FOUNDATION

Special Sport Online

699 710,00 ₺

## TOTAL

# 1 813



Number of children involved

# 509



Number of families involved

# 14



Number of events held

# 2 164



NUMBER OF TRAINING SESSIONS / CLASSES HELD

# 17,2 MLN.₺



Funding in this segment

# 6



Projects in this segment

# PROFESSIONALS AND MENTORS

CSS Foundation puts a special emphasis on building a community: a network of professionals, mentors, volunteers and organizations who care and have the power and ability to improve the quality of life of our beneficiaries.

The formation and development of such communities is one of the core focus areas of the Foundation. Conveying best practices, sharing experience, and enhancing the theoretical and methodological framework at regional level, we indirectly influence the lives of children and young adults who need help from professionals. In addition, this support presupposes that the knowledge transferred will remain at the local level and will be used for the benefit of more recipients in the long term.

As part of their 2021 projects, our partners from the **Here and Now foundation** and the **Sunny City training center** trained some 350 family placement professionals across Russia.

Comprehensive professional family support, assistance with inclusion of foster children, including children with disabilities, prevention of parental emotional burnout, and working against family isolation require consistent professional efforts by highly qualified specialists. It is extremely important that they regularly bring their knowledge and competencies up to date, improve their skills and share best practices with colleagues. It is precisely such type of comprehensive professional development of the highest level that our partners' projects have fostered.

*This webinar perfectly complements your other webinars about helping adopted children. I'm very glad that I have been receiving the newsletter and that I can participate in them. They are very helpful, especially for us psychologists in small towns. We have adoptive families here but it's difficult to study—it's a long drive. The topics covered and your professionalism are a godsend for us. Thank you!*

**Elena from Naberezhnye Chelny**  
a participant in the webinars by the Here and Now foundation



*This becomes possible when you have a significant person in your life who believes in your success and supports you every step of the way into adulthood.*



Unofficial statistics indicate that only 10% of orphanage leavers adapt to adult life. Sadly, the vast majority have run-ins with the law, fall into the hands of fraudsters, and very often acquire perilous addictions. The **Big Brothers Big Sisters'** individual mentoring program is designed to help children regain trust in the world and fill the basic need for attachment and affection. One-on-one communication between an adult (mentor) and a child gives children a chance to unlock their potential and feel confident. This becomes possible when you have a significant person in your life who believes in your success and supports you every step of the way into adulthood.

In 2021, our partners worked in five regions of Russia, opening two new branches. During this year of fruitful work, we established working relationships with key partners in the sphere of social protection, recruited and trained professionals and volunteers, and formed our first mentor-child pairs.

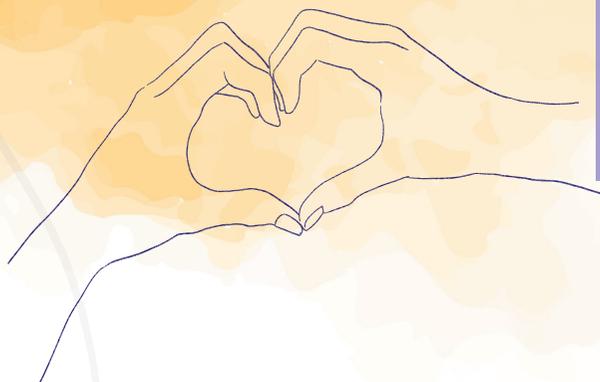
A special mention should be made of the Community of Helping Professionals project

by Raoul foundation, focused on developing a professional community for employees of various organizations, united by common interests and values, working with young people with disabilities (including legal orphans). Community of Helping Professionals is not just a project - it is an information platform for networking and sharing experiences and competencies, as well as a database of up-to-date instructional materials.



I learned about the mentoring program at Big Brothers and Sisters last spring. We were the first group to enroll, going through interviews with a psychologist and preparatory training, where we were introduced to the goals of mentoring, the peculiarities of children left without a significant adult, the experiences of existing and long-standing pairs, goal-setting in a pair ... Despite the fact that I was prepared through trainings at Big Brothers and Sisters, the first meeting was a little tense ... At some point I even started to get nervous that things were not going the right way and that I wasn't doing well—until I realized that we are all very different: some are ready to be open to communication from the very first meeting, while others need time to begin trusting a newly met person who is a complete stranger. Also, I realized that Nastya and I were very alike in this regard. I am still not sure whether the supervisors and the psychologist hit the mark by pure chance or were indeed able to spot such a strong similarity in personalities on the strength of a couple of interviews ... Finally, the last time she called me, she wanted to share how upset she was about her personal circumstances. Now that, in my opinion, is real progress, not so tiny at all anymore. Overall, summing up my modest experience with the program, I would like to say that the people who conceived it are geniuses. It's not about one-way help, it's about sharing. I'm learning a lot from Nastya, who is noticeably younger than me, and it's just super cool!

**The story of Valeria, a participant in the mentor training program in Tver**



Often, even in large cities, helping professionals do not know each other: each organization works separately, and each professional spends resources on solving the same problems on his or her own. The opportunity to learn about the peers' professional experiences saves time and effort, and prevents the emotional burnout in professionals. Thanks to the efforts of our partners from **Raoul foundation, 419 professionals from 252 organizations have already had the chance to gain new knowledge, get useful contacts, exchange experiences with colleagues working in the field, and obtain advice and psychological and methodological support.**

One more source of methodological support for professionals was a 2021 project by the **Naked Hearts foundation**, in which a set of instructional materials was developed under the guidance of a team of professionals for everyone involved in leisure activities for people with autism. The package included a hard copy and an electronic version, and videos. Project materials will be useful to everyone whose work is related to leisure activities for children and young people with special needs, from professionals and teachers working with autistic people to volunteers, instructors and leisure activity coordinators.

Another important focus area for our partners from **Rostok** and **DOM** was the training of professionals and volunteers to assist people with mental disorders. By sharing knowledge with other professionals and spreading the best assisted living model practices, our partners' projects contributed to creating conditions for a gradual transition to a system of living arrangements for people with disabilities that poses an alternative to psychiatric care homes.

*Thanks to face-to-face supervisions, I feel accepted into a large and friendly community of professionals with similar values and goals, it is a great support. And, of course, there is the opportunity to hear a different point of view and unravel the tangle of thoughts. The face-to-face seminar on teen suicide was my most challenging learning experience this year, but I am already using what I have learned in practice.*

**Anna A.**

psychologist/supervisor from Saint Petersburg, participant in a project by Raoul foundation



## PARTNERS, PROJECTS AND FUNDING

	<b>SUNNY CITY TRAINING CENTER</b> The Science of Proper Care: Online learning system for preventing family problems	693 370,00 ₺
	<b>ROSTOK</b> Communicating the Best: Sharing experience and communicating Rostok's best practices to assisted living professionals from other regions	4 667 682,90 ₺
	<b>BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS</b> Development of the Big Brothers Big Sisters program in the regions	4 900 000,00 ₺
	<b>WORTHY SPECIAL WORLD (DOM)</b> Essential Help	957 141,00 ₺
	<b>HERE AND NOW, CHARITY FOUNDATION</b> Support program for regional family placement professionals and creation of conditions for formation of a professional community	2 230 540,00 ₺
	<b>EVERYTHING WILL WORK OUT</b> COMMUNITY OF HELPING PROFESSIONALS	4 097 234,00 ₺
	<b>NAKED HEARTS FOUNDATION</b> How to arrange recreation for autistic children and teens without parents	1 690 400,00 ₺

## TOTAL=

16



Number of instructional materials / educational programs developed

1 016



Number of professionals / volunteers trained

150



Number of parents trained

84



Number of group supervisions

19,2 mln. ₺



Funding in this segment

7



Projects in this segment

# ASSISTED LIVING AND EMPLOYMENT

For people with mental disabilities, living at a psychiatric care home is often a forced choice. These desperate situations arise when there is no adequate social support within the local community. Left alone and without support, such individuals are unable to adapt to life in society, just as society is not suitably adapted for them to be able to lead a normal life. Even if they have relatives, the burden of care is too great and often makes them take the decision to institutionalize.

Although psychiatric care homes are closed institutions, in addition to residents who are unable to live elsewhere, there are also young people capable of living independently despite their special needs who end up in such facilities. But even when the choice to enter an independent life is open to them, people with mental disorders in most cases do not feel ready to live independently and desperately need support and assistance.

The projects of our grantees are designed to provide such necessary support to young adults. The most efficient and humane alternative to a psychiatric care home is the assisted living model. In Russia, this innovative form of social care is still in the making, being

implemented in a very fragmented manner in a handful of regions. We are therefore proud of our cooperation with organizations such as **GAOORDI** in Saint Petersburg and **Rostok** in Pskhov, whose projects are focused on scaling up the practices of assisted living in the provinces and on providing assistance, both face-to-face and remote, with implementing these practices to employees of stakeholder entities and agencies.

By the end of 2021, **GAOORDI** had replicated its experience in eight Russian regions. As a result, 178 specialists were able to improve their professional competencies in the area

*The most efficient and humane alternative to a psychiatric care home is the assisted living model. In Russia, this innovative form of social care is still in the making, being implemented in a very fragmented manner in a handful of regions.*

of assisted living for people with disabilities. Thanks to our colleagues' project, hundreds of children and young adults, even in remote parts of this country, will obtain a chance to live a full and independent life.

To support our charges in their quest for independence, in 2021 we funded a number of projects (by **Orange and Volunteers to Help Orphans**) that contemplate the creation of "training" apartments, where a person can learn how to live without depending on anyone. This form of rehabilitation helps people with mental disabilities prepare for real adult life, even when they are well over 18.



*When I received an offer to take part in the Assisted Living project by Saint Petersburg's GAOORDI, I immediately agreed. The question of assisted living is just so acutely topical for our region; we needed to learn from the centers where the project was in operation. In our republic, there is no other option for people with mental disabilities but to live at a psychiatric institution. Parents' communities have been ringing the alarm bell—kids are growing up, but there are no assisted living accommodations for children. Parents' non-profit organizations have been trying to hold social skills groups on their own. There was a lack of specialist training and internships at the existing assisted living sites in other cities.*

**Inna Skryabina**  
Yakutsk

To support our charges in their quest for independence, in 2021 we funded a number of projects (by **Orange and Volunteers to Help Orphans**) that contemplate the creation of “training” apartments, where a person can learn how to live without depending on anyone. This form of rehabilitation helps people

with mental disabilities prepare for real adult life, even when they are well over 18.

Employment is a very important part of self-actualization for anyone, including people with mental conditions. In 2021, our partners and grantees Volunteers to Help Orphans, 15 Tverskaya and Downside Up actively worked to secure employment opportunities for their charges, accompanying them at every step of the way, from searching for vacancies on the web to helping them adapt in a new team, thereby solving the problems of social isolation of people with mental disorders.



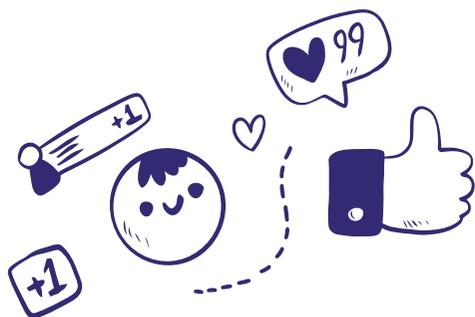
*I REALLY LIKE COOKING AT THE TRAINING APARTMENT, I LEARNED HOW TO MAKE MY OWN SALADS, SOUP, AND BAKE BREAD IN THE BREAD MACHINE. I LEARNED HOW TO HANDLE MONEY, PAY USING AN ATM, CHECK MY BALANCE, REFILL MY SOCIAL CARD AT THE METRO TICKET OFFICE AND NAVIGATE THE TRANSIT SYSTEM. I DID SOME WORK AS A CLEANING ASSISTANT IN A STORE, I LIKED IT.*

**Elena S.**

resident of a training apartment (project by Orange)



Due to a lack of social experience, people with mental disabilities do not know how to build relationships with peers or older and younger people, or how to observe the norms and rules of safety when interacting with strangers. This applies not only to “live” communication, but also to social networks and messengers. Accordingly, special attention was also paid to developing communication skills and creating a general air of good will and full acceptance.



The work done by our partners will not only help reinforce self-confidence in people with mental conditions, but will also make them better prepared for life at the moment and in the future, and will enable them to live a full and independent life with due regard to their individual peculiarities.



*The foundation's special thing, and the style of communication of its personnel, is the atmosphere of respect for the child's personality, of acceptance and absolute support. This is something that has amazed me ever since the shock period of Lada's infancy, when I first realized that there did exist those rare places where she was sincerely accepted and where people believed in her future. It was then that I started feeling hope that perhaps I would be able to find other similar places, like kindergartens and schools. We have been visiting Vocational Guidance sessions for only one and a half months now, but we immediately felt the atmosphere of support and a positive outlook on the capabilities of Down syndrome kids. The teachers here inspire hope that, just like with the early stages of socialization, she will be able to find herself in a profession as well.*

**Mother of Lada**

member of Vocational Guidance group in a project by Downside Up foundation

*Employment is a very important part of self-actualization for anyone, including people with mental conditions. In 2021, our partners and grantees Volunteers to Help Orphans, 15 Tverskaya and Downside Up actively worked to secure employment opportunities*

## PARTNERS, PROJECTS AND FUNDING

	<b>15 TVERSKAYA</b> Special Start to Profession	694 250,20 P
	<b>ROSTOK</b> Communicating the Best: Sharing experience and communicating Rostok's best practices to assisted living professionals from other regions	3 252 129,12 P
	<b>ORANGE</b> Living on Your Own: Training apartment for people with severe multiple developmental disorders	694 756,00 P
	<b>VOLUNTEERS TO HELP</b> Program of personnel training and support for the assisted living project	664 800,00 P
	<b>GAAORDI</b> Support	4 664 862,40 P
	<b>Downside Up</b> More Than Work: Socialization and social integration of people with Down syndrome	3 769 353,00 P
	<b>WORTHY SPECIAL WORLD (DOM)</b> Essential Help	957 141,00 P

## TOTAL

**336**



Number of people with mental disorders involved

**476**



Number of professionals trained

**554**



Number of group training sessions held

**14,7** MLN.P



Funding in this segment

**7**



Projects in this segment

# STRONGER WITH CSS: MEETING OF PARTNERS

On 30 November 2021, our annual meeting of partners took place. Words cannot describe how happy we were to be able to hold it offline, after all the coronavirus restrictions and measures had finally been lifted.

That evening, more than 100 representatives from the charity sector gathered together for a New Year's fair in the open air, including heads of non-profit organizations, fundraising and project directors, and PR managers of various foundations. Our team was thrilled to see so many people who care, and to get to know personally each winner of the Stronger with CSS grant program.

As befits a reunion of a large and close-knit family, the setting was informal: an outdoor terrace with heaters and blankets, gently falling snow and mulled wine with classic fairground treats left no one cold and created a cozy and friendly atmosphere.

At the very beginning of the event, CSS President Natalia Kovalenko welcomed all attendees and thanked them for their invaluable work and contribution to the development of an inclusive society. Next, Project Director Olga Suslova highlighted

some key figures and achievements of the Foundation, and recapped the mission and goals of CSS. Polina Filippova, member of the Board of Trustees of CSS, shared with the audience her sense that CSS was committed "for real and for the long haul," taking a fundamental approach to everything it does.

In addition to a discussion of the latest news and pressing sector issues, project implementation experiences were shared by previous contest winners, their cases providing inspiration to new grantees. Representatives of the Children+ and Find a Family foundations, the Adaptive Hockey Federation, GAAORDI association, and the home for mentally handicapped children in Belskoye Ustye talked about their challenges, achievements and plans for the coming years.

Adding a bit of an unexpected but pleasant surprise to the meeting, Project Manager Victoria Petrukhina conducted an every-ticket-wins prize draw, so no guest left empty-handed. The prizes included thermo mugs, umbrellas, sweatshirts, and even a personal meeting with the President of CSS Foundation.

After much positive feedback on the meeting, a decision was taken to make it a regular event and gather for a cozy thematic get-together each New Year's Eve for an opportunity to realize again that together we are stronger. Stronger with CSS.



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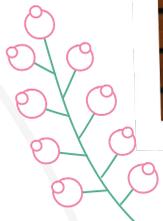
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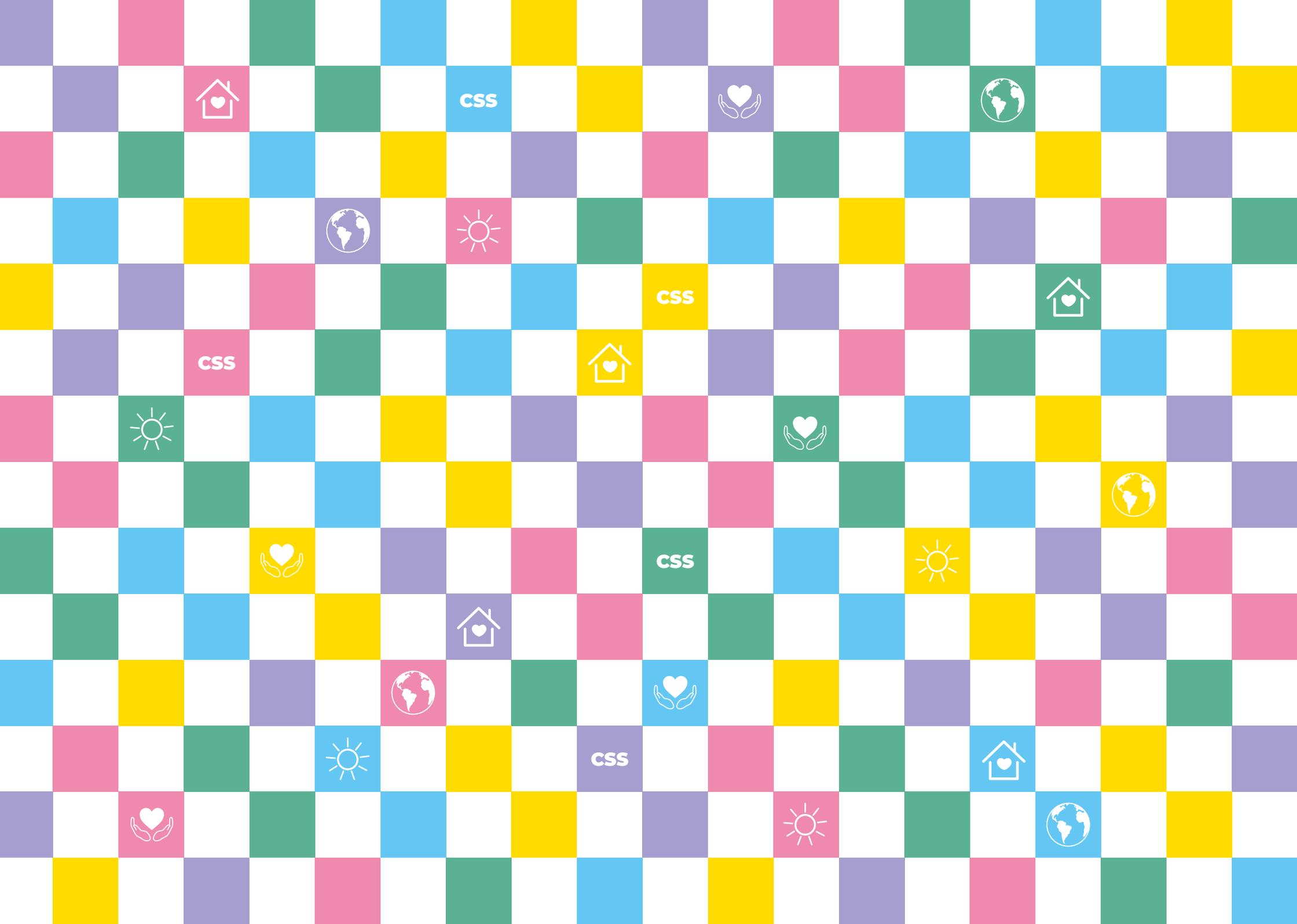
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1. Polina Filippova, Member of CSS Board of Trustees.
2. The team of the Inclusive Center "Yom-Yom".
3. Colleagues from the Karelian "Education Development Foundation".
4. Olga Kiryanova and the team of "Children + Charity Foundation".
5. Natalia Kostina, "Reach out" Charity Foundation and Lyudmila Nam, "Assistance" Charity Foundation.



1. Colleagues from the "Naked Heart" Foundation.
2. Nina Vorontsova, "Big Brothers Big Sisters" Charity Foundation and Anastasia Baradacheva, "Adaptive Hockey Federation".
3. CSS team and Ekaterina Zhelennikova, "Find a Family" Charity Foundation.
4. Elena Alshanskaya, Charity Foundation "Volunteers to help orphans."
5. CSS team.



CSS



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