

Programs and
assistance for
families in need

provided by
Diocesan and
Parish Caritases
Ljubljana

Alenka Petek

Diocesan Caritas
Ljubljana

Diocesan Caritas Ljubljana

- Diocesan Caritas Ljubljana
 - is one of the six diocesan Caritas in Slovenia
 - it covers 1/4 of Slovenia territory
 - it cover 1/3 of population
- Programs
 - are carried with important help of volunteers (3048)
 - vounteers do 178.953 hous of volunteer work
- Charitable work is focused
 - on helping the widest possible circle of people in need
 - with censuses and criteria for all tipes of help

Poverty and social exclusion

- One parents families
- Bigger families (with bigger number of children)
- Younger families
- Migrant families
- Roma

Financial problem of families

- They receive very low income
- Most of them have unemployd members
- They are only part- time employed
- Social benefits are cut off by Law
- They face in-work poverty
- Rent for their flat is very high
- A lot of them are repaying a lone

- Less interaction of children with parents
- Parents under stress are less able of normal parenting
- They use stricter forms of punishment
- They neglect the needs of their children
- Economic pressure caused emotional lability, unstability in relationships at home

Children living in poor families

- Often face with learning difficulties
- Lack of money for school activities
- Parents do harder and less paid jobs
- Educational status is usually lower
- Parents have problems with language
- Families don't have a proper social network

Programs of Diocesan Caritas Ljubljana

- Parish Caritas collect requests from potential beneficiaries and data about their income
- All sent to Diocesan Caritas
- In Diocesan Caritas read and check them
- By input of data to computer application apply common criteria

- Then send resolved application back to relevant Parish Caritas
- Parish Caritas inform applicants of the type and the amount of the assistance they will receive.
- Parish Caritas distributes approved aid to recipients

General Aid programs provided

- Material assistance
- Advice, mediation
- Professionally led holidays for families and children
- Free of charge clinic for people without basic health insurance
- Assistance in buying school necessities

- Aid in form of paying bills for electricity, communal services and heating
- “Be someone’s godfather” sponsorship project for children

The worst consequences of poverty

- Domestic violence
- Alcoholism
- Stress situations
- Mental disorders
- Depressions
- Obesity of children
- Workers underpaid and misused for dirty works and exploited

Conclusions

- Caritas helps to relief distress of beneficiaries
- There are many people and not enough funds available.
- There are many kinds of help for families all the year
- Beneficiaries receive smaller amount of aid more times during the year

- Parish Caritas is active through the whole year and they recognize and know real distress and needs of people
- We can together create right responses to this difficulties