



ORRAN BENEVOLENT NON-GOVERMENTAL ORGANIZATION
"HELPING FAMILIES IN NEED"

ORRAN*

"Helping Families in Need"

Berr Trust 2010 Conference

"Young People in Trouble"

Life on the Street:

Homelessness & Prostitution

*** Shelter in Armenian**

Topics Covered

- Armenia – The Facts
- Our Mission
- Our Beneficiaries
- What We Provide
- Life in the Streets – 4 Case Studies
- Realising Full Potential of Exceptionally Talented Poor Children

Armenia – The Facts

- Population 3 million, about 1/3rd live in the capital Yerevan
 - 99% of the adult population can read and write
- A further 7 million worldwide, mostly in USA with over 1 million in Los Angeles
- 1st nation to declare Christianity as state religion in 301-303 AD
- Severe Earthquake in 1988 demolishes cities in the North
- Achieves independence in 1992 following break-up of Soviet Union
 - The reality of building a nation proved much more difficult
 - **The majority of industries failed in the open market environment**
 - **Due to hardships families were broken up, with fathers emigrating in search of work to provide for their families**
 - Many mothers could not cope with daily demands of family caring
 - Many more children some as young as 4, resorted to begging in the streets of the capital Yerevan to get through one more day
 - Most had to endure chronic hunger among other hardships

Armenia – The Facts (cont'd)

- Country is landlocked with 4 neighbouring countries, namely Georgia, Iran, Turkey and Azerbaijan.
 - Border with Turkey closed because of historical dispute:
 - In 1915, 1.5 million Armenians massacred and driven out of their historical homeland in Eastern Anatolia, today Turkey
 - Border with Azerbaijan closed after 4 years of war in the 90's when an Armenian enclave given to Azerbaijan in 1922 by Stalin called Nagorno Karabagh declared itself independent
- Life expectancy 71.4 (UK 78.1)
 - Under 5, mortality rate is between 24 to 33 per 1,000*
- 8% of the population does not have access to safe clean water
- 53% of Armenia's population lives on approx. US \$0.72 a day
 - 34% of the population is undernourished
- Only 23% of young Armenians are employed
 - The figures are much higher outside the capital Yerevan
- More than 14,000 children don't attend school as their families are unable to meet the basic costs of education
 - 10,000 children don't go to school because they don't have shoes!

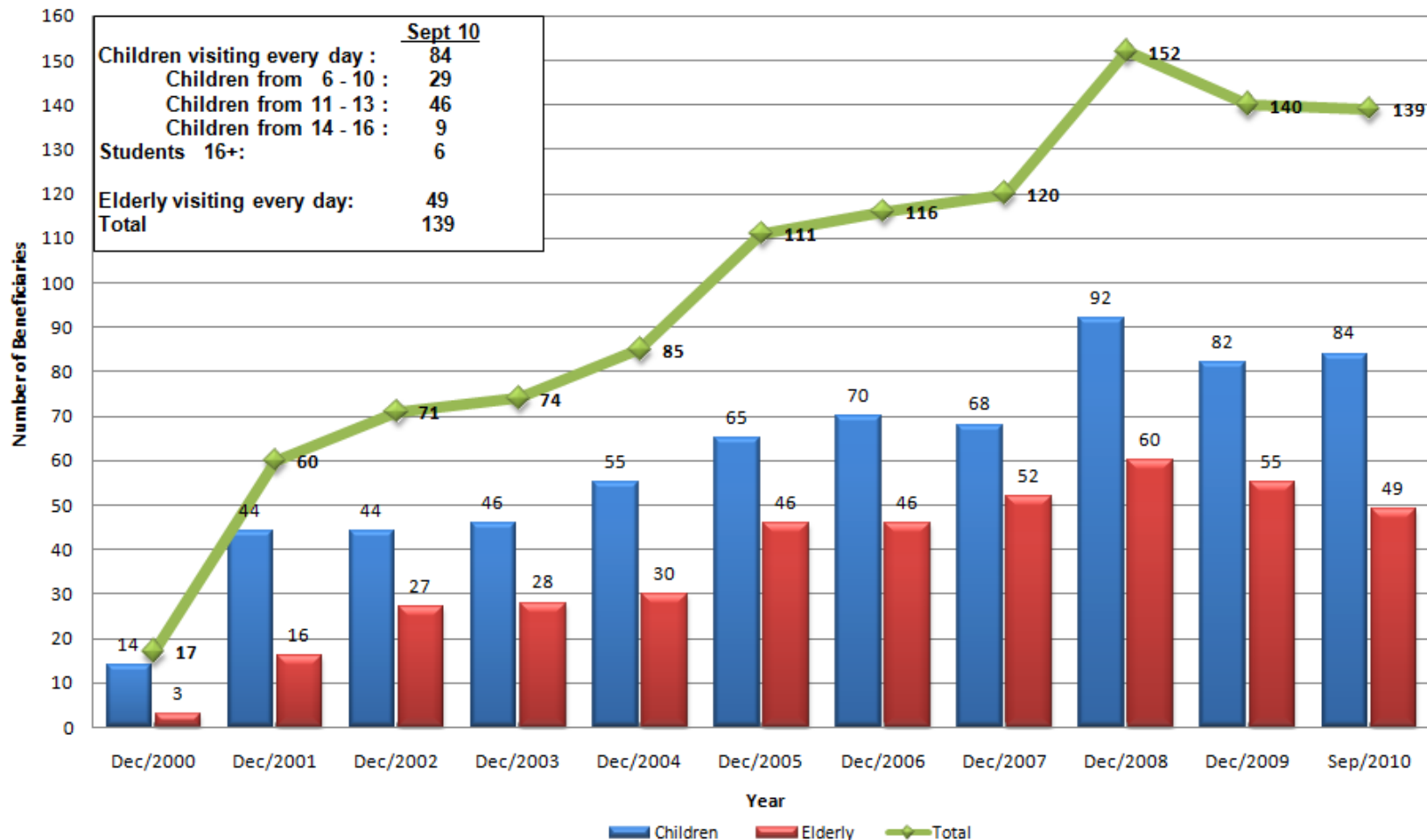
Orran's Mission

- Prevent the spread of destitution and begging among Armenia's children and elderly
- Fight the concept of beggar children as the principal bread winners of their families
- Divert children from the streets and engage them in academic, cultural, and extra-curricular activities
- Identify and develop children's interests and talents toward a working career
- Help families "in crisis"
- Assist the lonely and needy elderly

Orran - Our Beneficiaries since Inception

Orran Yerevan full time Beneficiaries since Incorporation - Children (80% single parents) & Elderly
 (in addition, 498 part time beneficiaries monthly for hot meals & clothing)
 Staff: 9 full time, 12 part time & 25 volunteers

Fall in Number of Beneficiaries in 2009/2010 due to Global Financial Crisis affecting Income



Orran – What We Provide

- **Food**
- **Academic Assistance**
- **Medical and Psychological Assistance**
- **Social Services**
- **Cultural Enrichment**
- **Career and vocational training**
- **Assistance for the elderly**

Life in the Streets

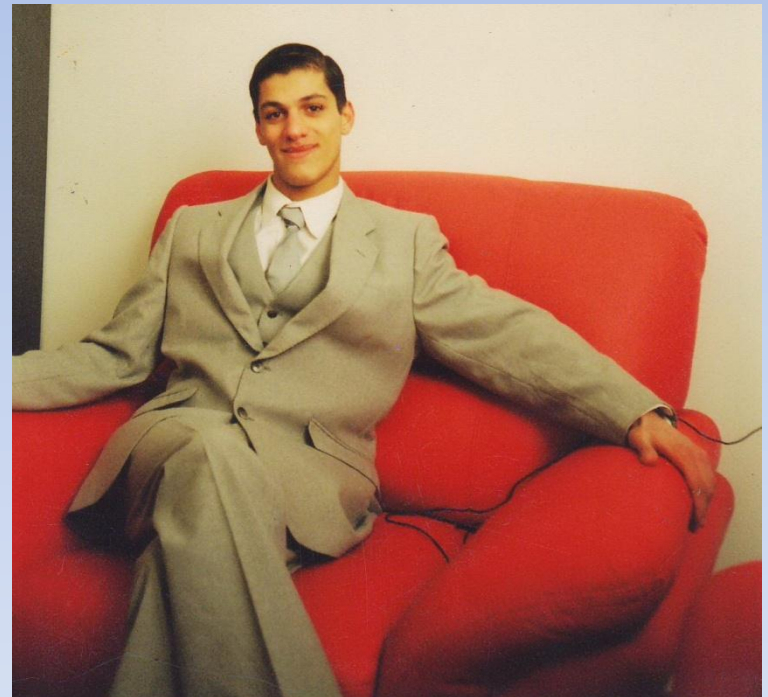
When Orran first started in 2000, the following situation prevailed in the capital Yerevan:

- 330 beggar children, family bread winners, roaming around hotels and other prosperous areas
- Children would beg or try and sell merchandise such as flowers
 - Most successful beggars were young girls at the age of 7 to 10
- We approached these streetwise children and talked to them on what Orran could do for them. We handed out leaflets for their parents with the aim of getting these children to come to Orran
- Advertised work of Orran on TV and radio talk shows
- Contacted school principals and local authorities dealing with children with problems to offer services of Orran
- Walked the neighborhoods and asked the citizens who needs help in their neighborhood
- As a result very few beggar children seen now in the streets of downtown Yerevan

Life in the Streets – Case Study 1

Arthur

- 14 years school drop out, illiterate
- Orran couldn't place him in school because too old
- Orran teachers taught him to read and write and do mathematics
- Orran placed him in vocal artists school
- Graduated from Orran, works at a restaurant, has been filmed in films and entertainment shows



Life in the Streets – Case Study 2

Susie

- Mother begging in the streets and using Susie to collect money, Susie was 4 years old then
- Mother working other children and sharing their income, small theft
- Mother arrested and on her way to jail, her daughter Susie had to be placed in an orphanage
- Orran went to court, guaranteed to take care of them
- Gave mother a job as cleaning lady at Orran
- Susie is 14 years old now, average student, loves ceramics and makes wonderful art work



Life in the Streets – Case Study 3

Arpine

- Out of school because mentally slow
- Raped in the park by an adult male when she was 13
- Hours of psychological sessions and private tutoring by Orran
- Graduated from Orran and works now



Life in the Streets – Case Study 4

Marine

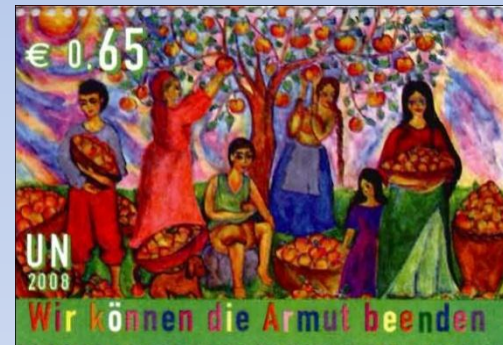
- No father in the family, 4 children
- Mother mentally ill
- She was spotted several times in the park late at night among male company
- Suspected of prostitution
- Orran implemented a recovery “road map ” for her and her family
- Orran recognised her interests and paid for a master hair dresser to teach her hair dressing and bought her basic tools such as a hair dryer, brushes, scissors etc.
- She now works as a hair dresser



Realising Full Potential of Exceptionally Talented Poor Children

Mariam

- Orphan being brought up by grandmother and aunt.
- Aunt with no income has 2 very young children
- Extremely talented artist from very young age
- **Wins United Nations competition at age 14 with her painting “eradicating world poverty”**
- A recent copy of a Van Gogh self portrait painted at age 16
- Being looked after and sponsored by Orran for her artistic talents





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