



August , 2012

## THE THIRD CAMP LOVE AND HOPE IN IVANJICA

The 2012 "Love and Hope" Camp in Ivanjica has been organized again this year thanks to assistance of friends, donors and our volunteers. This is the third rehabilitation camp in a row for children cured of malignant disease in organization of Nurdor.

From 1st to 11 August there were 60 children (age from 3 to 18 years) and 58 parents in the camp, together with 4 psychologists and 12 volunteers from Serbia and abroad. In numerous workshops, adapted to fit various ages and interests, children and teens were able to learn skills in swimming, horse back riding, diving, acting, climbing, archery and to show creativity in everyday workshops of painting, calligraphy and origami, lead by our psychologists and volunteers.



Knowing that child`s illness tackles the whole family, especially parents, we offered to parents various interesting contents of the creative, psychological and sports character.

The main goal of the Camp is to help our brave children and their parents in the process of resocialization, as well as physical and mental recovery in the wondrous landscape of Ivanjica and its surrounding.

We put efforts each year to expand the contents of the Camp and to include educated new, young, excellent people, as well as experienced ones, who all together form - the fantastic volunteer team.

### "LASTA" IS THE FRIEND OF THE CAMP

Traffic company *Lasta* has helped us again this year in realization of the "Love and Hope" Camp, by donating the transportation services for all participants.

On 1st August, two *Lasta* buses from Belgrade and one mini-bus from Niš full of smiling and impatient kids and parents, headed on the road to Ivanjica in



*We would like to thank our friends from "Lasta" on the long term support and firendship they offer to our children and to "Nurdor"*

#### Important Info

- In Serbia, every day one child becomes sick of cancer
- In Serbia, every week one child dies of cancer
- In Serbia, more than 400 children are cured from cancer annually
- Luckily, the percentage of effected cure is high, i.e. 60% of children are successfully cured
- The most frequent childrens` malignant decease is an acute leukemia. The percentage of effected cure is the highest, and length of therapy is 105 weeks.

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## DIVING WITH OUR FRIENDS FROM THE *BIG BLUE* DIVING CLUB



Again this year, our friends from the Belgrade's *Big blue* diving club have shared their time, knowledge and skills with our friends in the Camp.

Children's excitement has been immediate and could not be hidden. Kids wanted to start as soon as possible and feel the rush of adrenalin while diving fully equipped. Laughter and sense of enormous excitement were visible at each child's face. They surrendered into the safe hands of professional divers, who from their side were excited by the children at the Camp.

## DAD STEVA AND HYPO-THERAPY, AS THE WAY TO RELAX AND HAVE FUN



Mr Steva Šimonović, well known as dad Steva, has been with us again this year. It is difficult to imagine the Camp in Ivanjica without Steva's horses, and all the love he had offered to children while he was patiently applying the daily hypo-therapy.

Children were queuing for dad Steva to put them on the horse back and walk one round. One night dad Steva organized a spectacular bonfire for all the children and their parents. He also held an excellent performance that brought to laughter and tears a big number



of children and parents..



## WE WERE SUPPORTED BY OUR FRIENDS FROM PETROVAC NA MLAVI



The three great people who made our days at the Camp were certainly our friends from Petrovac na Mlavi. Children had the opportunity to try themselves in archery, calligraphy and origami.



The *Knez Lazar* archery club team from Petrovac na Mlavi had patiently helped our children to hit the center of the target. At the calligraphy lessons they had the opportunity to learn to write their name in Japanese. The interest to learn origami, a lovely Japanese skill of paper folding and creating various forms, was really impressive. Children were delighted and our friends from the archery club were excited by their willingness to participate and learn new skills.



## GAMES, FRIENDSHIP AND FUN



The children had the opportunity to make friends, have fun and participate at the swimming pool during all ten days of the Camp. They also participated in sports, arts and psychological workshops. The swimming pool was the favourite meeting point for our kids. The youngest have learned to swim, while the elderly ones were advised on correct swimming techniques and body coordination in the water. Everyday sports activities were the real challenge for our friends. While at the sports field they were not hiding their competitive spirits, at the workshops they have showed all of their creativity. Wax colors, modeling clay, markers, crayons, paper collage, watercolors etc. donated by our dear friends from the *Tropic Trade* company were the essential part of each painting workshop. The team of psychologists have tried to fulfill each day for our kids in a professional and fun way. Children were getting to know each other while playing games and having fun.



We have danced, sang, celebrated birthdays, organized karaoke nights, talents nights, we have painted each others faces and were having a lots and lots of fun.





## ALPINISTS AT THE CAMP



Apart from everyday activities, kids were welcomed by our friends from Belgrade's *Extreme summit team* alpinist club. They have taught both the children and the parents on the numerous skills. The day used to start by hiking to the nearby hill. Then, the youngest had the opportunity to learn how to make a tent, and at the end we have all together learned how to dismantle it. Activities prepared for elderly children were the real challenge for them, such as climbing down the artificial rock and down the hill. Children waited in line patiently to feel the charms of alpinism. They were openly showing the joy and proud to be at least for the day part of this



team. The same applied for our alpinist friends, who have promised us more fun next year.

## PARENTS ALSO ENJOYED IN NUMEROUS ACTIVITIES



We have organized the Olympiad for moms, and mums have showed the fighting spirit, desire for fun but also the competitiveness. Children have cheered for their moms, and they participated guided by the slogan **IT IS IMPORTANT TO PARTICIPATE!** Apart from Olympiade, moms and dads had the chance to try the Aqua Aerobics. Our volunteer from Czech Republic, had introduced them into the program of excercises applied in the swimming pool and explained the importance of Aqua Aerobics for everyone's fitness.



Creative workshops for parents have shown to be a success! Moms and dads have put all their energy and creativity in making of decorative boxes and bijouterie. We have seen all kinds of different earrings, necklaces, bracelets and pendants. At the exhibition of bijouterie organized for the hotel guests, we have gathered the total of 15,000 dinars. The unsold bijouterie will be offered for sale to people at our actions and we sincerely hope that each piece will find the way to its new owner.

## FROM THE ANGLE OF THE NINE YEAR OLD BOY

I came here together with 60 other friends and their 60 parents. Some of the kids I have already met, but I have also made a lot of new friends. On the first day, I could not wait to go to the swimming pool and play with my friend Matija. In the evening we had a great time at the party. Later, we have popped up to the fifth floor of the hotel and spent some time with other children. Each day we had various activities: diving with bottles, climbing, long walks, horse back riding, psychological workshops, creative workshops, calligraphy, origami, archery, swimming, etc. Although I am blind since I was five, I have participated in all workshops thanks to the help of volunteers and my friends. One evening we visited the city center and together with our volunteer we had a great time. I can hardly wait each year to come again to Ivanjica, and I remain sleepless out of happiness and excitement when they inform me that I will participate at the Camp. Each year I spend a great time in Ivanjica, especially because here I can do some things I cannot do at home. I always try something new, e.g. this year it was archery, climbing and diving. I would really like to come to the Camp again and to have more fun with my friends.



## WHAT THE VOLUNTEERS HAVE TO SAY



It has been the honour for me to be the part of this Camp. It was really something special, so I would like to say one big THANK YOU! Thanks to you I have met wonderful people that I will never forget. I believe no words could describe my feeling about the Camp and what we have went through during these 10 days in Ivanjica. The kids are great, I miss them all and I hope next year I will have the opportunity to spend time with them again. What we have shared there cannot be measured with that what we have brought with us when we were leaving the Camp.

## IMPRESSIONS OF A MOM AT THE CAMP

Here I am for the fourth time in the most beautiful city in the world. For me it is the most beautiful because of the very deep emotional reasons, because my child and I arrived here for the first time in 2004. The year after his hemotherapy was ended. After the long period of total isolation, we have came to rehabilitation in Ivanjica and stayed for 21 days ... and the recovery had started.

Nobody could understand this feeling, and this is why the Camp is so important and beneficial. Only my child and I understand the fear we lived with each day for the past five years. If we could pile up the fear 60 parents live with, it could reach heights of the mountain, as high as the one I am looking at right now. At its peak there is a cross, which we will all reach once this is all over... and I believe this situation will be behind us all one day and we will able to remember what the life`s real values are!

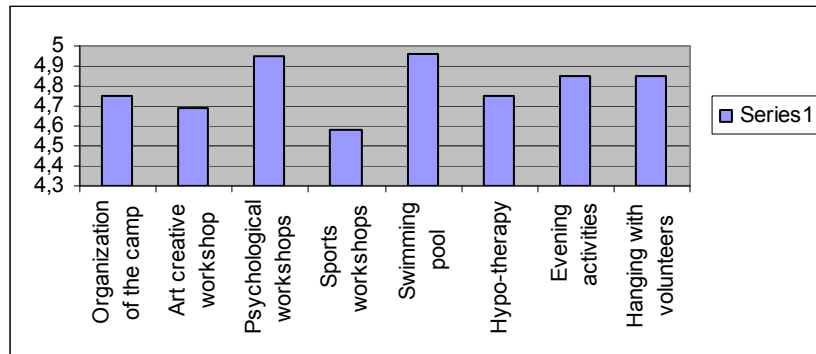


## EVALUATION OF THE CAMP

At the end of the Camp the parents and the children have fulfilled the questionnaire, where they have disclosed their feelings, opinions on each realised activity as well the opinion what they have liked the most.

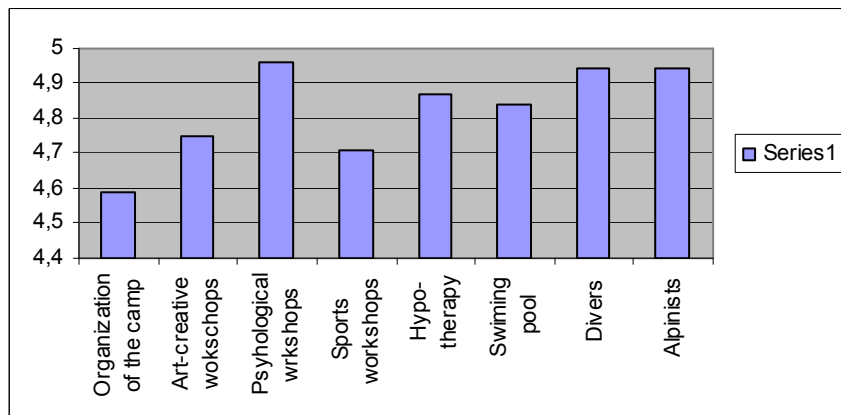
### EVALUATION CHILDREN:

#### Evaluation of workshops for children:

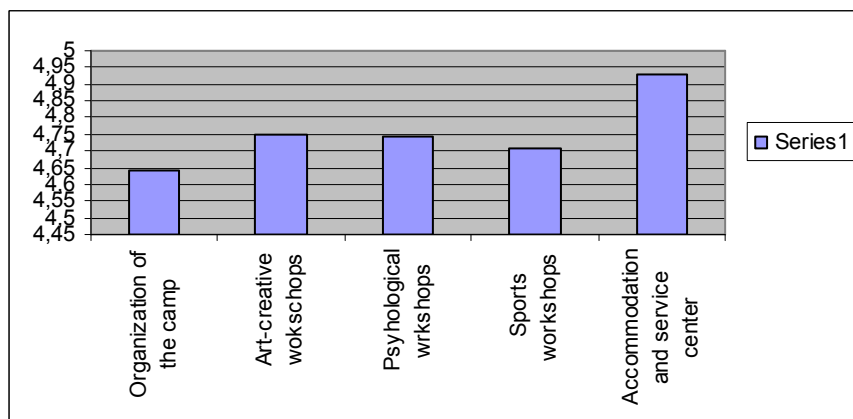


### EVALUATION PARENTS:

#### Evaluation of workshops for children:

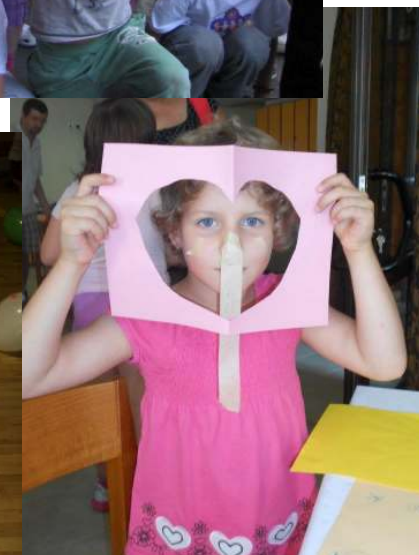


#### Evaluation of total Camp organization:





## MORE SMILES UNTIL NEXT GATHERING





## GOLDEN VOLUNTEERS!

We would like to thank the people who have spend each day playing and working with children and their parents. These were our volunteers: Mirta, Ana, Bratt, Bojana, Dušan, Smiljana, Sandra, Ceca, dad Steva, Dragana, Nađa, Dejan, Anja, Ivan, Marija, Dragana V., Vukašin and Tatjana.



## AGAIN THIS YEAR WE WERE SUPPORTED BY OUR FAITHFUL FRIENDS



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**NURDOR**, the National Association of Parents of Children with Cancer, [www.nurdor.org.rs](http://www.nurdor.org.rs), is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nongovernmental organization founded by parents of cured or deceased children, the medical staff of oncology departments, and volunteers who recognized the need for systematic and effective support for parents of children with cancer. The National Association began its work in 2004, and it brings together parents and friends of children from all over Serbia. The main objective of the organization is to support families of children with cancer by providing high quality treatment, rehabilitation and socialization of children, infected or healed. NURDOR is a member of the International Confederation of Childhood Cancer Parent Organizations (ICCCPO), [www.icccpo.org](http://www.icccpo.org) and works closely with the International Society of Oncology Pediatrics (SIOP), [www.siop.nl](http://www.siop.nl).

NURDOR's bank account, where you can send your donations at Unicredit Bank, is **170003001071500082**.



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