



VILÁGSZÉP  
Foundation for Children

Annual Report 2022







# A YEAR OF SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS



**Kriszta Marton**  
CEO

If someone asks a staff member or a volunteer of our Világszép community about how we measure the success of our work, the answer is probably as simple as “mostly by memorable moments”. Summing up our year 2022, I started to wonder whether the results of our work could be measured at all. Can we, living in a family environment, quantify the value of our human relationships? How much does the support and encouragement of a relative matter? What is the worth of a friend helping us to get through a difficult period or keeping us from making a major mistake? Could we estimate how our lives would have turned out if we had not had the support of our “mentors” – godparents, teachers, bosses, for example – helping us along the bumpy road to adulthood? I certainly would not know. I am also convinced that without those mentors I would not have made it this far. But I do remember clearly who my helpers were, and what those defining phrases and moments were. Our Világszép community aims to provide exactly that experience – the helping hand and those significant and beautiful moments – every day to 150 children who are not growing up in their own families: Time will tell which moments become truly important, even life changing for them.

When the world is so turbulent around us, we respect the value of human relationships even more. Indeed, the year 2022 was mostly about protecting, nurturing and developing our relationships: with the 150 children we are committed to support, with all the staff and partners we work with and, last but not least, with all our supporters who will help us to stand by our children for many years to come.

In this spirit, this year we have provided 90 children with countless wonderful moments in seven summer camps. We redesigned the concept of our club workshops, and in September, we started our regular mid-year sessions with 73 young people. Once again, we expanded our mentoring team, moving closer to the goal of ensuring that all our children receive one-to-one mentoring from us. As an innovation, we have launched a blog on our website, edited mainly by our children, have strengthened our fundraising team and created a Patrons Club, integrating our major supporters. In addition, we have laid the foundations for a Mentor House project, which will provide soft transition for our young adults from a foster home to independent adult life. All the while, our Világszép community, including our staff, volunteers and professional partners, shared thousands of beautiful moments together, empowering us to proclaim that the world is beautiful.

Thank you to everyone who was part of our life in 2022 – let’s stay in touch in the years to come!

## HOW WE HELP

### OUR MISSION

We provide accepting love and individual attention to children who have been removed from their families and are raised in state-run foster homes, and help them experience a world that is full of opportunities for them too. We create a world where they can find the beauty both in themselves and in the things that surround them.

### WHO WE ARE

Children who are growing up without their parents and are raised in foster care receive little reassurance that the world can be a hopeful place for them and that they themselves can be valuable and beautiful in it, due to the lack of personal attention, parental love and trusting relationships. For them, to recognise their own values and strengths and to build their own independent life is a much more difficult, sometimes seemingly impossible task. With this handicap and the traumas experienced, they have little chance to estab-

lish a responsible, happy adult life when they leave foster care.

That is why we help them, the most vulnerable, young people living in foster homes. For them, beyond material support, the greatest help is providing genuine individual attention and accepting love, so that they develop self-esteem and confidence, goals and a positive vision of the future and the ability to take responsible care of themselves. We create a world where they can find the beauty both in themselves and in the world.

### HOW WE HELP

Constant presence, long-term relationships, a set framework, diversity and a supportive community – these are the core values of our operation. In the spirit of the close and personal connection with our children, we provide emotional support, personal attention and encouragement to 150 children in five foster homes in Budapest from preschool to adulthood. There is no selection or talent-focus – we

support all the children in those five homes, and those who ever connect with us, will always remain part of our Világszép community.

We support our children through five different programs, including one-to-one mentoring, summer camps, workshops, regular storytelling visits to the homes, and our own inclusive nursery. In addition, a crisis team helps to find solutions in unexpected, acute situations.

*I highly appreciate the work done by Világszép Foundation. They are on an important mission, are very dedicated, and work to high professional standards while trying to make a difference in one of the most difficult areas of professional care.*

(Szilvia Gyurkó, Hintalovon Children's Rights Foundation)

## IN NUMBERS

operating since

**2010**

helping

**150**

children (aged 3-25)

in

**5**

state-run foster homes  
in Budapest

### five (+1) program elements:

#### mentoring

one mentor to one child,  
7-18 years old

#### storytelling

spoken word storytelling  
in foster homes  
and summer camps

#### camps

7 summer camps,  
by age groups

#### workshops

160+ group sessions  
per year

#### kindergarten

inclusive education  
for 9 children in foster  
homes

#### crisis team

financial and human support  
in crisis situations

**29**

permanent staff

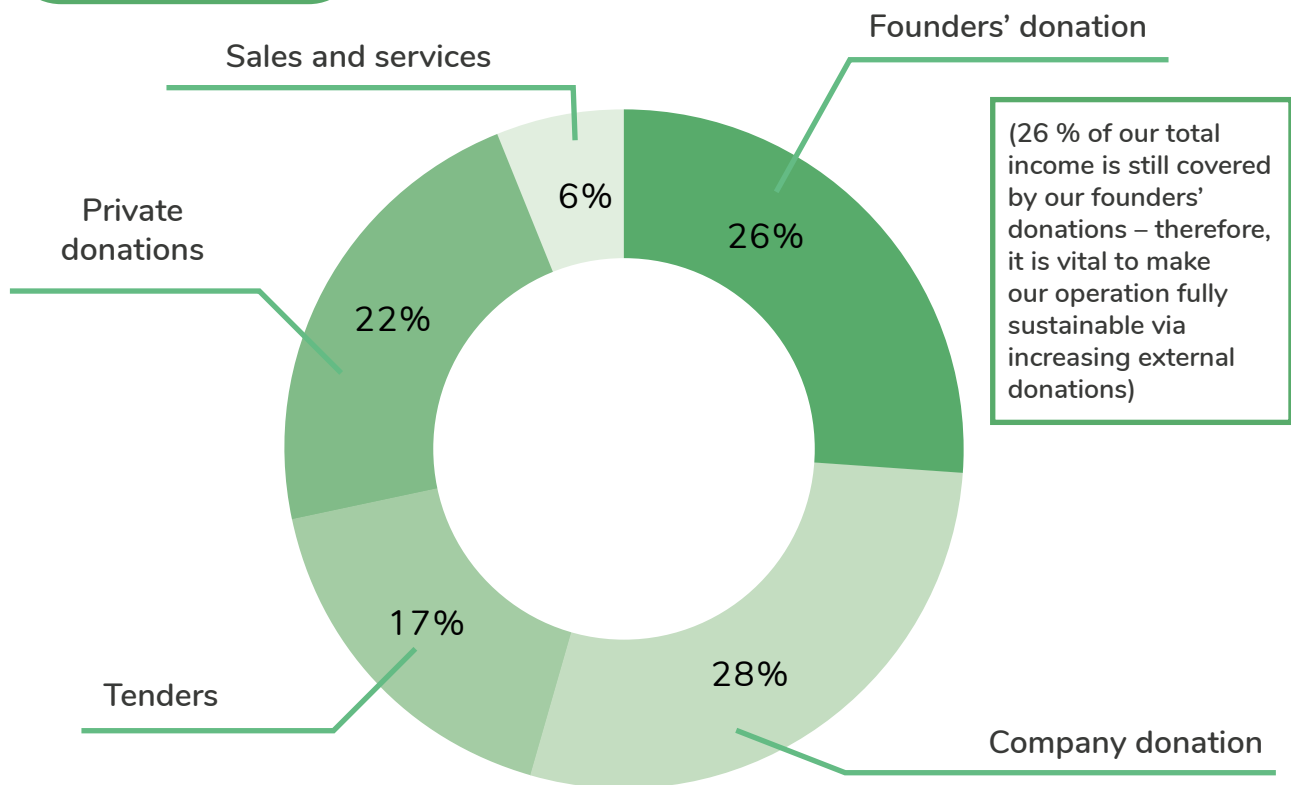
nearly

**90**

volunteers – assisting  
in mentoring  
and storytelling

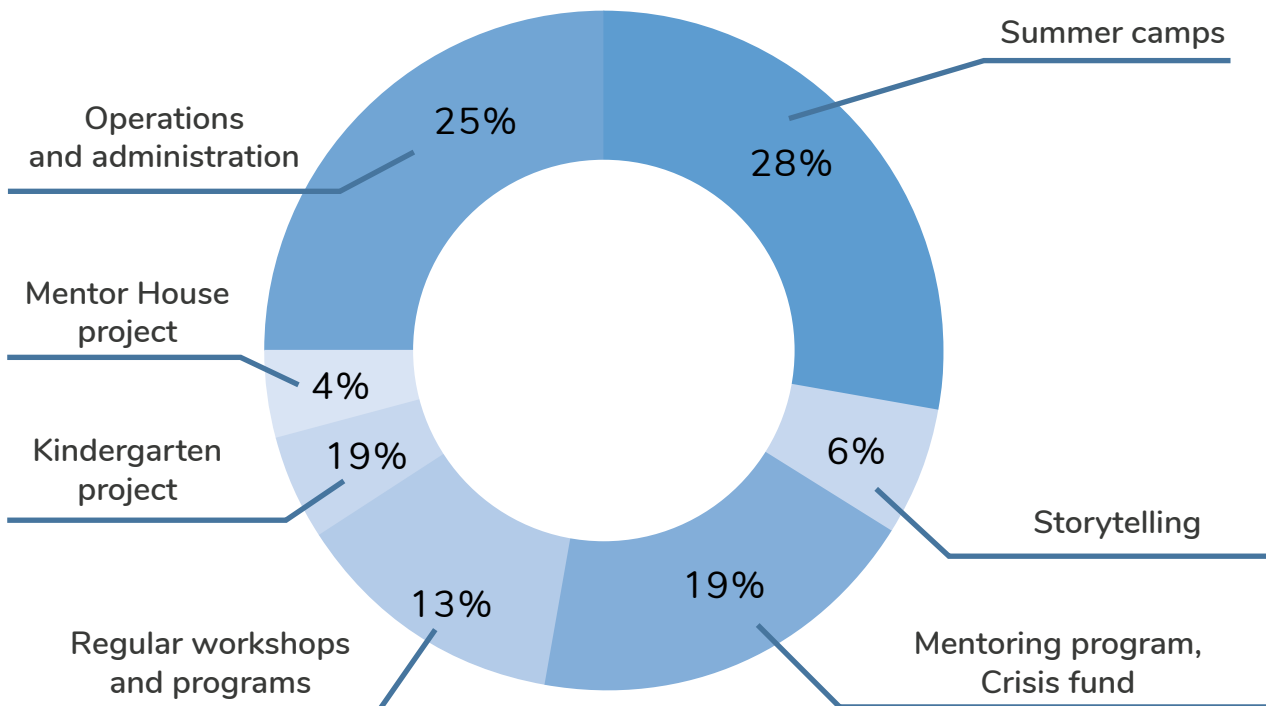
## INCOME

HUF 154.8 million



## SPENDING

HUF 159.1 million





## OUR VENUES AND PROGRAMS



summer camps  
for all ages

spoken-word  
storytelling in camps  
and in foster homes

drawing by Cini, an 18-year-old  
Világ szép youngster





BUDAPEST

SZÉP

Óvoda

inclusive kindergarten

Pendula

Óvoda

Óvoda

KLUB

mentorship

one-to-one mentoring

workshops





## MENTORING PROGRAM – 2022

Our expert and trained volunteer mentors provide a long-term, steady point of reference in supporting their mentorees on their journey. Our ongoing activities, connection and dialogue with our children, based on individual attention, provide empowering and edifying experiences for them.



**Tímea Tarcsa**  
Coordinator  
Mentoring program

”

*Another busy year, rich in both professional development and leisure activities, thanks also to the enthusiasm of our volunteers. The year has also seen an increase in the number of young people mentored, the number of expert and volunteer mentors involved, and the quality time spent together. After years of disruption caused by the Covid pandemic, in 2022, we were able to throw ourselves back into community programs, experiencing the power of personal connection.*



Regarding our professional development endeavours, we started the year with a “Resistance in the Group” training, and closed it with a two-day “Search Inside Yourself” mindfulness training, developed by Google. As a tradition, we held our Soul-refreshing Weekend at Paloznak in the spring, which included a special program: a workshop by the Hungarian Juggler Association. The summer also brought a lot of fun and fellowship: the year’s team-building theme was “Let’s cook a movie”, which, unsurprisingly, was about watching movies and cooking together, and was a huge success. It seems we cannot go wrong with cooking: a good number of our mentors came to the annual Charity Fest to cook together for those in need. As a new form of social gathering, our mentors launched

their own program, “Social Evening”, coming together several times during the year to socialise in our community space.

As planned, we also expanded our mentoring staff in 2022, recruiting a new staff mentor to our expert team and 10 new mentors to our volunteer team.

Some of our mentors have also ventured into other areas in order to become more familiar with other areas of operation within our organization: several have completed our storytelling training, participated in our summer camps, and some have received additional training in mentoring young adults through our Mentor+ program.

We are also delighted that we now have a new mentor-mentoree joint program option in our Club: we have

”

*My mentor is good, as he only cares about me, and I can tell him everything because he listens to me. However, you have to be honest so he can really help.*



launched a 'Partner Day', where those pairs can spend an afternoon participating in a variety of activities.

With tremendous enthusiasm, involvement of several experts and months of workshops, we have laid the professional foundations for our new large-scale Mentor House project. It is a transi-

tional space, created to help our youngsters who have come of age in foster homes by providing them with the opportunity to start their own lives in soft transition. The program builds on our mentoring program, in particular on our Mentor+ program designed for the special needs of our young adults.

## PLANS – 2023

As mentioned, we continue to develop our "Mentor House" project – there is still a lot of work ahead to make this concept a reality. We also aim to train more mentors and introduce impact measurement processes into the mentoring program.

*Before my mentor came, I was in a bad mood, and was about to quit. Nevertheless, by the end of the meeting, I felt much better, we talked a lot and baked cookies.*

## IN NUMBERS:



Hours of mentoring,  
individual attention

2730



Volunteer mentors

41



Expert mentors

4



Number of experience tickets

54



Number of club sessions

24

*I could hardly wait to call and tell you that I got an A at my final exam! Are you proud of me? I am telling this only to my brother and to you!*

## STORYTELLING – 2022

For us, storytelling is a bridge to children. Weekly, spoken word storytelling in foster homes and in our summer camps gives us the opportunity to provide a safe haven and bring joyful and intimate moments into their ever-changing lives.

”

*A total of 240 hours of storytelling and more than 450 stories told in our homes and summer camps. We managed to tell almost twice as many stories, and spend twice as much time with our children – that is twice as many sparkling eyes, smiles and hugs, too.*



**Dr. Csenge Virág Zalka**  
Coordinator  
Storytelling



We were present in five homes until the end of October 2022. In the wake of the move of our children from the Bolyai home, our storytellers followed them to their new homes, and thus remain a solid, reliable point for the children in their new locations as well.

The new storytellers at the Sztéhlo home are completing their first full year now; they have formed a cohesive, enthusiastic team and have developed the trusting relationship with the children that storytelling requires. They have even devised a special game: each week the children choose the story they would like to hear the following week. So far, all their wishes, however quirky or surprising, have so far always been granted.

In order to help our volunteer storytellers with such challenges, we held two supervision sessions over the year, one in the spring and one in the autumn. The supervision sessions, for the first time, were organized by homes, so that storytellers from

each home could get together and discuss their own shared experiences. The sessions were a great success, and helped form cohesive and enthusiastic teams. To replenish the energy stores of our volunteers, we also held a soul-refreshing day in the autumn, when we socialised, had cake, played games and talked a lot.

In addition to the activities organised by our foundation, our volunteer storytellers themselves came up with a new idea: we started a book club, where we gather every three months to discuss a reading related to our work. These sessions are both an inspiration to all of us, and a pleasant event with tea, coffee and cakes, as well.

We have also trained 18 new storytellers – involving our own staff, mentors and camp professionals. Thanks to these fun-filled workshops, we managed to bring even more stories into children's lives.



## PLANS – 2023

In 2023, we are following up on our initiatives. We proceed with organizing our regular Book Club (with volunteer mentors also joining in), spring and autumn group supervision sessions and self-care days. We are recruiting again at the beginning of the year to supplement the number of volunteers. In addition, the opportunity will be open again for storytellers to join other programs of our foundation, such as summer camps. We are also expanding our library of stories.

*A rainy evening in a home, two children lying on my lap, another leaning against my side, and other four listening to a story with eyes wide-open...*

## IN NUMBERS



33

volunteer storytellers



240

hours of storytelling



575 stories  
in our library



4 storytellers who have  
been with us for over 5 years

*As I am entering the children's home to tell stories, a six-year-old runs down the empty hallway calling my name, even though we'd only met a few hours earlier for the first time at the Pendula kindergarten.*

## SUMMER CAMPS – 2022

In our summer camps, held at our campsite in Paloznak near lake Balaton, children can experience unconditional acceptance, trust and love. They receive individual attention, programs tailored to their age and interests, and they can discover their own inner strengths they can build on in their daily lives.



**Erik Szécsi**  
Coordinator  
Summer camps and programs

”

*We organized seven camp sessions last year for a total of 90 children, who spent a week packed with memorable experiences at our Paloznak campsite. Once again, more than ten young adults joined us, ones who no longer live in a foster home supported by our foundation, confirming that our foundation remains a stable and secure point in their lives.*



Our **kindergarten camp** for the youngest children included lots of free play and pool time, as well as exciting music, dance and art workshops, while at the end of the week, they created their own memory book.

“Transformation” was the common theme of our **“Fairy-tale Camp”** designed for 7-11

year old children. Over the week, they created their own fairy-tale hero characters and stories, which they presented in a performance at the end of the camp.

For the next age group, we held three **Creative Camps** with themes such as “Observations”, “Connections” and “My Style”.

The youngsters explored these themes through design, photography, music workshops, circus and art projects, and concluded the camp with exciting and high quality presentations.

Participants at our **“Career Camp”** were able to discover what skills and qualities they have and which professions those strengths may fit. They also had the chance to learn about different jobs: nine professionals from different industries, such as hospitality, beauty and healthcare services, presented the beauty and challenges of their jobs, and our children received experiential education on those professions in separate sessions. They also learned about the process of starting a business, and met a personal trainer, a car mechanic and a tattoo artist.

Our **Sunshine Camp** was designed again for those young people who need the closest individual attention and special care.



## PLANS – 2023

Due to the increasing number of children joining the homes our foundation supports, we need to organize one more summer camp (five camps instead of four) for children aged 7-14 years to ensure that all children have the opportunity to spend a week in Paloznak. In addition, for the 15+ age group, we are offering a “Wilderness Camp”, framed to help them get prepared for leading their own life.

In 2023, we will organize a “Volunteer training program” again, gathering our young adults over the age of 18 – thus youth who have experienced our camps several times over the years, become our volunteers later on.

We are preparing a special camp event for those who have completed the full camp cycle, but are still under 18 – they can spend a weekend at Paloznak with their mentors.

” *It was the first time I felt that life could have meaning.*

(Our 18-year-old child recalling her first camp at Paloznak 9 years earlier)

## IN NUMBERS



52

days in 7 camps



90

children



77

adults

1 adult for every 1.16 children  
on average



53

storytelling sessions



375

beach tickets

” *I remember the scent of Paloznak...*

# VILÁGSZÉP CLUB – 2022

In the community space of our foundation's headquarters, we offer a variety of experiential, individual and group activities for our children. In our program, they can discover their talents and inner resources, develop their creativity, expand their worldview, and strengthen their self-esteem and self-confidence.

”

*Over the past year, we renewed the operational concept of our Club, our community space based in our Budapest headquarters. The Club, which previously hosted open programmes, offers now various developmental and preventive experiential education programs exclusively for our children and youngsters. In addition to the group sessions, the Club is also an important venue for the meetings of our mentor-mentee pairs throughout the year.*



**Henrietta Boda**  
Program coordinator

We offer programs for all ages: as pre-school children go to the Pendula kindergarten, we offer a wide range of programs for children aged 7 to 25 at our Club. By refining its operational concept, we have managed to double the number of our young people participating in the sessions during the year.

- For the 7-13 year olds, we organise a quarterly “Partner Day” program, where our youngsters and their mentors can choose from 2-3 exciting activities to take part in together.

- For the kids in the 12-15 and 15-18 age groups, we launched a bi-weekly series of Világszép Club sessions, where our children can participate in project-based activities working in groups on a common theme over several sessions in gastronomy, animation, design, architecture, arts and robotics. The outcome is to build an imaginary Világszép Village. This year's presentations included the opening of a restaurant and a disco, the introduction of other buildings, the lights of the village and some further animated works by the “villagers”. One weekend a month, the residents

venture out to explore the natural beauty of Budapest and its surroundings.

- For our young people approaching the age of 18, our Mentor+ program provides insights into the challenges of starting an independent life – themes discussed cover various areas such as studies, managing finances, planning a career, and overall goals in life.

- For those over 18, we run our monthly “Hello Life” series,

where our young adults have the opportunity to enjoy the power of belonging to a community. Each session elaborates a topic related to starting an independent life, from financial awareness, housing, finding a job, to travel, personal hygiene or democracy.

- In our weekly Jamaican dance sessions, participants also explore basic human rights, body awareness and self-empowerment.







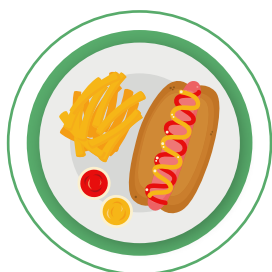
*I'm about to leave, I'm currently at a family dinner...*

(a 22-year old over the phone at the „Hello Life” club event)

## PLANS – 2023

We aim to proceed with our existing programs and focus on further developing the pedagogical methodology applied. Our long-term plan is to include prevention topics in the Világszép Club series.

## IN NUMBERS



41

three-course dinners



11

young people planned  
their future at the club



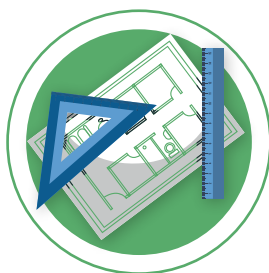
6

dance performances



3

theatre performances /  
animation shows



2

architectural shows



1

art exhibition /  
robotics show /  
choir performance



*I'm definitely going to Animation, because I already know Kitty from the summer camp, and fall for drawing.*

(a teenage girl at the project selection event)

# PENDULA KINDERGARTEN – 2022

Our foundation believes in inclusive education. Our Pendula preschool/kindergarten supports nine children who are raised in state-run foster homes.



Laura Bavalics  
head teacher

”

*It was the first year we saw a child, raised in state care, leave us to enter an elementary school after having spent all four years of preschool/kindergarten with us.*



Our Parents' Club program has been an ongoing success – through regular roundtable sessions, we sensitise families and develop a collaborative relationship with them.

With the help of children's rights experts Hintalovon Foundation, we have developed a Child Protection Policy for the Pendula Kindergarten.

Among our professional relationships, cooperation with Bárányfelhő Development and Therapy Centre is of particular importance – the dedication and specialist support of their professionals is indispensable at Pendula. We also cooperate with the nearby Budagyöngye Nursery: their teachers spent a professional day with us and we organised a professional round-table discussion on the development of their children who are expected to join our kindergarten. We have also managed to establish productive relationship with the kindergarten social helper of the Family and Child Welfare Centre of the local municipality.

We also cooperate with several universities: students from three local ones (ELTE, KRE and AVKF) participated in a professional training course with us.

”

*When you are in a bad mood, you have to say Pendula! Then it becomes good.*

Pendula has clearly become a popular, sought-after, high quality and reputable kindergarten: indeed, we have a pre-registration list of interested families for the year 2023/24. In the meantime, the number of children coming from foster homes has steadily increased, and we started the current school year at maximum capacity.

We have built cooperation with the two schools that welcomed our children from foster homes, as well as with the school that accepted our kindergarteners with special needs coming from families. In all three cases, we held several professional meetings with the teachers there to help the smooth transition of those children.



I am proud to teach an Inclusive Education course at ELTE's kindergarten teacher training program, both in Hungarian and English, which course includes Pendula as a model institution. I was also able to present the Pendula model at the International Children & Focusing on-

line conference organised by the International Focusing Institute.

In the meantime, we also focused on the professional development of our own staff. Our teachers have received full support by Pendula for training, similarly to our two kindergarten teachers, who are about

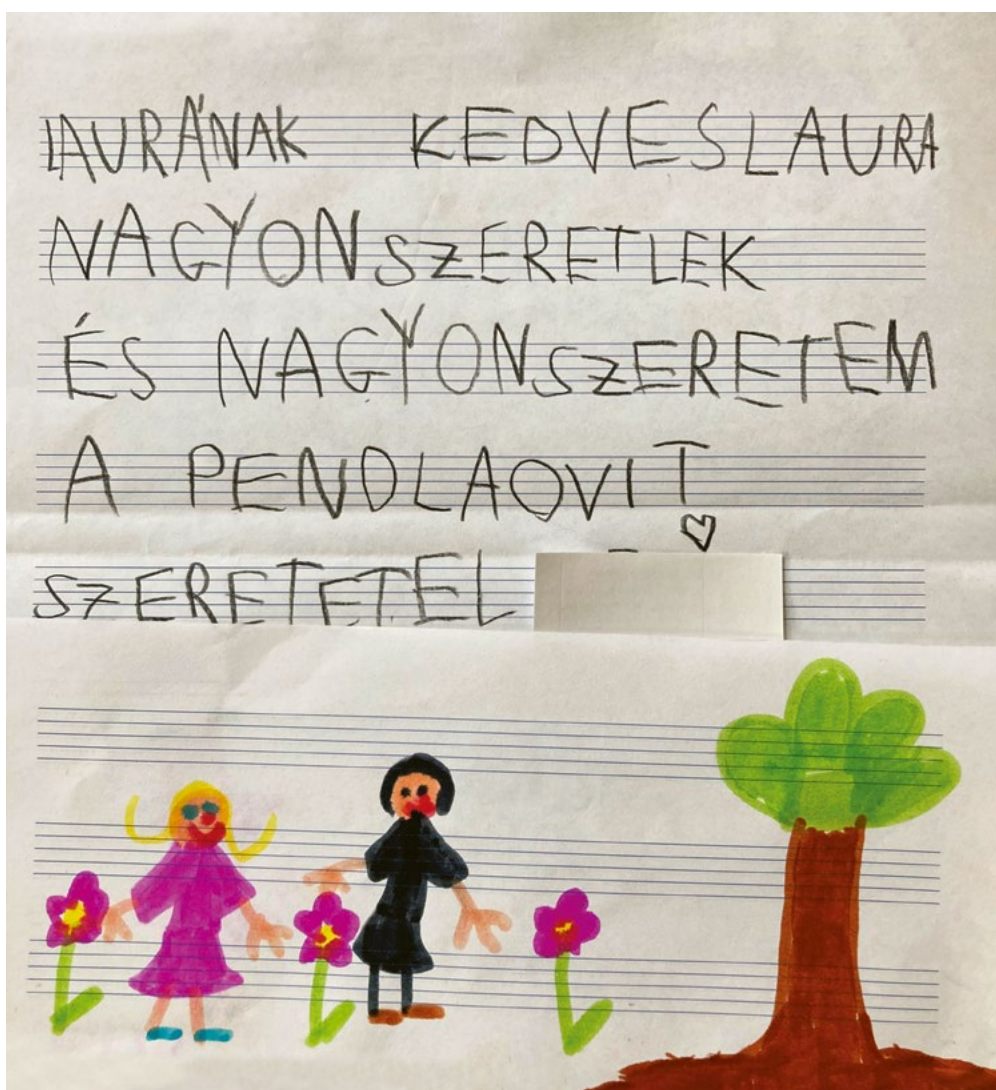
to complete their professional exam in their university graduate program. Coaching support has been provided to one of the teams in one of our kindergarten groups, and I also consult regularly with a coach on the management aspects of running Pendula.

*Well, I'm a good kid here at Pendula, yes, because I feel being loved here.*

(A response from a little boy, who considers himself a bad boy, to the comment: "But you're a good boy!")

## PLANS - 2023

- One of our key objectives is to further develop our professional community, strengthen our internal communication and knowledge sharing,
- maintain effective and ongoing contact with children homes,
- share our knowledge and experience in professional communities – by presenting our methodology and initiating professional roundtable discussions on inclusion,
- build professional relationships with schools and teachers who are hosting our children – as a first step, organise joint professional programs and round-table discussions,
- lay the groundwork for a future impact measurement – designed to help us see and analyse more accurately how Pendula children feel and perform at school and how their relationships develop.



## FINALLY, A STORY FROM ONE OF OUR LITTLE KIDS...

"Once upon a time, there was a kindergarten called Pendula. ... The children lived there, eighteen of them. There were three adults, who loved the children very much. The children loved the adults, too. They lived happily ever after.

# PATRONS' CLUB, DOCUMENTARY FILM AND A NEW BLOG SITE

For over ten years now, our foundation has been constantly developing, renewing, enriching and, if necessary, fine-tuning our programs to provide the most meaningful support for our children, and in the best way possible, to meet their specific needs. Among the innovations in 2022, I would like to highlight three specific developments.



Ágnes Wirtz  
founder

**We have created our Patrons' Club**, gathering our most committed private donors. Our Patrons pledge to support us, symbolically one or more children, on a long-term basis with a significant amount of money. Under agreements for a minimum of three years, they support our work with a minimum monthly donation of HUF 50,000 per child. In this form, our patrons are linked to a child only technically, whereas all our children benefit from their donations. Our vision is to expand the club and have a dedicated patron behind each of our 150 youngsters.



All our Patrons have received a numbered and personally signed print of the painting "Unconditional Love", by Hungarian painter István Nádler, prepared specifically to support our work.

## Last year, we also presented the documentary film "Világszépek", which shows

the life of our children and youngsters living in foster homes, and how our foundation helps them. Based on the initiative of director and screenwriter Judit Kalmár, the documentary presents interviews with the children, who talk about their past, their plans, dreams and the world around them, complemented by scenes shot in the children homes, as well in our Budapest headquarters and in our summer camp site at Paloznak near Lake Balaton. Beside demonstrating the everyday struggles of these children, the film primarily

aims to stimulate awareness and conversation that may help create a more supportive and welcoming environment, in which their future is defined by the opportunities that lie ahead of them, rather than discrimination, the traumas and the burdens of their past. The documentary film was screened last May at an exclusive event to a full house, with Hungarian actors (Róbert Alföldi, Móni Balsai, Eszter Bánfalvi and Barna Kelemen Bányai) also present to read out the particularly poignant quotes of the children. The screening was followed by a panel discussion, elaborating around the background of the documentary film.



**A further novelty of our past year was the launch of a blog page on our website**, edited mainly by our children. The new forum gives our invisible children the opportunity to show themselves, albeit behind "stage names". The blogsite delivers drawings, poems, poignant or

even hilarious short pieces of writing from our children: they give us a glimpse into their dilemmas and struggles, joys and sad moments – often with the astonishing wisdom of those who life forced to grow up ahead of time. Below you can read a short story from the Világszép blog.



## MOTHER'S DAUGHTER: WHAT YOU SHOULD CALL ME

(excerpt from a post on the Világszép blogon)

*"...There are no perfect lives, each person has things in their past that they don't like to talk about...*

*For me, it is important to share my story, and I want to make it known to others, without revealing my name.*

*It has taken me too long to realise that there is the past me and the present me. Although I still struggle with accepting my past, I have to honor myself by not confusing it with my present. Instead, I try to write it out, process it and accept it.*

*When I decided to write without using my name, I had many possible fake names in mind..., while the solution was inspired by my childhood.*

*They say you are lucky if you are taken from a foster home to foster parents. I was lucky too, it was better than the state care home after all. At least for me, at first, in every way. ...*

*As a child, I never had an image of a normal mother. I had a foster 'mother' and a 'mother'.*

*My mother and I started from 'you should not love your foster mother, as I'll take you home soon'. After a while, it turned into 'my daughter is being raised by a foster mother and she's very happy there'. My foster mum gave me love at first, and later she gave me hurtful words. Over the years, it became clear that 'I am worthless, I'm not going to be anybody, I'm not going to graduate, I'm going to be like my mother'.*

*In the meantime, I have graduated, I am a second-year university student and I am not like my mother.*

*'You will be like your mother!'. Sometimes hurtful words turn out to be inspiring. I took this as a reminder. Although she gave birth to me, I cannot consider her my mother, but still, what can I say...*

**Mother's daughter** is my name...

**„Whoever works so relentlessly, searching curiously her past, who does not throw it away, does not forget it, but carries it forward, although in a different, independent and sovereign way, is the richest person, because she has won freedom.”**

(actress Eszter Bánfalvi praising the author, as she read out the short story on our blog site)

I am utterly proud to see that our patrons have such confidence in us. Because trust is the foundation of our whole mission. Firstly, the trust of the children homes to accept us as partners, then the trust of these children who are far more reserved and suspicious than their peers. Indeed, trust is our greatest treasure, our most cherished asset, and our elementary responsibility. It is therefore a source of joy and pride that we receive the same extraordinary trust from

our supporters as well: they know that their donations are being used for a good cause and also well and fairly.

In her introduction, Kriszta, our CEO, wrote about the importance of those defining and beautiful moments in our lives – finishing this report, let me share a wonderful example of the heart-warming connections of our Világszép community. Our “Hello Life” program is a regular session where we help our young adults prepare

for their independent adult life. Many come to our late afternoon sessions from work, often tired and hungry. Yet, a hot meal and cake awaits them in the kitchen – in most cases prepared during the day by mothers of our Pendula nursery. The families of the youngest ones helping the eldest ones without a family. It is for these moments that I feel to be the happiest and richest person in the world.

Thank you for being with us.

# HOW YOU CAN HELP

## AS AN INDIVIDUAL



Become our regular supporter

Donate 1% of your annual tax

Become our volunteer

Follow us and promote our mission



[vilagszepalapitvany.hu/en/donation](https://vilagszepalapitvany.hu/en/donation)



## AS A CORPORATE OR INSTITUTION

Donate to us

Offer your expertise

Host a training course with us, either in Budapest or in Paloznak

Buy from our team-building programs

Support us with a portion of the proceeds of your product

### Contact:

[alapitvany@vilagszepalapitvany.hu](mailto:alapitvany@vilagszepalapitvany.hu)

### Information:

[vilagszepalapitvany.hu](https://vilagszepalapitvany.hu)

[Facebook](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Youtube](#)

### Bank account (Erste Bank):

HUF: 11600006-00000000-81491836

EUR: 11600006-00000000-81491850

### Tax number:

18146145-2-19



## DONORS

## MAIN SUPPORTERS



## SUPPORTERS











