

## Cooperation between MWRC - Shelter Centre and SOS Children's Village Macedonia - Counseling center

Monday, 17 May 2010

Threw direct work with victims, Macedonian Women Rights Center - Shelter Center apart from offering the existing services, also tries to extend the activities' framework and thus to provide better protection of our target group.

Recently, through our Free Legal Aid Programme, a divorce procedure was initiated from a victim who came to our office for help, due to aggravated assault, physical and psychological violence from her husband who suffers from alcoholism. Very often, the violence against her was testified by their three minor children, who inevitably found themselves as secondary and direct victims. Our client is one of the many victims that on regular bases face the impact of the harsh reality which puts them in a helpless position.

The woman is not employed, she has no property, neither education qualifications. For that reason, meanwhile a procedure for obtaining social support is initiated before the Centre for Social Welfare and also donation requests were submitted to successful companies.

Calling on their social responsibility, the City of Skopje contributed with in kind donations, providing household items and a stove in particular.

At the same time, in order to protect the best interests of the three minor children of our client, we have established a contact with the organization "SOS Children's Village Macedonia" - Counseling Centre for parents and children in Shuto Orizari. This organization actively works to protect and support children who found themselves in a risky position and are in danger of being rejected by their natural family environment and to lose support from them. Our client was facing precisely this kind of problems because her children do not receive support from their biological father. By implementing the program for family strengthening with providing material, educational, health and psycho-social assistance, The Counselling Centre for parents and children is involved in meeting the direct needs of the three children. In order to improve the overall position of our client, the team of the Counselling Centre will be engaged in several fields that are include in their scope of work.

For this engagement of the SOS children's village - Macedonia, within the framework of the programme for family empowering - Counselling Centre for parents and children in Shuto Orizari, we are grateful and in the future with joint efforts we will try to realize the needs and interests of those vulnerable groups whose re socialization is more than necessary.