



We strive for a systemic change in social services that provide care for families with children afflicted by autistic spectrum disorders (ASD). We do this mainly by analyzing social services, advocacy, and popularization. We associate parents who want dignity and decent quality of life for their children, both little and grown up. We believe the world can be a safe and kind place for anyone.

Children of the Full Moon

The issue of ASD

According to estimates, there are up to 4 000 mentally handicapped children and adults living in the Czech Republic, who manifest features of “problematic behaviour” (P). This most frequently concerns a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder (ASD). These people are cared for in the overwhelming majority of cases by their parents, because care homes for people with disabilities do not have the capacity. Care for these clients demands an enormous physical and psychological endeavour, and therefore carers whom these homes are not capable of financing. There is also a lack of support for families of children with ASD+P in the form of assistance and relief services. As a result, families bear a disproportionate burden, they are exhausted and in such a situation their health suffers as a consequence. Clients with ASD+P suffer from a low quality of life, and their future in adulthood is uncertain. They frequently find themselves hospitalised for the long term in psychiatric institutions.

Project aim

We endeavour to ensure **accessible, quality and sufficient financing of social services for children and adults with ASD:**

1. **education** and dissemination of information about this social problem (documentary film Children of the Full Moon, docu-serial featuring stories of families with ASD, campaign We Need Your Head)

2. **analysis of possible solution to the problem** (comparative analysis from abroad, analysis in the Czech Republic)
3. **interconnection of families of clients with ASD+P**
4. **legal activities** (change to legal and sub-legal norms and established practices)

Systemic change in the client's childhood is intended in particular to assist the regular running of the family, the supplementing of essential aid and the development of the child, so that the family is provided with the maximum possible support in its ability to manage upbringing within a natural environment. In adulthood it serves for a better quality of life of clients with ASD+P in a safe environment, because the great majority of them are not capable of living without support. This concerns in particular assistance, relief and residential services.

Documentary film Children of the Full Moon

In 2017 we compiled a documentary film describing the life of four autistic families. The film's premiere on Czech Television reached a huge audience and met with highly positive acclaim. The creation of the film was supported by crowdfunding on the Hithit portal, and can be viewed on the website of Czech Television, as well as on the [website](#) of our association also with English subtitles. In addition, Czech Television has decided to conduct a connected information campaign, and to cover the theme within the framework of its reporting and journalism.



Docu-serial about families with ASD



Film has proven itself to be an excellent medium for describing social problems. In the Czech Republic hundreds of families live in a situation where they receive inadequate care. This spreads far beyond only families of clients with ASD. This [docu-serial](#) presents stories of families experiencing their everyday difficulties in real life situations.

Further episodes are being compiled with the support of the weekly journal Respekt, the web portals Aktuálně.cz, Centrum.cz and the Avast Foundation. At least nine will be made during the course of 2018.

Legal activity

Systems of social care abroad are based mostly on the fact that the cost factor of care for a specific client is first of all professionally enumerated. This amount is then paid for the service which the client chooses. The social service is thus motivated to take on the client and provide him or her with the best possible care.

However, such a system requires a fundamental change to the system of social care as a whole. We wish to take an active role in the debate concerning a change to the law and legal prescriptions, which would improve the quality of life of our clients. We are currently meeting with politicians, experts and officials, and presenting them with the magnitude of the problem and with possibilities for solution.

The prerequisite for a broader debate shall be a Comparative Analysis of the system of social services for people with ASD and mental disabilities abroad. We are preparing to establish a communication campaign on the basis of this study, with the aim of attempting to change the legislation, existing norms and established practices.

Method of project financing

Our association is supported by the Česká spořitelna Foundation, the Avast Foundation, and has an extensive network of individual donors and supporters, whom we greatly appreciate. We affiliate a range of experts, who provide voluntary support with the management of our association and the running of its activity.

www.detiuplnku.cz