PROJECT IDEA

„Little dragon" has been helping children in need by finding them appropriate donors (private person's or companies) since 2010. As of 2017, children's needs are mapped in specially designed application - **Little Dragon kid's donation app** and matched with donors who can provide financial or material help. App was primarily developed as assistance for selected members of volunteer staff, who have access to application data, as all data of end users – children are kept strictly private.

App currently secures finding donors and matching them with children's needs for following events - religious holidays, birthdays and start of every new school year, where every child is provided with one-time donor for each of mentioned events or permanent donor for the whole year. With additional investment and upgrade of the application, Little Dragon could ensure help on a bigger scale, as we strive to develop the application to the point where it could be opened whole year and not just for so called „larger events", such as start of a school, year or Christmas...

For purposes of advancing of specific aid to be delivered to specific user, we would like to upgrade donation app to a higher scale. In practice, this would mean that it would be able to provide more detailed and correct information on need of every single child, with connecting users and donors in real time, and enabling faster request for donations for emergency needs, on-line payments, quick feedbacks via automatized replies and instructions to the donors etc...

MILESTONES

Little Dragon kid's donation application was initially designed in mid-2017 for back end users and it's first „big event", where application was released for use for donors was in December 2017, where it, in its initial version, connected donors with end users – children. Initial design was made by two volunteers – programmer and event designer from Rio de Janeiro and it was based on specifications given by Martina Leopold, founder of Little dragon.

At that time, app was designed to capture all names and basic data of children and to assign them with appropriate donor who would ensure a Christmas gift for each child. Up to this point, all actions for approximately 400 kids regarding Christmas donations were done manually, meaning all children's data were kept in Excel and donators were pulled out from Facebook, based on comment left under FB posts (anonymous list of kids were posted on FB event and donors would choose kid by leaving a comment below the post). When donations, or in this case, presents arrived, they had to be manually entered on paper lists and matched with kids names. All instructions for sending of donation packages were sent via FB replies. First great milestone was that all users data were entered into the app and when it was opened, in December 2017, donors could enter the app and see first name, age and avatar of the kid. By clicking on „sponsor" button, donor would receive automatic reply to his email with specific data which included name and code of the child, 3d bar code, information about the deadlines for sending the package, address of shipping and letter written by selected child with his/her Christmas wish, together with further instructions about packing gifts and postage.

After success of such an „open event „application was modified and upgraded few times. Further updates included simplification of processes of opening event and adding new data to the app. Next larger event when App was opened for use of public was Easter 2018 and Back to school project 2018, where presents and financial aid was collected for individual children.

CURRENT STATUS

Currently, application is designed to connect needs of children, who are users of donations with both admin staff/volunteers/back end users and donors/front end users. Volunteer staff use application for collection and maintaining of personal data of children and marking their needs (per written consent provided by user and with data base access is restricted to few people with admin access).

What can back end users/volunteers currently see in the App?

1. **Individual Data**
- Child's name, assigned code of the family and assigned code for child itself
- General personal data, such as name, surname, date of birth, gender...
- Marking of special needs of children, such as potentially needed medicines or medical aids, meal allowance, commuting tickets, need of pocket money for school trips... (now all categories are manually entered in one blank field on the right side from the name and there is no possibility to filter them)
- List of all birthdays of children, together with name of donor in charge of donating birthday present, if one exists
- Data of children from "safe houses" and shelters, which are completely anonymous, except age and gender

2. **Family data:**
- Assigned family code, as there are situations where couple of children are in the same family, so code connects them
- Contact person (usually mother or father), address, phone number, status (active or inactive), email address, if applicable
- List of every donation collected per family (specific value of donation received)
- Automatically created donation forms, as per request of Ministry of demography, family, youth and social politics
- Admin sees if family is active in the system/if they are currently active users of our charity help

What can front end users/donor see in the App?

- Currently App opens only during so called "large events", in Croatia this is for Christmas period, Easter and before the beginning of new school year, upon end of an event, link is not active any more
- Donor can see avatar of a child, first name, age and gender
- Under the avatar is an icon of an envelope; by clicking on an envelope, you can read what is selected child's wish for Christmas present for example (children write letters themselves and volunteers load scans in the system)
- If front end user chooses to sponsor the child for the event, under the avatar you can find "Sponsor" button; by clicking on it, you receive an email with detailed instructions with specific data which included name and code of the child, 3d bar code, information about the deadlines for sending the package, address of shipping and letter written by selected child with his/her wish, together with further instructions about packing gifts and postage
- Donor sends package and when it arrives to Little dragon, we use mobile app to read the bar code and out app automatically sends mail to donor that we have received donation, together with thank you note

- If open event is related to beginning of the school year, donor will receive specified list of items that child needs to be prepared for new school year (notebooks, art supplies, t-shirt for gym, school bags…)
- In case donor has any issues, there is you tube video that demonstrates key features and usage of the App: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TtVrJWDOmt0
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FUTURE PERSPECTIVE

We would like to continue with the improvement and upgrade of the application. Our idea is that our App stays opened whole year and not only during previously mentioned events. We would develop a module for permanent donations, with couple of choices donor can choose from. For instance, per one child we would have couple of categories for donation – birthday, religious holidays, school meals, transportation allowance, medicines, school books… As a donor, you could pick to sponsor one child completely through the year, or you could for example, choose one category, like buying a birthday present. In the moment you choose an option, App makes the chosen field inactive and therefore it is "booked by you". You would receive detailed email with instructions on how to proceed automatically. We would include banner on the top of the page, where we could list all things marked as "urgent", something like featured items for special situations which need to be covered by urgent donation. For example, we had case when child from country needed to go to the dentist urgently, but family could not afford bus ticket and urgent donation was needed to cover it. Or for children with special medical problems, when it is urgent to collect medical supplies or financial donations for treatments. Admin view would also be improved by adding new categories in Individual charts and Family charts. Individual charts would be improved by adding categories as follows: Birthday present, Christmas present, Easter present, School package, Other (extracurricular activities, for example), Size of clothes and size of shoes, Under each chart we would put Paypal button and offer instant donation possibility. Family charts would be improved by adding categories as follows: Documents (each family needs to present documents to prove the right for social aid), Status (active/non-active), Is the family user of other social aid and, if yes, which one?, Urgent needs (home appliances, firewood, Life conditions (to mark if house with electricity, heating system…)

WHAT IS THE REALLY NEW IDEA ABOUT YOUR PROJECT?

In Croatia, there is a large population of humanitarian associations that work on the field of help for socially endangered and underprivileged children, but none of them has developed an application for purposes of advancing of specific aid to be delivered to specific user. When we take a look at specific pace of life of a modern people, who spend most of their time by computers or cell phones, it is easier to draw their attention when using a media that is completely familiar to them, such as usage of specifically developed application for such purpose. Social media is currently fastest and most accessible communication channel, so we are currently using it as a tool for informing the donors about the needs of children. Further development of the application would take this to a new level, as we would be able to connect users and donors in real time, and enable faster request for donations for emergency needs, on-line payments, quick feedbacks via automatized replies and instructions to the donors etc... As previously mentioned, application has the possibility to send instructions and bar codes to donors, which they can print out and attach to the package they are sending to Little Dragon. This possibility makes tracking of packages easier and more transparent. When completely developed, application would enable assistance for larger number of children and allow us to include different and new groups of kids into our program, such as kids from safe houses, orphanages, asylums and hospitals.