

LIBERA

Croatian Association for Education, Entrepreneurship and International Cooperation

PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT FOR „WE EMPOWER CROATIAN CHILDREN TO OVERCOME FEARS“

Dear donors and supporters,

We are immensely grateful for your support of the project in these challenging times. The fact that you gave us your trust gave us the strength to move on.

The Coronavirus pandemic was a great challenge for us and due to the compliance with Covid19 measures we were unable to hold workshops in schools. Although we were aware of the fact that at those moments **children needed us the most**, the measures were necessary because of the large number of infected persons and we had to adhere to them.

According to data from the Croatian Institute of public Health (web portal Dnevnik.hr of May 12th 2022), since the beginning of the Covid19 pandemic, **there has been a 25% increase in mental disorders** in children, and unfortunately we can conclude that there has been an epidemic of mental illness in young people.

We are aware of the entire frustrating situation, but despite such unfavorable circumstances we will not give up and **we will continue to build a positive story thanks to your support.**

The therapeutic dog Beni, alongside with the psychologist Ruta, came to the workshop we held at the Jarun Equestrian Club since it is easier to follow the Covid19 guidelines where all activities are taking place outdoors.

The smile on the children's faces when they spotted the therapeutic dog **was priceless**. And their happiness was immense when Beni had followed their orders. **A dozen children and parents attended the workshop**. They met a **psychologist who presented them with ways of working with a therapeutic dog**. Children were particularly happy that **Beni was able to wait for the order and eat the sweets after waiting 5 minutes**.

After the mandatory work program, we continued with informal socializing.

<https://www.globalgiving.org/projects/we-empower-croatian-children-to-overcome-fears>.

The realization of project activities in the previous period is in accordance with the set goals of the project, related to the following:

- socializing and workshop for 10 children and their parents with a new therapy dog Beni and his mentor Ruta
- children's photo session to remember the wonderful socializing with friends and activities with therapy dog and
- handing out 10 gift bags that included crayons and plasticine, chocolates and food for their pets.

All those **activities will help prevent** later severe forms of **anxiety** and at the same time contribute to solving related specific social problems and proactively influence the development of the community as a whole. **Therefore, your support is invaluable to us.** We also believe that the pictures in the attachment will cheer you up and that you will see that your donated funds are used for the right purpose.

With love and warmth,

The Libera team



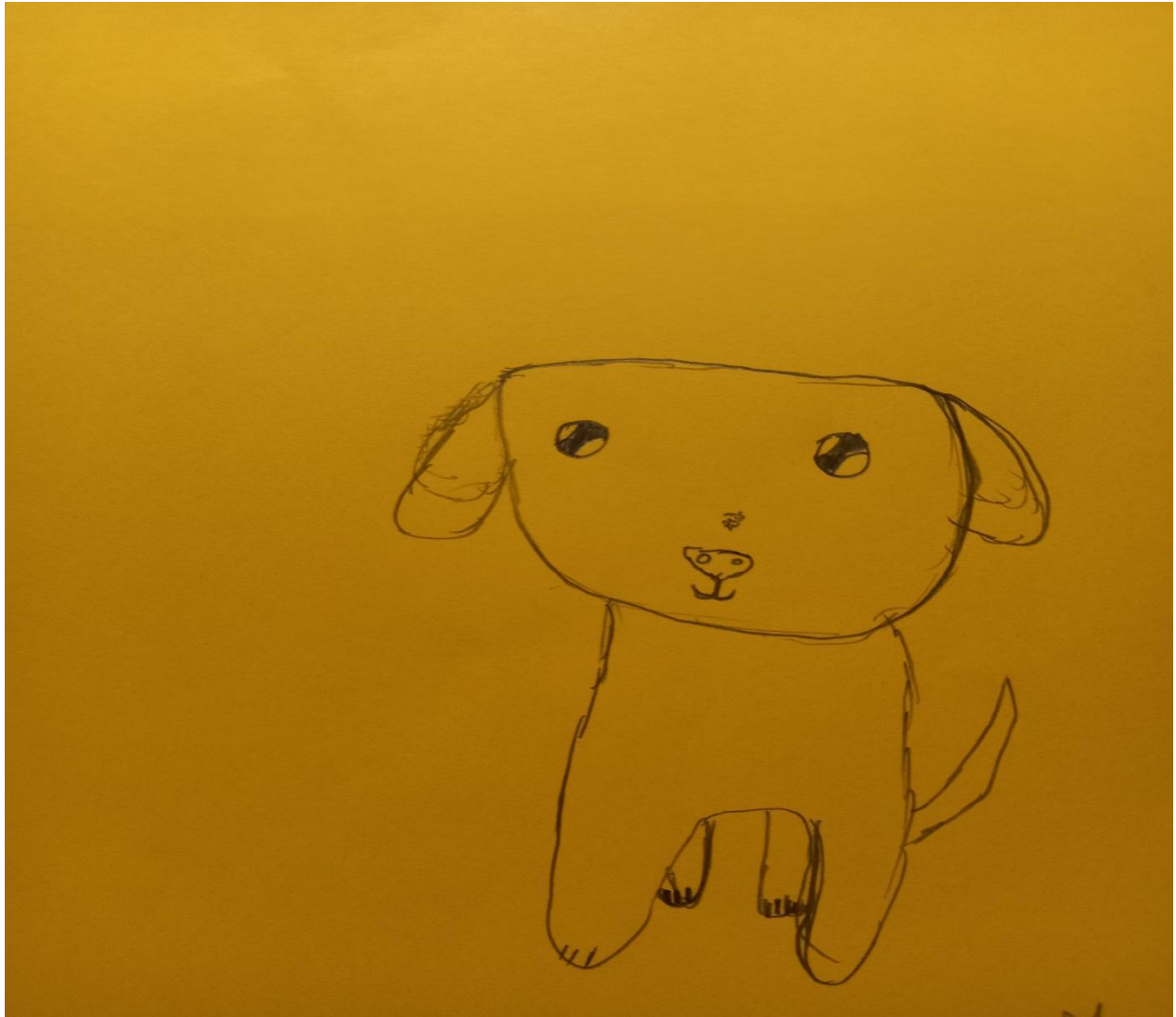
Beni did all the tasks with a smile!



For this girl, filling out a questionnaire is always fun ...



A therapy dog always follows his mentor's instructions.



This time, the children decided to draw a dog - guess why?

May 18th, 2022.

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www.libera.hr