

Broken family relationship/ broken connection between mother and child - „Zielone Wzgórze” Foundation





Working with people who experience problems in the area of family ties, bonds and relations:

- adoptions
- replacement
- biological families with difficult history
- reintegration of families
- foster families
- parents (biological and foster)
- children



- Main challenges nad problems
- operating for 6,5 year
- Insufficient funds – operating from project to project
- try to keep in touch with former participants of projects
- problems with continuity



## Successes:

- returns of children to biological families
- establishing supportive contacts between participant (self-help)
- introduce to participants the idea of the non-violent communication – changing approaches
- learning new forms of activities
- networking and cooperating with public institution and authorities



Main goals and principles through practices:

- Do not be afraid of getting closer with participant
- do not be afraid of inconsistency
- Do not be afraid of mixed groups
- Cycles of classes for whole families are good
- Some kind of therapy works as a continuation and supplementation of psychoeducation



• using mixed methods of working is good



## Main activities:

### 1. Psychoeducation

- Training of parental skills and educatories
- Communication training

### 2. Narration

- Interviews
  - ▶ chance for the participants to face a long-hidden past and problems that they may not have been talking about so far; feedback: conversation has a cleansing and strengthening effect; personal stories collected in book – raised self-esteem and evoked a sense of agency, can be used as a testimony for them and their relatives (especially towards their children)
- Photographic sessions
  - ▶ extension of interview; portraits, in personal space suggested by participants
- Film reportage
- → part of educational activities for broadening the knowledge



## Main activities

### 3. Arthetherapy and dogotherapy

- Dogotherapy workshops for families
- ▶ Participant learn to express emotions in a way that is safe for themselves and others; improving communication, learning responsibility
- Photography workshops (for adults and families)
- ▶ at the same time learning technical issues and having specific therapeutic aspects for participants
- Arthetherapeutic workshops for adults
- Creative-development classes for families

### 4. Support groups

### 5. Individual consultation / therapeutic sessions



## Dogoterapia

Więzi odNowa - POWRÓT  
[fundacjazielenewzgorze.org](http://fundacjazielenewzgorze.org)



**CENTER OF SOCIAL  
INNOVATIONS**

University of Lodz





**CENTER OF SOCIAL  
INNOVATIONS**  
University of Lodz







Work with homeless women in the foundation's experience - a few comments:

- Not all women who have participated in projects revealed the fact that they are in homeless crisis; there were also those who told about that only to Ania – therapist and founder of foundation
- Large part of women has difficult housing condition or sometimes extremely difficult (on the verge of homelessness) – such crisis often cause loss of children
- If children are already in foster care, then the homelessness or serious housing difficulties of the mother / parents are a huge burden, which in practice usually prevents the return of the children
- Separation with mother is also a great violence for the child
- Stereotypes about children and mothers in situation of broken ties – for example: unwanted and unloved children, bad mother;





„Przy pierwszym dziecku zbiegły się nieszczęśliwe okoliczności: babcia mi umarła, traciłam mieszkanie, wszystko... Nie miałam żadnego wsparcia od najbliższej rodziny, a mój organizm był już mocno uzależniony.”



Estera – mama dwójki dzieci przebywających w rodzinie zastępczej.  
Cytat z książki „Więzi odNowa”



„At the first child coincided unfortunate circumstances: my grandmother died, I lost my apartment, everything ... I did not have any support from my closest family, and my body was already heavily addicted. " - part of a social campaign on social media about broken ties - an example of a homeless woman's story



Where you can find information about the foundation's activities:

<http://fundacjazielonewzgorze.org/>

[https://www.facebook.com/zielonewzgorzefundacja/?\\_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARDFfk4GUepjJxC5YvHNf8CBmGz\\_S58mfrFL3wIEgg5PQiTMVBA6gSAcgxBa8ysWsF9xUmqWf4phAMX](https://www.facebook.com/zielonewzgorzefundacja/?_tn=%2Cd%2CP-R&eid=ARDFfk4GUepjJxC5YvHNf8CBmGz_S58mfrFL3wIEgg5PQiTMVBA6gSAcgxBa8ysWsF9xUmqWf4phAMX)