

**Annual report**  
**Civic association Benediktus**  
**2014**



**I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.**  
John 10:10

## Introduction

The year 2014 was full of changes, but it was also the year of stabilization and new experiences. A new Board was formed and a new leader was chosen. The members of the board are Ing. Karel Štěpán (director of the E.ON servisní, s.r.o. company), who has supported our association for a long time, especially our journey to become a part of L'Arche. Mgr. Eva Klířová (director of a special elementary school and leader of the civic association Villa Vallila, with whom we have cooperated for a long time), Mgr. Michal Novotný (director of The Regional Charity in Jihlava) and PhDr. Jan Vančura, Ph.D. (psychologist and former supervisor in The Benediktus). The Board named Ing. Martin Jindra as a new leader of Civic association Benediktus. Ing. Martin Jindra worked as a project manager in Benediktus in previous years. The new statutes of The Civic association Benediktus have been in force since January.

Two new social services have been provided since the beginning of the year. The service that sheltered housing in Modletín replaced the respite care and the daily service center in Chotěboř and Modletín replaced the daily respite service. This is more consistent with the character of the service that we provide.

New users of the services came and there have been personnel changes. In 2014 we began to implement the project "We live and work in Modletín" supported from SAIF, which refers to the completion and approved construction of the dryer for fruits and retrofitting of sheltered housing. The Board decided to suspend construction work at the bakery in Modletín.

The year 2014 was the year of the worldwide celebrations of the 50th Anniversary of the Founding of L'Arche by Jean Vanier. We celebrated this anniversary in Ville Vallila, where weekend meetings with representatives of L'Arche communities from France, England, Poland and the friends of L'Arche from the Czech Republic were held.

Twelve members of Benediktus visited our friends from L'Arche community Le Caillou Blanc and community La Belle Porte in Brittany.

We made a documentary film about our community called Saviour.

We organized a pilgrimage to Saint Anna in Modletín and Moravian Passion of Vítů Marčůk.

We market our products in Prague and Brno.

Together with Tamjdem! We have organized an international volunteer work camp in Modletín.

Throughout the year we were experiencing life together with everything that it entails. We rejoice that we have each other and we thank you for your prayers for our community.

Radka Jindrová - Deputy of leader

## Social services

### Daily services center

We abolished the respite service and newly registered Daily service centre on 1. 1. 2014. The daily service centre better reflects the characteristics of the service we provide and we want to provide. The mission of the daily service center is the development of persons with mild and moderate intellectual disabilities, including combinations of physical and visual disabilities. The service emphasizes the use of natural abilities of these people and their integration into society. We are enabling people with disabilities to become independent and to achieve maximum development. We give these people the opportunity to participate in creating a community in which they can live and work.



The target group of the daily service center includes clients with reduced self-reliance, with mild and moderate intellectual disabilities, including combinations with physical and visual disabilities in the 11-80 age range.

The daily service center is in Chotěboř and Modletín.

### Brief characteristics of the service and its progress in 2014

The daily services center offers people with disabilities work in sheltered workshops where they can use their gifts and develop their skills. Workshops are places of work, therapy and creativity.

#### List of workshops:

- Art workshop
- Ceramic workshop
- Practical workshop
- Social therapy workshop
- Maintenance workshop
- Weaving workshop



Clients of the daily service center also participate in **BeneBend** (our band) rehearsals and some of them perform in concerts. The band is a part of the social therapy workshops.

## Sheltered housing

We registered service sheltered housing on 1 January 2014. Sheltered housing is provided in the premises of the rectory in Modletín. This service was used by 3 people with intellectual disabilities from Monday to Friday during the year 2014.

People with intellectual disabilities live together with assistants in one household. They all share their common life and create community. This is a great gift. We are happy and grateful that we could welcome many visitors like our volunteers, friends, family members and the others.

## One World

The BeneBend joined the project One World. One World is an international human rights documentary film festival. We discovered one film called The Punk Syndrom that remained us our way of life so we decided to participate in preparing film screening in Havlíčkův Brod, Chotěboř and Jihlava and we ended the screening by BeneBend performance.

## Sheltered employment for people with reduced work capacity

We employed 11 people with reduced work capacity or intellectual disabilities mainly in the ceramic and maintenance workshops in 2014.

The maintenance workshops provides technical support for buildings, takes care of the garden and carries out orders for public like chopping the wood, renovating old furniture, producing small wooden products (eg. crates), renovating rooms, painting rooms, mowing the grass, etc. The maintenance workshops consists of 9 people (3 of them have intellectual disabilities).

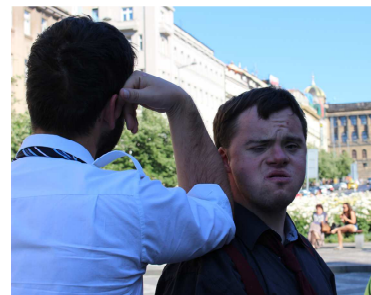
Marta Peřinová – Leader of social services

## Volunteers

Volunteers helped us very much in 2014. They participated in many activities, weekend workshops, summer camps, etc. We still co-operate with Tamjdem ([www. tamjdem.cz](http://www.tamjdem.cz)), organization that supports Czech and international voluntary work.

List of events in 2014:

- Weekend with volunteers from Tamjdem (March)
- Trip to the marketpalce in Havlíčkův Brod (May)
- Pilgrimage to Holy Anna in Modletín (July)
- Summer camp in Havlíčkova Borová (August)
- Workcamp with Tamjdem (September)
- Ball in Jeřišno with our volunteers



We would like to thank all of our volunteers!

Monika Ligočká – volunteer coordinator

## Public events

### Moravian Passion

We invited into the Modletín church Vítá Marčík with his son on Palm Sunday. Thanks to them we experienced Passion unconventionally and extremely deeply. It went directly into the heart. Thank you for the deep experience.

### Pilgrimage to Saint Anna on Modletín

Our unusual pilgrimage was traditionally held in Modletín. It was very successful. We would like to thank Father Jindřich for the celebration of Holy Mass.

## Saviour

We made a documentary film about our community called Saviour. It is a black-and-white insight into our community. We participated at **The Mental Power Prague film festival**. It is an international festival (not) actors with intellectual and multiple disabilities. The festival presents feature films that play exclusively people with intellectual and multiple disabilities.

## A documentary about our community

One more documentary film about our community was made during spring and summer. The documentary is called **Benediktus - a community with people with disabilities**. The film was created by television Belief production from Čáslav and produced by company Vanad 2000 a.s.. This documentary captured narrations and confessions of employees, volunteers and people with intellectual disabilities from the community. It emphasizes that we are inspired by L'Arche and Jean Vanier.

## Celebrating

We love to celebrate. We hold the celebrations for public but we also celebrate within the community. We celebrate the birthdays of everyone in the community. We want to celebrate and commemorate the uniqueness of each of us. We celebrate Easter, Christmas, anniversary. These moments are very precious and deep. We are really grateful for them.

## Cooperation with L'Arche

We asked for a two-year suspension of the formal cooperation with L'Arche in 2013 because of the internal formation of our organization. Nevertheless our unofficial deep relationships with L'Arche continued.

We have been to Brittany in the spring. We visited two of our friendly community. We wanted to draw new inspiration, encouragement and get new experiences. BeneBend had two concerts organized by L'Arche. We visited community in Auray. This community is not yet L'Arche community but people of this community live according to the principles of L'Arche. We visited their house and workshops. We had a wonderful evening with all members of the community. We were singing and playing games. We enjoyed it very much. We also talked with leaders of the community so we exchanged many experiences. The



concert was held in the monastery. It was a great success. People were dancing and enjoying the music.

The second community that we visited was Le Caillou Blanc (White Stone). We have known each other for many years. We attended several of their workcamps and they also participated in our workcamps. This community has 30 years of experience with living with people with intellectual disabilities. We joined the work in workshops and we visited the houses. We had meeting with leader of the community and his successor. It was really beneficial. The second very successful concert was held. An unforgettable experience for us was also to see and feel the ocean, especially for those who saw it for the first time.

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We have made a new connection with L'Arche in Vancouver where one of our colleague works as a live-in assistant. She sends us a lot of inspiration. At the end of the year two of our volunteers returned from the one-year stay at L'Arche in Sydney and they prepared for us a presentation about life in local communities.

Radka Jindrová - Deputy of leader

