

Press release

New physical development wing opens at the Fót Lovasterápiás Központ [Equine-assisted Therapy Centre] of Nemzetközi Gyermekmentő Szolgálat [International Children's Safety Service]

Supported by a HUF 5 million donation from Erste Bank, a new facility for physical therapy was opened by Magyar Lovasterápiás Szövetség [Hungarian Association for Therapeutic Horseback Riding] on 20 January 2010. The new physical therapy wing accommodates a physical education room, an office, and a bathroom designed for the physically disabled. The new section offers patients with physical disabilities preparatory and stretching exercises for therapeutic horseback riding, and individual physical therapy sessions will also be held irrespective of hippotherapy.

In the Fót-based facility for physical therapy two therapists will be able to provide individual physical development for students from Vakok és Gyengénlátók Általános Iskolája és Diákotthona [Primary and Boarding School for the Blind and Hard of Sight], individual physiotherapy for in-patients referred by the neurological care of Nemzetközi Gyermekmentő Szolgálat, as well as preparatory and mobilisation exercises before hippotherapeutic activities for children also referred by the same organisation.

The responsibilities of physical therapists include recording anamnesis, patient examination, defining short- and long-term goals of treatments, conducting and documenting treatments, as well as providing consultation for parents. Physical therapy applied by them includes passive mobilisation, active muscle stimulation, breathing exercises, Swedish massage, connective tissue massage, soft tissue mobilisation techniques, the Bobath Concept, PNF stretching, and PIR technique.

Ms. Gabriella Bozori, head of the institution, has said the facility is suitable for individual treatment, but lack of space prevents group exercises. "In terms of equipment and instruments, we have an examination bed that facilitates for patients with sitting balance problems and more severe disabilities to be examined and treated in a reclining position. Physioballs in four different shapes and sizes are available for mobilisation and stabilisation exercises of the lumbo-sacral section of the spine. Development of gross motor skills for all ages and diagnoses is inevitable, using instruments such as slopes, steps, pipes, barrels, tunnels that help children learn to crawl, creep and walk. There is a small trampoline to further jumping, but it cannot be used by children younger than 4 or 5 years of age," she added.

The expert says children love these playful tools of coordination and balance improvement, and using them makes development exercises for them an experience with no stress.

Ms. Edit Papp, Chairperson and CEO of Erste Bank Hungary Nyrt., expressed her pleasure at being able to further the treatment and development of disabled children by providing a HUF 5 million donation for the new physical therapy facility.

“Erste Bank considers corporate social responsibility an important call. We are actively involved in matters with social focus and endeavour to support communities as well as interesting and valuable initiatives we believe to be remarkable. This is the reason we have supported the activities of Nemzetközi Gyermekmentő Szolgálat for years, including the expansion of the computer room in the Pécs offices of the organisation in 2008,” Ms. Edit Papp said.

Further information on the activities of MLTSZ are available at www.lovasterapia.hu.

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Further information:

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