YOURCHANCE · START RIGHT

Nobody should start adult life alone

Supporting young people leaving children's homes and foster care on their way to an independent life

Jana Merunková · Founder and Director, yourchance



WHY START RIGHT EXISTS

When care ends, many young people face adult life without a family to fall back on

A place to live

Finding and keeping housing, often for the very first time.

Work and money

Getting a job, managing income and avoiding debt traps.

Someone to turn to

A trusted adult when things go wrong – a guide, not a case file.

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OUR JOURNEY 2010–2030

From naming a problem to building a national system

2010–2012

Naming the problem

Defining the goal, an expert team, a pilot and the first media coverage

2013–2022

Growing to national scale

A wide range of our own services, advocacy and systemic solutions

2023–2026

Rethinking the system

Reviewing needs, innovating services and mapping the safety net

2026–2030

Architects of the support network

A national ecosystem built together with partners and the regions

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2013–2022 · BUILDING THE PROGRAMME

From a regional pilot to a national programme of our own services

- Individual mentoring
- Group meetings
- Practical accompaniment
- Scholarships
- Driving licences
- Camps
- Legal services
- Advice on work, housing and finance
- Family, relationships and parenting
- Psychological support and therapy
- Crisis help
- Volunteer mentors

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2013–2022 · CHANGING THE SYSTEM

Not just individual lives – the rules and the field around them

Advocacy

Systemic solutions and an expert coalition we initiated

Knowledge

Conferences, the White Crows books, textbooks and impact measurement

Recognition

The White Crow Award, media coverage and public relations

Care workers

Training for the people who work with children every day

Research

Labour-market research with the Czech Technical University and TA ČR

Crisis response

Crisis help for young people during the COVID pandemic

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WHAT WE HAVE CREATED

Books, tools and an award that inspires







New: The White Crows, or We Change Destinies – and the books that came before it



The White Crow Award

Celebrating young people from alternative care whose path inspires others – under the auspices of the Mayor of Prague.

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PROVEN RESULTS

The only nationwide integration system for this group in the Czech Republic

200+
young people fully integrated into independent life

250
young people currently in our long-term integration programme

2–3
years on average that a young person stays in the programme

€10M
saved for the Czech state budget through successful integration

2023–2026 · RETHINKING THE SYSTEM

From running services ourselves to building a network with others

2023–2025

- Reviewing the needs of the target group
- Innovating the system of services
- Mapping the safety net around young people

2026

- Technological innovation and a new way of working
- Mapping the services of supporting organisations
- Fewer services of our own – a partner network instead

VISION 2030

A national support ecosystem for young people starting an independent life

By 2030 we will complete the second stage of the system's transformation. We support young people from children's homes and foster care – and now other socially disadvantaged young people too – where they are closest: in the regions, together with the state and local organisations.

OUR ROLE

Independent architect, coordinator and innovator of the whole ecosystem

Shared infrastructure

Shared information, digital tools, a map of services, methodologies and impact evaluation.

Services in the regions

Direct services gradually move to organisations closest to young people, in line with state policy.

Piloting what is missing

We keep providing missing services, test new ones and hand over what works.

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2026–2030 · OUR PRIORITIES

Seven areas where the support network must get stronger

01
A broader target group

02
Training care workers

03
Housing support

04
Trauma-informed work

05
Entrepreneurship and financial literacy

06
Working with Gen Z

07
Digital support

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2030 GOALS

Where we are heading

800

young people in the integration process (250 today)

80%

of children’s homes in the Czech Republic work with us

1

unified integration support app for all our projects

A complete start in life: housing, work, legal and psychological help, talent development, starting a business through social impact investment.

Systemic change: interministerial coordination, regional support solutions together with the state, and a partner network from shelters to companies.

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WHY TRUST US

A partner of the state, the regions and the field

We work with

Ministry of Education · Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs · Association of Alternative Family Care · Federation of Children's Homes · Committee for Social Affairs of the Chamber of Deputies · selected senators and MPs · Goncharenko Center (Ukraine) · 80% of children's homes in the Czech Republic

Track record

- White Crow Award for inspiring young people, under the auspices of the Mayor of Prague
- Research partner of the Masaryk Institute, Czech Technical University, with the Technology Agency of the Czech Republic (2018–2022)
- The White Crows book series and the We Change Destinies podcast
- Managing the ArteFond for artistically talented children since 2017

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BECOME A CO-AUTHOR OF CHANGE

Partnering with Start Right

Strategic Project Partner

A multi-year agreement that lets us develop the project substantially, achieve interministerial cooperation and lead the field.

Main Project Partner

Supports the project in reaching its goals, shapes change in the field and shares in significant impact.

Project Partner

Provides financial support towards the project's goals and is part of the change and social impact it creates.

Human destiny is not determined by circumstances. It changes when opportunity meets courage, education and people who believe that everyone deserves their chance.



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