

Nataša Olimpiki – founder and president of the international humanitarian organization Olimpiki.

Nataša Olimpiki was born on May 18<sup>th</sup>, 1974 in Ljubljana, Yugoslavia (today Slovenia). She is a proud mother of three children, Tara Sergeja, Matevž and Ninika; divorced from ex-husband. She is known for her charity work for children and young people, leading a humanitarian organization, compassion and selfless love. She is an activist – because she is aware that she can help people on different ways. With her charisma, kindness and sincerity, she motivates the people around her and thus unites them. She advocates the removal of the stigmatization of the existing condition. That is why she works a lot on removing stigmas and tubes related to diseases, as well as racial and social stigmas. Natasha's charity work also includes animal protection campaigns. She has worked with the homeless, young people, drug addicts, the elderly, the poor and those who are undesirable in society. Since 2014, she has been the president of the international organization for helping children in social troubles. For one year, she actively worked with children, who live in a home due to bad relationships in their homes and who need psychosocial help. Natasha is committed to the social equality and wants it for all! With her actions she also influences the opening of state borders regarding charity work, especially now in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, the time of solidarity and helping others. She loves people, especially children, as well as nature and animals - she has a dog Švrk. She is gifted in music, dance and sports. She is active in yoga, dance, cycling, hiking, swimming, body pump, skiing and kickboxing. She also really appreciates all the moments she can spend with her family in nature and on trips. She finished high school in economics, and as a young she was modeling. From 1994 to 2004, she worked for the "Jože Pučnik Airport" in Ljubljana as a flight attendant, later she started a private business. Since 1996, she has been the co-founder and co-manager of the pizzeria "Fokulus" for 11 years. In 2002, she became a co-founder of the pizzeria "Parma", whose development she contributed to as a co-manager for the next 18 years. As a leader, she proved herself in excellent, efficient, transparent and direct communication with employees, business partners, working with people, coordination of work, together with the administration of two, still the most successful pizzerias in Slovenia.

Olimpiki feels great love for children and she is always prepared to help others. This proved to be very important for her further life, because in 2014 she decided to establish the Sports

Association - the Humanitarian Organization Olimpiki. She is the ideological leader of all activities of the international humanitarian organization. All the years of the Organization's work, she is a humanitarian, co-financier of all activities of the organization, along with her love for children and society in general. Through her humanitarian work, she has received numerous thanks and recognitions. Together with all people of good heart, she helped more than 40,000 children. That is why Nataša expresses her deep gratitude and respect to all those who helped and are helping to create new, valuable projects. In October 2020, she decided to go beyond the borders of Slovenia and establish a representative office of Olimpiki in Belgrade, Serbia. The goal is to help children in Serbia, especially in the difficult times of the coronavirus epidemic. The plans include the implementation of numerous projects, including *Cooperation with the University Children's Clinic in Belgrade, Cooperation with the Roma Union of Slovenia, the Roma Union of Serbia and the European Roma Union*, as well as the charity project *Olimpiki - Fundraising for the Shelter for Children and Youth Novi Sad, children from the street*. Sports Association - the Humanitarian Organization Olympic with the support of many people, artists, athletes, politicians and others, as well as all people of good heart, continues its successful work with the weakest - children.

Nataša Olimpiki showed that she understands how important family and helping others are and that is why her children - Tara Sergeja, Matevž and Ninika, diligently cooperate in all activities of the Organization.

### ***Sports Association - Humanitarian Organization Olimpiki***

Olimpiki - Sports Association - Humanitarian Organization Olimpiki for helping children in need is a non-governmental, non-profit association, which operates in Slovenia with the intention of helping the weakest and most endangered members of society - children in need. It was created in 2014 on the initiative and wish of its president Nataša Olimpiki. A guide for all upcoming projects and actions and a desire to develop and establish humanitarian work and mission of strengthening the reputation of humanitarian actions are the most important. All of it leads to the biggest goal: uniting good people for the good of all children. The need of children for help, care and love throughout Slovenia has always united a lot of people with good heart - great athletes, sports teams, experts from various fields, journalists, musicians, actors. At the same time, they had the support of state institutions and the leaders of numerous municipalities, also local

communities were connected and everything has been done in the name of realizing the vision of helping children. Olimpiki started with the realization in different areas, primarily in sports and culture. This was followed by organized excursions and various public events with celebrities, such as New Year celebrations and other types of events. By the fall of 2020, more than 12 public charity events were held, which resonated to public with the goal of help to children and youth, and more than 40,000 children received assistance.

## **Work and actions of the Organization**

### ***Mladinski dom Malči Beličeve (Youth Home of Malči Beličeva)***

The first actions were related to "Dom omladine Malči Beličeve" in Ljubljana, where social protection is provided by accommodation for children who have unfavorable conditions in the family. During 2014 and 2015, Olimpiki's activities included performing regular weekly functional exercises, creating an Olimpiki team on weekly bases with professional football players, riding lessons at the Stožice Hippodrome, breakdance and kickboxing classes, regular rugby training, rhythmic gymnastics, football and tennis. The children from the home expressed themselves in the workshop of making dolls, natural soaps, as well as biscuits. They prepared a puppet performance with drama actors and a director. The children also met with the then President of the National Assembly, dr. Milan Brglez and the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Borut Pahor. A masquerade ball was organized, as well as a social event for children and employees, which was visited by many celebrities, including: basketball player Goran Jagodnik, skier Urška Horvat, football player Ermin Raković, rugby player Milan Požar, dancer Janja Pušl, dancers "Heliosa", actress Nina Ivanič, actress, writer and host of the event, Dragica Potočnjak, musician Jože Potrebuješ and the ambassadors of the Organization - Dr. Gabi Čačinovič Vogrinčič and Olympian Miro Cerar senior.

### ***All Legends charity event in "Tivoli Hall"***

On June 9, in the "Tivoli Hall", a charity event "All Legends" was organized an event of basketball and football charity matches. The event was organized for the purpose of raising funds for the joy of children in need. Well-known basketball and football legends, as well as other

successful Slovenian athletes cooperated at the charity event. During the program, Slovenian musicians, animators and hosts also performed, and all together for all the children and employees of the “Mladinski dom Malči Beličeve” and consequently provided an organized trip to Bohinj.

### ***Meeting of the legendary Zlata selekcija (Golden Selection) in Ljubljana***

On November 24, 2015, a new charity team Olimpiki was announced in Ljubljana and the presentation of the project “Velikani slovenskega športa” (*Great people of Slovenian Sports*). The community of “Velikani slovenskega športa” and famous people from the world of music and media, together with their patrons, contributed to raising funds to help children who are in social trouble. The initiators of the action - Nataša Olimpiki, president of the Sports Association - Humanitarian Organization Olimpiki, journalist Ivo Milovanovic and football player Sašo Udovič announced that they will visit various Slovenian cities and organize games once a month to collect money for families in need. Among others, the meeting of the *Zlata selekcija* was attended by: Tone Fornezzi - Tof, Minka Žiberna, Miro Cerar senior, Bojan Križaj, Vili Ameršek, Ivo Daneu, Cveto Pavčič, Janez Pavčič, Janez Hočevar - Rifle, Tone Vogrinec, Radoslav Bečejac Zeza, Franek Klemenc, Jojo Pogačnik, Jožko Trobec Vučko, Štefan Seme, Brane Kuzmič, Janez Brodnik, Jože Papič, Borut Basin, Janez Češnovar, Rado Časl, Jože Globokar, Ivo Čarman and Dragan Bulič.

### ***Charity event "Velikani slovenskega športa" in Slovenj Gradec***

The host of the first match was the municipality of Slovenj Gradec, on January 22, 2016. The organization of the event was provided by the media by *Koroški radio*. The municipality of Slovenj Gradec took care of a rich accompanying program, in which the football school of Marko Schuler and the dance group of Vlasta Jakopitsch Soršak were presented. Teams of famous people of Koroška and athletes of the Olimpiki selection played for a good goal. They raised 4,595.00 € and material assets in the amount of 449.99 € for the foster family Rupčič. The charity match tour was planned like this: the "Velikani slovenskega športa" team competes with

local selections of athletes, businessmen and city dignitaries and in that way each time contributes to a higher goal and helps the endangered. *"We used to play for ourselves, for clubs, for national teams, for the state, and even for fame and money. Now is the time to play for others and help people in need with our strength. All colleagues responded well to our charity goal and will help us fill the halls all over Slovenia "*, that is how the ambassador of the event and former national football team member, Sašo Udovič, described the project. Also collaborating: Mladen Dabanovič, Boštjan Strašek, Marinko Galič, Ermin Šiljak, Aleš Čeh, Miran Pavlin, Zlatko Zahovič, Marko Milič, Zoran Jovičič, Dejan Zavec, Jani Klemenčič, Primož Kozmus, Pero Lovšin, Rok Tamše, Tomaž Klemenčič.

### ***Charity event "Velikani slovenskega športa" in Izola***

In the multi-purpose hall "Livade", on February 22, 2016, "Velikani slovenskega športa" (Mladen Dabanovič, Sašo Udovič, Aleš Čeh and others) played football with well-known Izola people from the fields of economy, sports and music (Jereb, Drago Mislej - Mef, Darko Milanić, Admir Sinanbegović and others) for a good goal. The event "We play for you" was organized by the Municipality of Izola, the Center for Culture, Sports and Events and the Olimpiki Sports Association. The donation or the expected contribution of each visitor was 5€, also it was possible to donate money directly to the account of the Olimpiki Sports Association. The collected funds were intended for Izola elementary school students. 4,500€ was raised for the school funds of three primary schools: Osnovna šola "Dante Alighieri" 518€, Osnovna šola "Livade" 1,642€ and Osnovna šola "Vojke Šmuc" 2,340€.

### ***Charity event "Velikani slovenskega športa" in Murska Sobota***

On March 24, 2016, the series of charity events "Velikani slovenskega športa" continued in Murska Sobota, this time in front of 400 spectators. The event was organized with the aim of helping the pomoči "Zveza društev prijateljev mladine Murska Sobota" (*Association of Friends of Youth Murska Sobota*). Sports Association Olimpiki and *Rotary club Martjanci* measured

their sport strength in matches with the selection of Slovenian sports aces “Velikani slovenskega športa”.

The guests were also successful legends of Slovenian sports. Among them was the athlete Marika Kardinar from Prekmurje, the winner of 40 medals from the biggest bowling competitions. The cooperation of the football player from Prekmurje, one of the best strikers in the Slovenian national championships (130 goals), Štefan Škaper, was also noticed. Entrance to the event was free, any voluntary contribution was desirable, because the goal of the football event was to organize summer vacations for Pomurje children from socially endangered families. 2600€ was successfully collected and children's summer vacation was organized on the island of Krk. The mayor of Murska Sobota, Aleksander Jevše, provided the space for the charity event. The municipality of Murska Sobota also donated funds for children from socially endangered families and thus contributed to a summer vacation in Baška.

### ***Charity event “Velikani slovenskega športa” in Maribor***

The chain of charitable events continued in Maribor as well. On April 22, 2016, the fourth charity event for the good of children was organized in the "Lukna" sports hall. The work and efforts of all those who cooperate were intended to raise funds for the children of the "Mladinski dom Maribor" ("*Youth Home Maribor*"). Among others, the president of the municipality of Maribor, Dejan Zavec, as well as Darko Milanič, Marinko Galič, Tone Vogrinec, Zlatko Zahović, Mima Jaušovec, Ante Šimundža, Alfi Nipič and others, played a football match on the field. There were also players from other parts of Slovenia, such as: Gianni Rijavec, Roman Pungartnik, Aleš Čeh, Miran Pavlin, Džoni Novak, Sašo Udovič, Goran Jagodnik, Tomaž Vnuk and many others. At the match, they collected 3,701.76€ for “Mladinski dom Maribor”: 2,351.79€ for children's summer vacation in Montenegro and Croatia, as well as 1,349.97€ in material resources. In addition, there were several individual donors, who contributed to the joy of the children.

### ***Charity event “Velikani slovenskega športa” in Jesenice***

The fifth charity event was organized to raise funds for ”Zveza društev prijateljev mladine Jesenice” (*“Association of Friends of the Youth of Jesenice”*) for the summer vacation of children from socially endangered families in Pineta near Novigrad. The football match was organized by the Municipality of Jesenice and the sports, tourist and youth institution "Jesenice" and Sports Association Olimpiki. On June 23, 2016, in the Jesenice sports hall "Podmežakla", the event became a thread, which connects all participants in order to make the children happy. Besides a football match of talented people with good will, during the breaks, we could see young athletes, firefighters, musicians and majorettes. All contractors successfully raised 3,000 € for the planned summer vacation.

### ***Charity event “Velikani slovenskega športa” in Domžale***

On September 30, 2016, a content-rich event was organized to help the “Osnovna šola Roje” (*“Roje Primary School”*), the performance host of the evening was a sports journalist Anže Bašelj. “Osnovna šola Roje” is a primary school which has an educational program for children with special needs and covers a wider region than Domžale. A good mix of dance, singing and sport matches was performed in the organization of the Sports Association Olimpiki and the *“Velikani slovenskega športa”*, led by the selector Vili Amerišek. FC Domžale, BC Helios Suns, FC Radomlje and dance school Miki also joined the cooperation. Popular names such as Miran Pavlin, Primož Ulaga, Marko Simeunović, Ermin Šiljak, Tomaž Klemenčič, Dejan Zavec, Goran Jagodnik, Pero Lovšin, Đoni Novak, Jani Klemenčič, Rok Tamše, Sašo Udovič, Tomaž Vnuk, Jani Klemenčič and others, such as Teja Gregorin, Klemen Bauer, Andraž Mrak, Dejan Djurović, Janez Strajnar and many more, contributed to the success of the evening. President of Domžale, Toni Dragar, and his assistant, Uroš Slavinac also joined the match also. The event was opened by the former director of the "Institute for Sports and Recreation of Domžale", Janez Zupančič. At the end of the evening, 11,415.28€ was raised to help primary school and children.

### ***Charity event “Velikani slovenskega športa” in Ljubljana's “Stožice”***

On December 21, 2016, a particularly interesting sports event was organized in the "Stožice" hall - the selection of the “Velikani slovenskega športa” played against the selection of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia. The seventh charity event also gathered athletes: football player Sebastjan Cimirotič, basketball player Goran Jagodnik, hockey player Dejan Kontrec, boxer Dejan Zavec, skier Bojan Križaj, football player Marko Simeunović and MPs: Milan Brglez, Branko Zorman, Mitja Hrvat, Matjaž Nemec, Andrej Čuš, Tomaž Lisc, Marijan Pojbič, Ljubo Žnidar, Marko Pogačnik. The journalist of Radio Television Slovenia, Anže Bašelj, also collaborated, as well as well-known names of Slovenian music. Nuška Drašček brightened the evening by singing the Slovenian anthem "Zdravljica", the audience was entertained by the "Dixie" band during the break and at the end of the match, the Croatian musician Davor Radolfi performed. The Ombudsman for Human Rights of the Republic of Slovenia, Vlasta Nussdorfer, and the Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Slovenia, Maja Makovec Brenčič, also attended the event. The Municipality of Ljubljana gave its contribution by providing the space of the "Stožice" sports hall free of charge. At the event, they collected 6,649.99€ and distributed it as follows: for "Mladinski dom Malči Beličeve" 3,549.99 € - for the 1<sup>st</sup> May holiday for children and material resources, for "Pediatric Clinic Ljubljana " 3,100.00 €.

### ***Charity event “Velikani slovenskega športa” in Črnomelj***

The eighth humanitarian event for the help and joy of children was organized on January 20, 2017 by the organization Olimpiki in Bela Krajina municipalities. Well-known names from the field of journalism and music, such as Peter Lovšin and Vili Resnik, performed in the sports hall of the "Srednja šola Črnomelj" (*“Secondary School Črnomelj”*). Primož Ulaga, Tomaž Vnuk, Dejan Kontrec and Zoran Lubej also collaborated in the event performance. The professional football side was represented by Mladen Dabanović, Miran Pavlin, Marinko Galič, Ermin Šiljak, Aleš Čeh and Džoni Novak. Honorary guests of the event, the President of the Republic of Slovenia, Borut Pahor and the Ombudsman for Human Rights of the Republic of Slovenia, Vlasta Nussdorfer, added a special ceremony note to the event. 2,900.00 € was successfully

collected: 1,450.00 € for “Dominik Lozar” and “Društvo Sožitje Bela Krajina” (“*Society for Coexistence of Bela Krajina*”).

### ***Charity event “Velikani slovenskega športa” in Lendava***

On March 31, 2020, the Municipality of Lendava and the Olympic Sports Association prepared a charity football spectacle in the sports hall of the "Dvojezična srednja škola Lendava" ("*Bilingual Secondary School Lendava*"). At the beginning of the event, the President of the Municipality of Lendava, MA Anton Balažek and the President of the Olimpiki Sports Association, Nataša Olimpiki, once again reminded of the importance of charitable work and the reason for the event – help to secondary school funds of educational institutions. The match was officially opened by the oldest registered active player in Slovenia, Jože Pál, otherwise a member of the veteran team "Nafta". Ermin Šiljak, Tomaž Vnuk, Dragan Bulič, Goran Jagodnik, Tomaž Klemenčič, Gorazd Ademovič and Igor Bedö performed under the leadership of the selector of “Velikani slovenskega športa”, Vili Ameršek. Match ranks were bravely defended by representatives of various fields: businessmen, economists and representatives of public life, Stanislav Gjerkeš (selector), Andrej Pečelin, Ivan Oletič, Ferenc Horváth, Štefan Sobočan, Igor Magdič, Ludvik Kiralj, Franc Špilak, Matjaž Hozjan, Slavko Režonja. In the second game of the program, the selection of “Velikani slovenskega športa” played with veterans of "Nafta" such as: Franc Kusek, Peter Pečelin, Dean Novak, Zlatko Herceg, Laszlo Horvath, Miran Doma, Marjan Drvarič, Ivan Oberstar, Vladimir Šooš. In addition to the mentioned football matches, we could also see shot on goal of the youngest football players of "Nafta" and singing and dancing performances. At the end of the event, as a sign of gratitude and reward, each participant received a medal made by the students of "Dvojezične osnovne šole II Lendava" ("*Bilingual Elementary School II Lendava*"). The total amount, contributed by sponsors and donors, as well as spectators of the event, was slightly less than 1,700€.

### **International humanitarian project in the Republic of Serbia**

In September 2020, the Board of Directors of the Olimpiki Sports Association met. It unanimously decided to establish a representative office of the Olimpiki organization in Belgrade.

### ***Cooperation with the University Children's Clinic in Belgrade***

The Olimpiki Sports Association in cooperation with the "University Children's Clinic" in Belgrade is organizing an international humanitarian project of association and friendship for the good of children in the difficult times of the coronavirus. A charity event is being organized for this purpose. All collected financial and material funds, medical equipment and devices will be intended for help and support to the "University Children's Clinic" in Belgrade. A large, planned, charity event requires good preparation and financial resources, which are already being collected.

### ***Cooperation with the Roma Union of Slovenia, the Roma Union of Serbia and the European Roma Union***

It is also planned to carry out an international humanitarian project of association and friendship for the good of all Roma children - a musical competition spectacle. The first event abroad is planned in Belgrade, in addition to a spectacular match a rich cultural program will be provided. The aim of the project is to promote reconciliation between different ethnic, cultural, religious and other groups in Serbia and Slovenia through play and sports, as well as the exchange of good practices. At the same time, to help materially and financially Roma children in Serbia.

### ***Olimpiki charity project - fundraising for the Shelter for Children and Youth Novi Sad, children of the street***

The Olimpiki organization is also preparing an action within the charity project "Olimpiki - fundraising for the Shelter for Children and Youth Novi Sad, children of the street " and children from the Roma settlement "Bangladesh". The project of the Organization is supported by many famous names and participants of good heart.

### ***Support to the Olimpiki Sports Association***

#### **High Representatives**

- Many like-minded people, experts, top athletes, musicians, journalists are there to help the most vulnerable
- Current President of the Republic of Slovenia Borut Pahor

- Current President of the National Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia Igor Zorčič
- Minister of Education, Science and Sports of the Republic of Slovenia dr. Simona Kustec
- Minister of Health of the Republic of Slovenia dr. Tomaž Gantar
- Former Ombudsman of the Republic of Slovenia and current advisor to the President of the Republic Vlasta Nussdorfer
- Emeritus prof. dr. Gabi Čačinovič Vogrinčič, esteemed psychologist
- Slovenian Olympian gymnast Miroslav Cerar senior

### ***The support of the honorary ambassador***

Honorary Ambassador of the Sports Association - humanitarian organization Olimpiki, Emeritus prof. dr. Gabi Čačinovič Vogrinčič, at the Faculty of Social Work, University of Ljubljana, has supported all projects of the Organization from the very beginning.

"The decision of the Board of Directors of the Olimpiki Sports Association on September 11, 2020 to open a representative office in Belgrade is a good and necessary step for the success of a valuable, humanitarian project to help children in social needs in cooperation with the University Children's Clinic in Belgrade. I wholeheartedly support the founder of the humanitarian project, Nataša Olimpiki, as well as her hard and patient work, which will connect athletes, experts, decision-makers in both countries, in a way that will make this event happen. With all my professional knowledge and energy, I support the project and wish successful work. I want this extraordinary action to succeed; we need it, it is as precious as it is brave and new. "

