

## SECOND PRESS RELEASE – CZK 20 million dedicated to caring for physically handicapped children

The Sirius Foundation (Nadace Sirius) is set to announce a grant call relating to care for children with physical handicaps on 13<sup>th</sup> May 2010, with the aim of ensuring support services for caring families. A total of CZK 20 million will be set aside to support the activity of non-profit organisations and organisations receiving contributions from the State Budget throughout the Czech Republic.

The call is aimed at acting on the results of national monitoring of care for children with physical handicaps, which found the 77 most pressing problems from the perspective of state and non-state organisations, the expert public and caring parents. All these areas are united by **a lack of finance, which was seen as the most serious of all** by all groups of respondents in the spontaneous naming of the most serious problems. **The disinterest of the public, prejudice and derision** were named spontaneously by 23 % of parents with physically handicapped children as the **second most pressing area**. Indeed this problem was evaluated similarly by the representatives of non-profit organisations together with the disinterest of state institutions. You will find the results of monitoring at the following address: [www.nadacesirius.cz](http://www.nadacesirius.cz) / OPS Sirius / Monitoring children's issues.

**Ninety-one percent of the 46 208 children of between 0 and 14 years of age with physical handicaps are cared for by their families.** There are approximately 1.5 handicaps for each child (i.e. one child suffers from a number of handicaps at the same time). Fifty-seven percent are born with a handicap and forty-three percent become handicapped later. The average lifespan is 4.6 years.

The Sirius Foundation supports services for caring families, with emphasis on a comprehensive approach that includes acute help, personal assistance, social and legal advice, psychological help, an active approach (contacting families, offering services), providing information, field and consultancy work with the family, respite care etc.

The programme follows on from previous activity at The Sirius Foundation from 2008, when, based on nationwide monitoring of the issue of children at risk from the social environment, support was directed towards the development of substitute family care and the rehabilitation of families at risk in the Czech Republic.

In its work The Sirius Foundation uses as much expert experience and as many examples of good practice from home and abroad as possible. Its activity is based on the principles of professional project management and a transparent approach.

11.5.2010

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