



Annual report 2017

What we have achieved and what is ahead



Each organization reaches a moment that sets its course for years to come. For us this was the year 2017, through which, thanks to the support of donors, parents and friends, Karin Dom managed to keep its mission whole and intact - despite the difficulties and challenges. The strength of teamwork, shared values, and the desire for change have gathered us more strongly than ever before to move forward with new strength!

In 2017 Karin Dom has included in its programs 401 families with young children from the city of Varna, the region and the country through the two social services provided: Center for Social Rehabilitation and Integration and Early Intervention Center as well as Montessori House and Toys Library. Karin Dom specialists worked actively with both biological parents and foster families and adopters. The relatives of children with special needs received support for understanding the specifics of their child's condition and his or her integration and reintegration. We helped families to cope with the challenges of their children's development, shared their joy and success, worked so that each child could develop their abilities and get a chance for a full life.

During the year, Karin Dom worked on eight programs and projects aimed at providing services for children and families, raising the professional capacity of the team and developing the social tolerance of society. The Training and Resource Center of the Foundation successfully trained specialists and students in Karin Dom's good practices in working with children and families.

We have achieved excellent results. We saw the first steps of our children, heard the first words, shared the smiles of many parents, saw many tears of joy and hope.

We believe in our children, in their successes, and we will continue with the same love, professionalism and dedication to be at their most fragile age with all of you - parents, donors, partners, volunteers and friends.

Thank you for your trust and support!

The team of Karin Dom

Center for Social Rehabilitation and Integration for Children with Special Needs and Their Families



In the past year, AEPS (Assessment and Evaluation Programming System for children from 0 to 3 and 3 to 6 years) was the main instrument for assessing the development of children and the progress achieved. On the basis of the AEPS, individual plans are drawn up, specific objectives and tasks are set in the areas of development. The use of AEPS made the plans more detailed and systematized, improved the follow-up of the child's development and gave us an objective assessment of the effect of the applied therapy as it allows the child's performance to be compared by developmental areas during the individual study periods.

During the year, we organized 6 thematic meetings where we discussed the challenges parents were facing in raising their children. They included 57 parents. We conducted 33 sessions of parent support groups with 41 parents.

In group activities, children acquired skills and knowledge for everyday life, also important for the transition to a kindergarten or school - Montessori Group, "Little +", "Smile", "Rainbow", Playgroup and Music Therapy Group. We developed children's self-esteem and organized culinary and art activities, gardening and others, through our Mom's and Dad's Helpers

program. All these group activities, as well as the access of more children to Karin Dom, have been made possible with the support of individual and corporate donors.

Funding the CSRI service

The activity of CSRI "Karin Dom" is carried out as a state delegated activity with a capacity of 50 places and through additional sources of financing, such as corporate and individual donors, through projects, charity events, business activities and paid services.

The therapy of 70 children out of a total of 188 who used the CSRI service in 2017 was partially funded as an state delegated activity. Funding for these children, as well as all the necessary money for the other 131 children, is provided by donors.

Early Intervention Center

We have been helping families for children 0-3 years old for seven years now and we are developing a program that has no equivalent in Bulgaria. We are happy that after leaving the program, 52% of the children involved do not need therapy, specialized services or resource support at the childcare facility. We continued to develop our partnerships with UNICEF Bulgaria, the Medical University - Varna, as well as the two maternity hospitals in Varna. Without the support of the Municipality of Varna this program would not be possible. We have become a recognizable and affordable service for many families with concerns about their child development. During the year the referrals to our services on behalf of medical professionals has increased.

I was young, inexperienced, and I noticed the problem of my first child pretty late. And then the hospital visits began. When my daughter was 6 years old we moved to live in Varna. Then I heard about Karin Dom. Thank God I met them! I started using their services. With great care, love, patience and dedication, we achieved good results. Now my daughter is an independent grown girl who enjoys her success at school. I gave birth to my second daughter, who will soon turn 1 year. She is also premature. I felt I no longer had the mental strenght to experience the same again. But I already knew about Karin Dom, about the variety of services they offer, and the specialists they have. So, when she was just two months old, I contacted them to use the only one in Bulgaria, a free and unique Early Intervention service. They immediately responded. I am very grateful.

I appeal to all people and organizations with financial resources to help and support Karin Dom in order for our children to receive adequate and quality services so that parents can get professional counseling in raising and developing our children. In this way they will join a very noble cause!

Mother of two premature children from Varna

Montessori House



In 2017 21 children from the community aged 2 to 5 years were enrolled at Montessori House. They develop their knowledge, skills and autonomy in the organized Montessori environment and take advantage of the great opportunities for outdoor play. They take part in joint activities organized at Karin Dom for all children.

Toy Library

The toy library at Karin Dom was opened with the support of the Worldwide Orphans Foundation. In 2017 108 children used the library, 7 of which were from the community. Our team worked on "Make, Say, Play" ; "Music in Action" and "Tell a Tale" programs. We held a series of meetings with the Foundation's Program Coordinator on optimization of activities, discussing parents' questionnaires and how to report children's progress, as well as

ongoing partnerships. One of the therapists was included in a cycle of "Game Elements" trainings led by international lecturers.

Cultural and sports events and holidays

In order to raise mutual tolerance among children from early childhood, various common activities, eco initiatives and holidays were organized during the year. We celebrated Baba Martha, Mother's Day, Easter, Herbs Day, Summer and Harvest Day, Annunciation. The children took part in Reading Marathon and received gifts - children's books from the Regional Library "P. R. Slaveykov ". During the year we organized a children's party for each child on the occasion of their birthday. At the end of the school year celebration and on Christmas, children, parents, professionals and friends had fun together.

Summer was full of outdoor entertainment. In June, we held a sporting holiday under the slogan "We're Working Together", involving children, parents and specialists. We organized visits for all children to Aladzha Monastery, Dolphinarium, Zoo, Aquarium Varna, Lucky Hunt farm in Krumovo village. During the celebration of the 21st anniversary of Karin Dom, we

officially opened the "Ambassadors of Goodness" Museum. In the courtyard of Karin Dom, we organized a picnic together with a visiting international scouts group. Children and parents visited the children's play "Reading Kit" free of charge. In November, we had a Culinary workshop where dads and their children prepared treats together.



Training center

Certified according to ISO 9001: 2015 - we apply the developed quality management system in our training. In 2017 we had 1069 participants from the country and abroad in our training events. We were actively involved in the process of restructuring the Special schools into Centers for Special Educational Support.

We finished our three-year work on Enablin+ international project for children and young people with complex and intensive support needs (CISN), which aimed to improve the quality of life of children and their families. Together with the Medical University of Varna and lecturers from Oregon, USA, we conducted postgraduate training "Early Childhood Intervention" for 44 specialists from all over the country.

Throughout the year, we worked on UNICEF's initiative Together from Kindergarten and trained the teams of 31 kindergartens from Sliven and Shumen with a total of 252 preschool and resource teachers, assistant-teachers and nurses. Our trainings have again gone abroad - we hosted colleagues from the National Alliance for Persons with Special Needs, Macedonia; our colleagues supervised and supported the opening of a modern daycare center in Borjomi, Georgia. For the second time in Bulgaria, we organized PECS training with licensed trainers from Greece. 60 people from all over the country were trained on the system aimed at improving the functional communication of children.

The training center organizes the pre-graduate internships and training practice of 38 students, as well as the work with 109 volunteers from the country.

Projects

The "Ambassadors of Goodness" project, funded by America for Bulgaria Foundation, was completed. Within the framework of the project, we organized the "Ambassadors of Goodness" Festival, through which 12 volunteer student and youth initiatives were implemented. A large number of participants became regular volunteers at the Karin Dom. Ambassadors of Goodness Museum, set up on the third floor of Karin Dom, was inaugurated. The museum offers interactive activities and includes an exhibition with inspirational stories for benefactors from Varna and the country, the contribution of the Stancioff family and steps towards volunteering.

The project "Support for parents of children with disabilities for social and professional realization", financed under the Operational Program "Human Resources Development" was launched. Vocational training courses started, involving 15 parents during the year, and their children received counseling and therapy. A platform for communication between employers and parents was established.

Using a project to build the capacity of Karin Dom, funded by Trust for Social Alternative, the organization modeled and updated the organizational processes within its structure. The expected results of the project are more effective and sustainable application of internal documents and procedures; better human resource management and even greater transparency in governance.

Also in order to build the capacity of Karin Dom, we worked with Dr. Julie Pietroburggo from the United States, a Fulbright consultant. During his one-month stay at the Karin Dom, Dr. Pietroburggo assessed and made recommendations related to fundraising efforts as well as to the management of the organization at a wider scale.

Charity campaigns, events and corporate social responsibility

During the year we organized charity campaigns, including Martenitsa campaign, Paper for Flowers, Smile Karin Dom Festival, Christmas campaign. We provided Karin Dom's summer kitchen and play facilities for children's birthdays and company events. Karin Dom became the cause of the festival of the Bulgarian film "Golden Rose". We participated in the traditional Summer Varna bazaar.

We conducted a DMS Campaign "Music for our Special Children". In addition to the amount collected by SMS, we have attracted other donors as a result of the publicity campaign.

In 2017 we have worked on three programs with a national reach targeted towards children and families from the country who spent one week of intensive therapy at Karin Dom. The programs were implemented with the financial support of SG Expressbank, Kargil Bulgaria and Primex company. At the end of their stay each family received a home program with guidelines and recommendations for parents to cope with their daily routines and with the challenges they face in raising their children.

International Women's Club, Sofia, supported the development of skills and the preparation of 5 children from Karin Dom for admission to mainstream school. With the help of "Friends of Bulgaria" Association, London financing of the therapy for 7 children in foster care was provided for one year and 2 of them started school. We are also glad that two of the children are now adopted.

Our long-time partner OMV Bulgaria each year supplies fuel for the heating of Karin Dom so that we can welcome children in pleasant and warm atmosphere. OMV Bulgaria provides the fuel needed for the transportation of children and parents to Karin Dom. Our Early Intervention team also relies daily on the provided transport to make visits to the homes of the families from Varna and the surrounding villages. Thanks to Bon Marin, Karin Dom also has a new car that our teams rely on.

Karin Dom organized the third exciting edition of the Smile Karin Dom charity festival, which gained popularity and was visited by nearly 3 000 citizens and guests of the city. The festival was included in the program of Varna - Youth Capital 2017. We attracted followers for the cause of children with special needs. The funds provided by the partners and the proceeds of the festival were used for the therapy of the children in Karin Dom, and in particular for the "Smile" and "Small +" groups.

EVERY CHILD DESERVES HAPPY CHILDHOOD, LET'S MAKE IT POSSIBLE TOGETHER!



Become a Corporate or Individual Donor! Be an Ambassador of Goodness and Support the Children from Karin Dom! With your regular monthly donations, you can support the Early Intervention program, our group activities or individual therapy for a child with special needs at the Karin Dom.

Donate online

Visit karindom.org/dari and make a donation with a Debit / Credit Card, ePay or PayPal

Donate by bank transfer - account holder: Karin Dom Foundation

SG Expressbank:

BIC: TTBBBG22

IBAN: BG94TTBB94001506068418

You can learn more about Karin Dom on: www.karindom.org or on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/karindom.org/>

You can contact us on: +359 52/302 518 and on email: karindom@karindom.org.

Thank you for your time and interest in the work of Karin Dom!