

Карин дом

**KARIN DOM FOUNDATION**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2018**

In 2018, Karin Dom Foundation provided services to **324** families with young children from Varna, the region and the country through two social services: Center for Social Rehabilitation and Integration with **191** children served and Center for Early Intervention with **113** children and families served, as well as the Montessori House where we worked with **20** children. During the year an **innovative service Center for family-mediated intervention** was launched, under a project funded by the Social Protection Fund for 20 children and 40 parents/ caregivers. Karin Dom's specialists actively supported both biological parents as well as foster families and adopters. The relatives and caregivers received support on the understanding and acceptance of the specifics of the children's condition and their integration and reintegration. All parents were supported in coping with the challenges of their child's development and how to cultivate its capabilities. **The total number of families benefited from the services of Karin Dom since its opening in 1996 to 2018, is 2466.**

The work with children at the Center for Social Rehabilitation and Integration included new approaches and methods of therapeutic work. In 2018, Karin Dom established **the Assistive Technology program**. Specialists were trained and the required hardware (laptop with touch-screen, two Devices - Tobii PCEye Mini and Tobii PCEye Explore) and software (Look To Learn, Eye Gaze Learning Curve, Communicator 5) were purchased. With the help of technology, children learn and develop their skills through games. This is set in the programs, which are used in the work with assistive technologies. It starts with improved control and accuracy of eye gaze, retaining attention, building a connection between cause and effect, improving understanding of instructions, following a sequence of actions, initiation of communication and communication by choosing symbols or writing words or phrases that the program pronounces.



**For the 2018-2019 school year, a total of 33 children were integrated in mainstream kindergartens and schools.** Thus the total number of children who were supported in their preparations for inclusion in the education system for the period from 1996 to 2018 has increased to **391 children.**

In order to nurture a spirit of mutual tolerance among children from early childhood, during the year various **common activities, eco-initiatives and celebrations** were organized between the children from Karin Dom and their peers from kindergartens in the town. As a proud holder of the prize "Green Flag Eco-School" in 2018 Karin Dom continued to work towards building a love for nature and a responsible attitude to nature conservation in children, parents and specialists.

Through the campaign "Paper for Toys" we raised funds to equip our Toy Library. Both city residents and various commercial companies joined the initiative. Together we were able to collect and deliver for recycling 4440 kg of paper.

Each year, many volunteers - employees from the business sector, pupils, students, and other nature lovers - support the eco-activities of Karin Dom.



Over the past 10 years, Karin Dom has been working hard to establish and adopt regional and national standards for early childhood development and service methodologies, and to share good practice for early childhood intervention. Along with this, efforts continue in the process of deinstitutionalization of children with special needs. As a natural continuation of this activity, Karin Dom united with other NGOs in the formation of **Alliance for Early Childhood Development**.

Early intervention team observed once again 17 November - World Prematurity Day. The event aimed to increase public awareness on premature births and to draw public attention to the challenges of premature children and how can early intervention help. At the event, the Early Intervention team of Karin Dom and professionals from other organizations shared their professional experience with premature babies, and parents shared their personal stories in raising and caring for a premature child.

In 2018, Karin Dom received the award "**I guarantee a happy childhood**" of the **State Agency for Child Protection** in the category "Significant innovation" for the Early Intervention service. The prize is awarded annually in recognition for the development and validation of children's rights and providing conditions for their complete development.

During the year Karin Dom staff participated in external forums in order to present the activities of the Foundation to the non-governmental sector, the business and different institutions. Representatives of Karin Dom participated in public and governmental committees, public councils and other structures. The team of Karin Dom actively participates in the development of draft laws, regulations and policies, related to the provision of social services for children and families in the community, at regional and national level.

During the year, Training and resource center at the Foundation successfully trained professionals and students in the best practices of Karin Dom in working with children and families.



The social enterprise "**Family Shop**" was established in Karin Dom and the manufactured goods were sold through the specialized online shop. The very first workshops became the preferred places for families - mothers, fathers, brothers and other relatives, volunteers and employees for informal meetings, chatting and exchange.

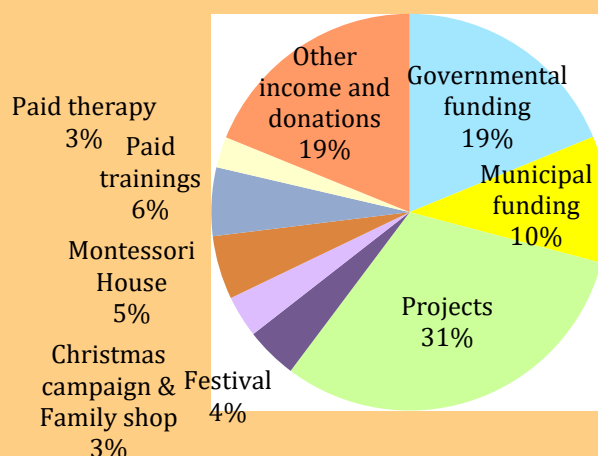
The designer items are targeted both to other parents of children with special needs, as well as to all parents in the community and the country. The family shop is actively involved in charity and art campaigns and markets.



**The financing of Karin Dom Foundation in 2018** was mainly provided by the Municipal and the Republican Budget as a provider of delegated activities and by additional sources of funding such as:

- Donors - companies and individuals from Bulgaria and abroad
- Projects
- Charity events and campaigns
- Economic activity and "Family shop"

## Financing and income



During the year the Foundation worked on 7 programs and projects aimed at providing services for children and families, increasing the professional capacity of the team and developing the social tolerance into society.

During the year, the Foundation's Training and Resource Center successfully trained over 1,000 specialists, teachers, students, parents in good practices in working with children and families of Karin Dom. Along with open training and on-demand training two more extensive trainings were conducted:

- Training and acquisition of a certificate of professional qualification in a specialty "Social Activities Assistant" of 15 parents under the project "Support of parents of children with disabilities for social and professional realization" under the Active Inclusion Program of Human Resources Development Center;
- Trainings by Developer of Expressbank "Supporting, consulting and encouraging progress in the development of children and families from smaller settlements through training of professionals and parents on the spot - 8 trainings realized with more than 150 trained specialists, teachers, assistant tutors and parents from the North-East region, Shumen, Tarnovo, Harmanli, Suvorovo, Targovishte;

In December an International Conference was held under the heading "Child, family, community. From Early Intervention to Inclusive Education" with an audience of 200 specialists, teachers and parents.