



## KARIN DOM FOUNDATION

Center for children with special needs

Training and resource center

**Bulletin 2014**

### HELPING OUR LITTLE SUNS RISE

The past 2014 was a successful year for all – children, parents, specialists, volunteers and friends of Karin Dom Varna!

With mutual efforts we achieved new heights and proved that with hard work, effort and team work, everything is possible!



## ***OUR CHILDREN***

The total number of children who have received therapy at Karin Dom since its opening in 1996 is 1,625.

The number of children, accepted in our programmes in 2014 is 151, 111 are from Varna, 40 are from around the country and 4 - from abroad.

For the past year, we have worked with total of 305 children, 134 of whom have received therapy at our centre, and 171 were included in our Early Intervention programme.

In 2014, 34 children were integrated, 18 of whom in general education kindergartens and schools and 16 in specialized kindergartens and schools.

For the period 1996-2014 a total of 228 children have been integrated in general education kindergartens and schools.

We have enjoyed the help of 26 volunteers (from Bulgaria, Greece, Macedonia, France and Spain) and the company of 150 university students who visited and learned about Karin Dom's services.





## ***SERVICES FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES***

"Early Intervention" programme for children from Varna, continued its development in 2014 thanks to Varna Municipality and Open Society Foundations. A research on the satisfaction among parents confirms the advantages of the applied family-orientated approach. 70% of the families share that the reason for their child's progress is the team work of Karin Dom's specialists and their guidance that inspires more confidence in the parents.

As of this autumn, we have new music therapist at Karin Dom, renewing the sessions in music therapy for the children.

We worked hard for expanding the services for foster and adoptive families who face challenges in the upbringing and development of the children.

We held Open Doors Days in kindergartens in Varna, gathering teachers, specialists, parents and representatives of different institutions. While the children were taking in tolerance through the art of music and theatre, we the adults, drew specific steps as in to how to unite resources and how to improve the support for children with special needs.

We organized monthly theme meetings for parents and specialists, to share and discuss useful information on the approaches and methods, used in Karin Dom's work.





## ***TRAINING CENTRE***

The past 2014 was very successful for our Training Centre. We had over 80 trainings, with a total of 1023 trained specialists, teachers, university students, parents, assistants.

At the end of May we conducted our second International Autism Conference, which had more than 250 participants from Bulgaria, Macedonia, Ukraine and the Netherlands.

Our team continued to raise their qualification and professional knowledge by taking part in training in the country and abroad. From the training in Macedonia, our trainers returned with ABA and PECS certificates.





## ***PROJECTS***

Side by side with our unceasing work with children and families, Karin Dom Foundation is working successfully in the direction of changing the attitude of society and for more tolerance not only on local but also on national level.

“Creating a supportive educational environment for children with special needs at kindergartens” is a project, directed towards children with special needs, their peers, parents, teachers, specialists, administrative representatives and other organizations.

“The Family-Centred Approach: an instrument for the prevention of institutionalisation of children with disabilities” – project, supporting faith in children and families.

In July, Karin Dom signed a contract with the Ministry of Labour and Social Politics, for leading trainings on the project of “Social Inclusion”. The trainings are in early intervention in connection with the opening of Centers on Early Intervention of Disabilities in 47 municipalities in Bulgaria. The trainings will take place in 2015. During the September – November period, we conducted trainings at 36 maternity wards in the country. 134 medical specialists took part and after the training, 86% of them claim they feel more comfortable when they have to deliver a child's diagnosis to the parents.





## ***EVENTS AND HOLIDAYS AT KARIN DOM***

This year marked Karin Dom's 18<sup>th</sup> birthday!

In March, we noted World Down Syndrome Day with the "Socky Is Looking For Friends" campaign, that brought together many friends from kindergartens, schools, institutions, social organizations and many others. The Jolly Socks touched the hearts of kids and adults!

For our "Baba Marta" campaign, we received countless martenitsi, hand made by our friends from all over the country. The sale supported Karin Dom's cause.

We marked Father's Week, part of the national "Being a Father" campaign, with "Dad's cooking hour" and sports games for fathers and children.

Many of our friends joined our Christmas campaign in the sale of cards and calendars made by children with special needs. Our friends made us a present in the form of handmade decorations, which we presented at our charity bazaars.





## ECO INITIATIVES

For the past 11 years Karin Dom has been an Eco School and a winner of a "Green Flag" by Foundation for Environmental Education. The Eco-Classroom we have opened this year is part of the green initiatives in which Karin Dom's eco activists participate actively along with friends and volunteers.

For the planting of vegetables in the mini bio-garden at our yard, contributed the children from the group for Social Integration and the children from our Montessori Club.

In November, Karin Dom received a certificate for an eco-project and for participating in eco activities on the occasion of the "World Days of Action".







## ***ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND SUPPORT***

In April we organized exhibition and discussion at the National Assembly of the Republic of Bulgaria on the subject of "Institutions with responsibility for our children with autism".

Mr. Ivan Stancioff celebrated his 85th anniversary at the residence of His Excellency Jonathan Allen, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to Bulgaria. Longtime friends of Karin Dom, benefactors and comrades were invited, giving their respect and support to the cause of Karin Dom.

The successful practices of Karin Dom were confirmed by the invitation for taking part at the XVth International Festival of Red Cross and Health Films, where Karin Dom presented 4 short movies.

The prestigious "Golden Rose" Festival donated the funds from calendar and festival programme sales for the building of our sensory garden.

We were the chosen cause at the prestigious Global Party event organized at Art Gallery Largo, as part of Global Charity Trust events series.

We heartedly thank our friends from The International Youth Symphony Orchestra Bremen, who donated to Karin Dom the funds, gathered during their concerts in Bulgaria.





# ***We wish you a Merry Christmas & a Happy New 2015!***

*Karin Dom would like to thank all  
friends, donors and parents for the  
appreciation and confidence  
in our abilities!*

