



## **KARIN DOM**

Center for children with special needs  
and their families  
Training and resource center

HELPING OUR LITTLE SUNS RISE

## **Bulletin 2016**



**Dear friends,**

Another year has passed filled with emotions, events and successes for Karin Dom. In 2016 Karin Dom celebrated its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

„Over those 20 years we all became “ambassadors” of goodness in Bulgaria. I am grateful for what all of you are doing for the children! “ - Mr. Stancioff, founder and inspirer of Karin Dom.

We are glad that 20 years after its establishment, Karin Dom serves as a model for services for children with special needs and families throughout Bulgaria, and our specialists share their experience in our country and abroad!

Behind this success stands an united team of professionals, dedicated parents, partners and friends. The increase in the number of children we support, especially those with complex and intensive support needs, creates a need for us to rely more and more on our current and future donors.

In this bulletin we wish to present to you what we have achieved together in 2016 - we all - children, parents, specialists, partners, donors and volunteers.



Thank you with all my heart!

Mariana Nikolova,  
Executive Director  
Karin Dom





# KARIN DOM IN NUMBERS

In 2016 the number of children we have supported has increased with 11% compared to 2015. We were able to reach more children who live outside of our hometown, Varna: 64 kids and families from all over Bulgaria have received therapy and support at Karin Dom this year.

## Number of children and families in 2016

For Karin Dom in total	371
Therapy center	226
Early Intervention Program	145
Included in kindergartens and schools	34

## For the period 1996 - 2016

Children and families in total	2041
Children integrated in mainstream schools and kindergartens	324
Volunteers from Bulgaria / abroad	415 / 223
Students from Bulgaria / abroad	1338 / 76

**We do not expect and we do not wish to make all children the same**

“Our message is to let them be different. Not as passive observers, but trough helping them realize the best of themselves. This is not easy. But it is not impossible either. There are places where it happens. Karin Dom is one of those places.” - Tsveti, psychologist at Karin Dom





## THErapy AT THE CENTER

This year **our little sunshines** in Karin Dom put a lot of work and effort to make their important and for some **first steps** in life!

The results children achieve bring their families **hope** and confidence. The words of the **parents** show how we reach those results:

“**My child has learned** an easy for him way to respond to questions. Thanks to this, we as parents are another step forward in communicating with him and this will open many **new opportunities.**” (T. Harizanova)

“At Karin Dom I was most impressed by the understanding, the **warm attitude**, professionalism and teamwork of the therapists. The best thing during the therapy was the training for **our whole family** - her father and her sister also joined the sessions.” (T. Pencheva)

“I am deeply grateful for the **opportunity** we had to use Karin Dom’s services free of charge in those difficult for all of us times. This means so much for our family! Thank you for the perfect organization, for all the **attention and care!!!** We hope to continue using your support and understanding of our pain in the future as well!” (Vyara)





## EARLY INTERVENTION CENTER

It has been **6 years** since we started supporting the families of the **smallest** and most vulnerable sunshines aged 0-3.

We work in partnership with the Varna Municipality, two maternity homes in Varna, the Child Protection Department - Varna, the breastfeeding consultants of Association "Tzvetno Badeshte" and with the support of the Open Society Foundations.

Long enough period to allow us to **evaluate the progress** and plan our **next steps**. We summarized our experience in a report:

[https://karindom.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/KD\\_Report\\_2016\\_ENG.pdf](https://karindom.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/KD_Report_2016_ENG.pdf)

### Ages and Stages Questionnaires

An important **success** for us is the research we have conducted for the **adaptation** of the "Ages and Stages Questionnaires" (ASQ-3 and ASQ-SE), which we apply in our services.

Using the questionnaires parents and professionals can screen the child's development; their introduction in practice will lead to their official application as early learning and development standards for children in Bulgaria.





## TRAINING CENTER

For 2016 the training center of Karin Dom shared its experience and trained **1405 specialists** from more than **80 organizations**.

The closing conference of our VELUX Foundation project on Modeling services for children with special needs in Bulgaria brought together nearly **500 participants**.

In 2016 Karin Dom launched **online trainings** to disseminate experience and knowledge for increasing specialists' qualifications in the field. Visit [kursove.karindom.org](http://kursove.karindom.org)

We put an emphasis on developing our **partnerships with universities**, in particular the one with the Medical University - Varna.

We focused on **inclusive education** issues by providing trainings to **10 special schools** in Bulgaria. Karin Dom also launched a new **partnership with UNICEF** in its initiative "Together from the kindergarten" for the regions Sliven and Shumen where our specialists participated as trainers.

In 2016 we worked hard with our **7 Enablin+ partners** to design training modules for improving the social inclusion process and the quality of life of children and young people with complex and intensive support needs.





## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS AND SUPPORT

We believe any organization's most **valuable** asset is its team... because **people** create organizations! Our team highly appreciates the essay of our colleague Tsveti, psychologist in Karin Dom, which took a **first place** in the annual competition "For NGOs and people" organized by "Tulip" Foundation and Information portal for NGOs in Bulgaria.

**Children** from Karin Dom won **first place** in the annual "Golden Autumn" eco festival, organized by "Golden Sands" Nature Park. Our winners presented two of our favorite pieces - the "Days of the week" song and the "Rainbow song".

Our **Early Intervention** service was recognized by the European Association of Service Providers for Persons with Disabilities (EASPD) as an **innovative practice**.

The **Bulgarian school** at the Embassy of Bulgaria in **London** was named after the founder of Karin Dom - Ivan Stancioff! We are **grateful** to the initiative of the school which supports Karin Dom's activity every year!







# VOLUNTEERS AND INITIATIVES

With our competition “Ambassadors of goodness” we promoted **creativity and volunteerism** in students and young people from Varna and Bulgaria.

The **12 top ranked initiatives** aimed at children with special needs, launched with the support of the America for Bulgaria Foundation and will continue next year.

In 2016 together with our like-minded friends we founded the “Friends of Karin Dom” Association which will contribute to the realization of our **future ideas**.



- Our annual festival “Smile Karin Dom” received two awards:
- ✓ In 2015 the Festival won third place for “Best Fundraising Event” in the Global Event Awards EVENTEX
  - ✓ For the Festival organized in 2016, Karin Dom was congratulated by the National Alliance for Voluntary Action and the “Tulip” Foundation for its participation in the competition “Volunteer initiative 2016”



**Amazing experience** to support children made possible by everyone who participated in the organization and **all guests** who visited the Festival.

Keep smiling and do not stop experiencing the **joy of helping** others! We are looking forward to seeing you **again in 2017!**





## TWO REAL STORIES ABOUT OUR LITTLE SUNSHINES

### SASHKO

We are proud of our little hero Sashko - born 950 grams only, with “generally impaired condition”, abandoned in an orphanage. When he turned 3 months, he went to a **foster family** and entered the Early Intervention program. The initial assessment indicated delays in all areas of development. However, the foster parents very strictly followed Karin Dom specialists’ guidelines and step by step Sashko achieved his goals. When he became 8 months old, **Sashko was adopted!** He found his new happy family who supported his progress. A year later, Sashko has already caught up with his peers! Well done!

These **excellent** results bring **satisfaction** and motivation for us and **our partners** on whom we rely very much. Because only together we can provide a **chance** for children with special needs in Bulgaria to develop their strengths!

### BOBI

We share a part of the story of one of **our little stars** that left a trace in our hearts: “And while he was walking on his paths trying to control his small feet and do the right steps, he never stopped smiling and always repeated “**I am happy!**”. Being with him made us smile and forget all problems and worries. We **smiled** all day long because happiness and smile are probably infectious.”

**OUR LITTLE CHILDREN  
ARE OUR BIG HEROES!**







**EVERY CHILD DESERVES A HAPPY CHILDHOOD**

**LET'S MAKE IT HAPPEN!**

**Donate by bank transfer**

Account name: Karin Dom Foundation  
Bank: Societe Generale Expressbank  
Transportna branch, 46 Slaveikov square  
Varna 9000, Bulgaria  
BIC: TTBBBG22

IBAN:

EUR: BG56 TTBB 9400 1506 0684 23

GBP: BG29 TTBB 9400 1506 0684 24

USD: BG40 TTBB 9400 1506 0684 20

BGN: BG94 TTBB 9400 1506 0684 18

**Donate online**

Visit [karindom.org/en/donate](https://karindom.org/en/donate) and make  
your donation with PayPal or ePay

**THANK YOU!**





# ***MERRY CHRISTMAS and HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017!***

*We wish you good health, prosperity,  
peace and happiness in the New Year!*

