



Karin dom

BULLETIN 2017





Dear friends,

Another year has passed in which we were by our special children and their families. Another year has passed in which children put many efforts, parents showed love and devotion, and we all put our hearts in order to achieve best outcomes for each of our children.

We supported **340** families from Varna and the country, helped the inclusion of **33** children in kindergartens and schools. We stayed by children and their families in hard times, shared their joy and successes, worked so that every child who visited Karin Dom had a chance for fulfilling life.

We set high goals and pursued them so that every child who needed our help, could receive the best possible therapy. At the same time, we had high expectations from children, and parents expected a lot from our professional team.

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

We believe in our children, in their success and we will keep going with the same love, professionalism and dedication to stay by them from earliest age together with all of you: parents, donors, partners, volunteers and friends.

Thank you all for the trust and support!

Happy holiday season! We wish you peace, love and prosperity for 2018!

The team of Karin Dom





Therapy center

For the period since its opening in 1996 up to 2017, **2 255** families have used the services of Karin Dom. In 2017 our team provided group and individual sessions to **188** children from Varna and Bulgaria. For each child we elaborate individual service plan, and for the parents we offer consultations and support and work together towards the goals.

In group activities children obtain knowledge and skills that help them at home and during transition to kindergarten or school: **Montessori group, Little+, Smile, Rainbow, Playgroup, Music therapy group**. We develop children's independence through cooking classes, gardening, art activities in our program **Mum and Dad's Little Helpers**. All these group activities, as well as the access of more children to Karin Dom, are possible with the support of individual and corporate donors.

In the therapy of children with complex and intensive support needs we included supportive technologies, Tobii eyetracker. Together with Varna Medical University we implemented the project Nutritional and Oral Status of Children with Neurodevelopmental Disorders and Quality of Life for Their Families, which optimized children's diet and nutrition.



Thanks to our donors, we provided one-week therapy to 47 children living outside Varna. They received consultation, therapy and individualized home program from our multidisciplinary team.

“Before I came to Karin Dom with my child, I'd heard and watched a lot about this place, but everything was beyond my expectations. This is a magical place, this is heaven! My son is feeling great here. The therapists who work with him during this one-week therapy, are unique people, who know what they are doing, give everything from themselves and with a proper approach they made my son participate in the activities that stimulate communication. I am very grateful to the sponsors, thanks to them we had the opportunity to come to this wonderful place.

Thank you for being!”

Parent of a child from Novi Pazar





"Karin Dom is a place where every child is accepted what he or she is, no matter the seeming difference. I have been a foster parent for 11 years, but I hadn't taken care of a child with disability until a little girl was placed in my home who had multiple health issues and required more specific care... With the support of Karin Dom's early intervention team we felt safer and better prepared for the challenges we encountered. We felt their support day and night and this made us more courageous foster parents. Now we see an improvement in the development of our foster child... The key for the success of our little foster princess is the understanding of the adults for shared care, professionalism, mutual trust and.. the big hearts that people from Karin Dom have."

Foster parent of a child with disability

Acknowledgement and Support

We received an acknowledgement from **Erste Foundation from Austria** which, after a research for Bulgaria, declared Karin Dom among **the 5 most meaningful and influential civil organizations from the social sector**. 20 investigators and 400 experts participated in this research in order to assess NGOs from Central and Eastern Europe.

Karin Dom and **Societe Generale Expressbank** were awarded first place for best project in 2016 at the yearly **Project of the Year competition of Tulip Foundation**. This is a competition between civil organizations that have worked during the previous year on a project for improvement of conditions, opportunities and quality of life for people and their community. Since its start in 2011, the project supported more than **157** children with special needs from over 30 places all over Bulgaria.

Karin Dom was one of the three non-governmental organizations to receive the **Saviors of Childhood prize**, a big acknowledgement for the support and care for many children with disabilities living in foster families.

At the end of the year the **Director of the Training Center Zvezdelina Atanasova** was nominated for the Bulgarian Helsinki Committee awards for contribution to the human rights.

Early Intervention Center

For seven years now we have been helping families of the youngest children 0-3 by developing a social service without analogue in Bulgaria. Thanks to the support of Varna municipality and our donors, the service is free for the families from Varna. For that time we delivered services to **708** families. We are happy that after going out of the program 52% of these children don't need further therapy, specialized service or resource support at school.

In 2017 we delivered services to **130** children and their families, and we notice the trend of raising the share of premature babies (one-third of the total number of served children).

We kept developing partner relationships with the neonatological and maternity wards at Prof. Dr. D. Stamatov specialized obstetric care hospital and St. Anna multiprofile hospital and we supported breastfeeding practices through the certified consultants.

We became recognisable and accesible service for many families with concerns whose children have not yet been diagnosed. More medical professionals started referring children to our services this year.

“I was young, unexperienced and I noticed the problem of my child too late. And then the painful hospital visits started. When my daughter turned 6, we moved to Varna. Then I learned about Karin Dom. I thank God that I met these people! I started using their services. With lots of care, love, patience and devotion, we achieved good results. Now my daughter is an independent grown-up girl who makes us happy with her good performance at school.



Then my second daughter was born, who will turn 1 year soon. She was also premature. I felt that I had no mental strength to go through the same again. But I already knew about Karin Dom, about the variety of services they were offering, the specialists they had. On the second month, I contacted them to use the only available, free of charge and unique Early intervention service. They responded right away. I am very grateful.

I appeal to all people and organizations who have financial security, to support and give to Karin Dom so that our children could receive adequate and quality services, so that we as parents could receive professional advice in raising and supporting the development of our children. In this way, they will become part of a noble cause!”

Mother of 2 premature children from Varna



Our **Center for vocational training** started **training for parents** for qualification in the professions Social Activities Assistant and Organizer Internet Applications. They are implemented within the project Support for Parents of Children with Disabilities for Social and Professional Realization under Human Resources Operational Program.

We have completed our three-year work on the **Enablin+ international project**, aimed at children and young people with complex and intense support needs (CISN), and the people who take care of them. In February, we conducted a **pilot training on "Quality of life for children with CISN"** and participated in a final partner meeting and conference on inclusive education in Portugal. We have released a handbook with a training DVD. More about it and the other project results, you can find out more at www.enablinplus.eu

Training Center

ISO 9001: 2015 certified - we apply the quality management system in our training center. In 2017 we had **over 1050 participants in our trainings** from Bulgaria and abroad (teachers, speech therapists, psychologists, rehabilitators, kinesitherapists, social workers, students, volunteers, parents, social and personal assistants, nurses, etc.) We supported several special schools in the process of their restructuring as **Centres for special educational support**.

Together with **Varna Medical University** and tutors from Oregon, USA, we conducted post-graduate training on Early Childhood Intervention for 30 professionals from the country.

Throughout the year our trainers travelled to provide training and supervision to teachers under the **UNICEF's Together from Kindergarten initiative**. Participating teachers received qualification points for this program approved by the Ministry of Education.

We had international events: visiting colleagues from Macedonia; on-site supervision and support for starting a modern **daycare center in Borjomi, Georgia**.

For a second time we organized **PECS training** with licensed trainers from Greece. 60 people participated in this training for functional communication.

Volunteers and Initiatives

This autumn our park came alive again and turned into magic place for Varna citizens who visited the traditional **Smile Karin Dom Charity Festival**. What makes the festival unique is its main idea - enjoyment with a cause. The funds collected during the festival are used for children therapy and more specifically, for Smile and Little+ groups.

At Karin Dom opened **the first in Bulgaria museum** devoted to the charity and philanthropy: **Ambassadors of Goodness**. The museum exhibition is realized through the Ambassadors of Goodness project funded by America for Bulgaria Foundation. The museum is an interesting destination for school groups, as well as for citizens and guests of Varna tempted by history and power of making good. Its mission is to remind that Bulgarians are not only very talented but have big hearts, ready to support meaningful causes in the community.





During the year we realized **12 youth volunteer projects** which made young people empathetic to the needs of our special children. We saw extraordinary boys and girls with vision for the future and for inclusive society.

In 2017 we were supported by **109** volunteers who helped us with physical and organizational work, shared skills and ideas. For internship came **38** students who study Speech Therapy, Social Management and Psychology.

Karin Dom Montessori House

As part of our policy to create opportunities for social inclusion, we offer child care for children aged 2 to 4 in a Montessori house. We use our experience, the qualification of the team and the wonderful location in the Sea park to offer to the parents an alternative when choosing child care.



Thank you for being with us and supporting us in 2017.

EVERY CHILD DESERVES A HAPPY CHILDHOOD. LETS MAKE IT POSSIBLE TOGETHER!

BECOME A CORPORATE OR INDIVIDUAL DONOR!

BE AN AMBASSADOR OF GOODNESS AND SUPPORT THE CHILDREN AT KARIN DOM!

WITH YOUR REGULAR MONTHLY DONATIONS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM,
OUR GROUP ACTIVITIES OR THE INDIVIDUAL THERAPY OF A CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AT KARIN DOM.

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THANK YOU!

