



# AMBASSADORS OF GOODNESS



1996-2016

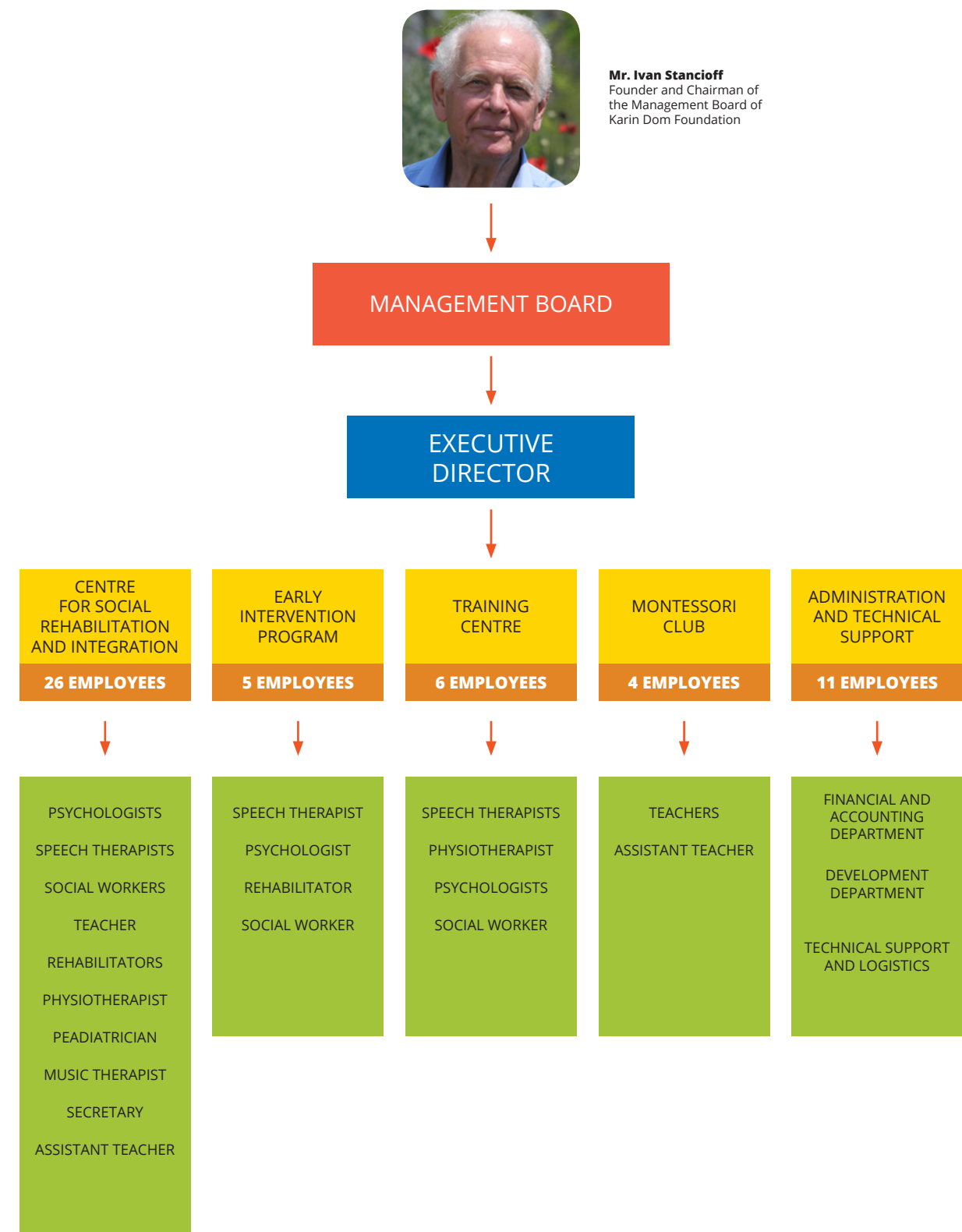
EVERY CHILD  
 DESERVES THE  
 RIGHT TO A  
 HAPPY  
 CHILDHOOD!  
**LET'S MAKE IT  
 HAPPEN!**

## ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF KARIN DOM FOUNDATION

Centre for children with special needs  
 Training and Resource centre



**Mr. Ivan Stancioff**  
 Founder and Chairman of  
 the Management Board of  
 Karin Dom Foundation





## MISSION

We work for the complete development and growing of children with special needs in both family and society as well as for putting an end to the practice of abandoning and institutionalization.



## VISION

Karin Dom Foundation is a modern functional centre for providing social, health and educational services for children with special needs and their families – a model applied on national and international level.

Karin Dom Foundation's key priority are children's rights. We believe that every child regardless of its physical or mental condition deserves the right of access to social, health and educational services, family care and public support. Our values are based on child's right, lied down in the UN Convention on the right of the children.

## VALUES:

- Empathy and support
- Social and educational integration
- Professionalism and modern approaches
- Work with parents
- Partnership



## Karin Dom *in the beginning*



### INNOVATIVE APPROACH

When Mr. Ivan Stancioff founded Karin Dom Foundation in 1994, social institutions for people with disabilities were located mainly in distant and poor areas. Children accommodated there were supposed to live in inhumane conditions – without even a basic care for their development. motivated by the existing international practices, Mr. Stancioff wished Karin Dom to be a place offering an overall approach towards children and their families. He managed to convince his family to provide the hereditary house in the Sea garden in Varna for the foundation’s purposes. As a result, in 1996 the Centre for social rehabilitation and integration “Karin Dom” had been officially opened.



### SOCIAL IMPACT

Thanks to his charismatic personality and strong personal motivation to be in favor of society, Mr. Ivan Stancioff attracted donors and associates to support the idea of developing a modern centre providing complex services and support. 20 years together, step by step we learn to be better, more tolerant and committed. 20 years later our team, parents, children, donors and friends feel more knowledgeable, more capable and motivated. Because we all realized that when we combine efforts, we are strong and able to change lives. Our hearts are full of hope always when we see children’s smiles.



#### **IN 1996 KARIN DOM PROVIDES:**

High-quality therapy and rehabilitation for children aged 2 to 18 by applying world-recognized practices

Partnership with other organisations to work for changing public attitudes toward people with disabilities

Trainings to parents, medical and social workers on how to interact with the children

Active participation in changing legislation, to ensure an improved quality of life for people with special needs.



**1994**

Karin Dom Foundation is established - the first NGO in Bulgaria, which introduces modern methods of working with children with special needs, while respecting the dignity of every child and its rights as a person. The term "children with special needs" is introduced in Bulgaria for the first time. Karin Dom's team started working against the classification of such children as "ineducable" and their abandonment in institutions, hidden from society. Ivan Penev is invited to become Executive Director of Karin Dom Foundation.

**1996**

The president of the Republic of Bulgaria Zhelio Zhelev officially opens the Centre for children with special needs "Karin Dom". The renovated building has special rooms for physiotherapy, for psychological and speech sessions, for consultations with parents, art sessions, playgroups and group therapy rooms. The Bobath therapy is introduced under the guidelines of Vivienne Williams - a Bobath specialist from UK. 96 children with special needs have used Karin Dom's services throughout the year.

The cultivation of the area around Karin Dom begins. The first flowers and trees are planted.

**1998**

"Free time for parents" project is launched. Through a stimulating afternoon programme including games, activities, music, painting, sightseeing, visiting pastry shops, cinemas, museums, children with physical and mental disabilities are able to get know their home town Varna. They communicate freely with other children and adults and feel happy.

**2000**

The conference room on the 3rd floor in Karin Dom's building is officially opened. The hall has a capacity of 80 people, providing a free access to a restroom for people with special needs, with an easy access from the stairs and an elevator for people with motor difficulties.

Karin Dom organises a conference on "Early intervention. Partnership with parents". More than 130 therapists, educators, psychologists, medical specialists, social workers and parents are involved.

**2001**

Karin Dom wins the big prize of the Delegation of the European commission in Bulgaria. "Made in Bulgaria with European support" for a best project in the field of "Social activities and healthcare".

The first Montessori training for Karin Dom's team is launched. Lecturer is Mrs. Feodora Stancioff.

A new executive director is appointed. Her name is Rumiana Hinova.

11 children are integrated in mainstream kindergartens, 9 - in mainstream schools.



“  
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KARIN DOM THROUGH THE YEARS

**2003**

Karin Dom is honoured with "Green flag" prize for an active and considerable participation in the Program "Ecoschools" to the International Foundation for ecological education.

**2005**

Karin Dom purchases a van with a hydraulic platform so children with motor problems can be transported to and from Karin Dom. The first children playground in Bulgaria for children with special needs is built in Karin Dom's yard.

Groups for children with hyperactivity and autism are launched.

**2007**

In November Karin Dom celebrates 100 years of Montessori education in the world. More than 60 guests and journalists join the event.

149 students from Bulgaria and abroad visit Karin Dom to know more about the Centre, its activities, write courseworks and thesis, participate in trainings and practice.

Mariana Nikolova is the new executive director of Karin Dom Foundation.

**2008**

Multisensory room is created and equipped providing the opportunity for stimulation of all senses – sight, hearing, taste, smell, touch and vestibular experience.

Music therapy is introduced. Music sessions are led by a professional musician who works with the children both individually and in groups.

In 2008 Karin Dom receives a state funding for 20 out of 148 children visiting the centre for therapy.

Karin Dom's training team implements trainings to 127 specialists, assistant staff members and parents from all over the country.

**2010**

Early Intervention program is launched. It aims to support families of children with disabilities or in risk of developmental delays in order to prevent their abandonment in institutions.

**2011**

Communication groups for children with speech problem are organised. Montessori club is officially opened offering all-day visits for all children aged 2 to 5 years.

**2012**

As a result of the partnership between Karin Dom and the Worldwide Orphans Foundation Bulgaria, a Toy library is opened. 75 children and their families have used the service throughout the year.

With the help of donors and volunteers a Parent club is initiated – a cosy place where parents can meet to share and exchange ideas and experience.

Karin Dom receives award "Project of the year 2011" of Tulip Foundation for its project "Early intervention for preventing abandonment of children with disabilities".

**2013**

Launched the only Municipal delegated activity Early Intervention Centre – a partnership between the Municipality of Varna and Karin Dom for provision of social services to children with special needs.

Karin Dom organises an International conference on autism problems with the participation of foreign lecturers.

A trampoline therapy for children with various special needs is introduced.

**2014**

Communication groups for children with multiple disabilities are launched.

Karin Dom organises a Second International conference on autism problems.

**2015**

Karin Dom starts introducing and upgrading trainings to 47 recently opened Early Intervention centres established by the municipalities – beneficiaries within the "Social inclusion" project of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. Centres are created as community services to support children aged 0 to 6 who have disabilities or developmental problems as well as their families.

A group for children based on parent-mediated intervention is implemented. A mutual project between Karin Dom and SG Expressbank "Support a family" receives a First place award in the category for a best partnership between business and NGO on the 10th annual awards "Together" of Workshop for Civic Initiatives Foundation.

The first ever festival "Smile Karin Dom" is organised.



## WHAT WE ACHIEVED TOGETHER FOR **20 YEARS**

Together with you – our donors, partners and friends, we were able to:



Support 1835 children  
and their families



Build the first specialized  
playground for children  
with special needs in  
Bulgaria



Equip the conference room for  
trainings and build an elevator  
for easy access of people with  
physical difficulties



Establish a  
Parent club



Repair and equip 13  
specialized rooms for  
children therapy



Launch a Toy  
Library



Provide trainings to  
4457 specialists and  
parents and 323 outside  
organisations



Introduce the Early Intervention  
Program for support and  
prevention of abandonment  
in institutions of children with  
disabilities or at risk of such



Organise and lead 4  
conferences on topics  
concerning problems,  
solutions and advocacy for  
children with special needs

We were the first in  
Bulgaria to introduce  
internationally approved  
programs and therapies  
such as:

**The Bobath therapy,  
Montessori method for  
working with children  
with special needs,  
Trampoline therapy,  
TEACCH, sensory-motor  
approach**





## CENTRE FOR PROVIDING SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND THEIR FAMILIES

In Karin Dom's therapy centre the child with special needs is being included in appropriate therapy and education. Parents also participate in this process through trainings, consultations, resources and support on behalf of our specialists.

We work with children with physical, mental and multiple disabilities, with Autism spectrum disorders, with behavioral problems, as well as children with learning difficulties.



### FAMILY-ORIENTED APPROACH

We, in Karin Dom Foundation, aim at changing attitudes regarding approaches – from an expert approach focused on the child and its problems towards family-oriented approaches focused on the family and its strengths and resources. Because we believe the best way to support a child is through his parents who will be motivated and prepared to meet its daily needs.

Parents join their children's therapy. Specialists use do various methods and activities (playing games, doing exercises and other sessions) showing parents how to apply these activities at home with their child.



### MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM AND TEAM WORK

Team consists of specialists from various fields who work together with children and their families in both individual and group sessions crossing the traditional borders. Every specialist participates in the mutual work with his professional skills and knowledge that upgrade throughout the years. Team work with children and their parents guarantees more confidence and security for the success of tasks and goals of the therapeutic program.



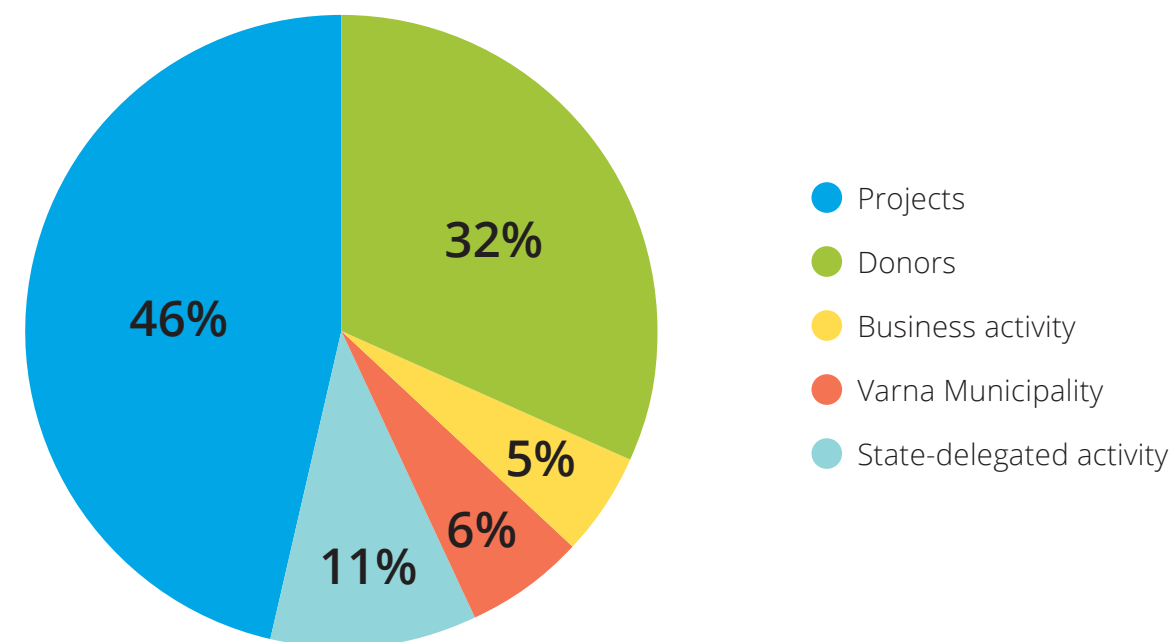
## ACTIVITIES AT THE CENTRE:

- psychological and pedagogical work;
- language and speech therapy, use of communication methods such as PECS, communicators, gestures;
- therapeutic work with children with cerebral palsy, multiple disabilities and other neurological conditions;
- therapy for children with autism spectrum disorders in a structured environment;
- pedagogical work based on Montessori system;
- program to build daily skills;
- trampoline therapy;
- swim therapy;
- gymnastics groups;
- individual and group sessions in multisensory environments;
- play therapy;
- art and music therapy;
- preparation for integrated/inclusive education, consultations at schools and kindergartens;
- intensive therapy for children from the country;
- individual counseling for parents with a psychologist / psychotherapist;
- social consultations for the families;
- parent support and mutual aid groups;
- groups for children based on parent-mediated intervention
- thematic information meetings with parents.

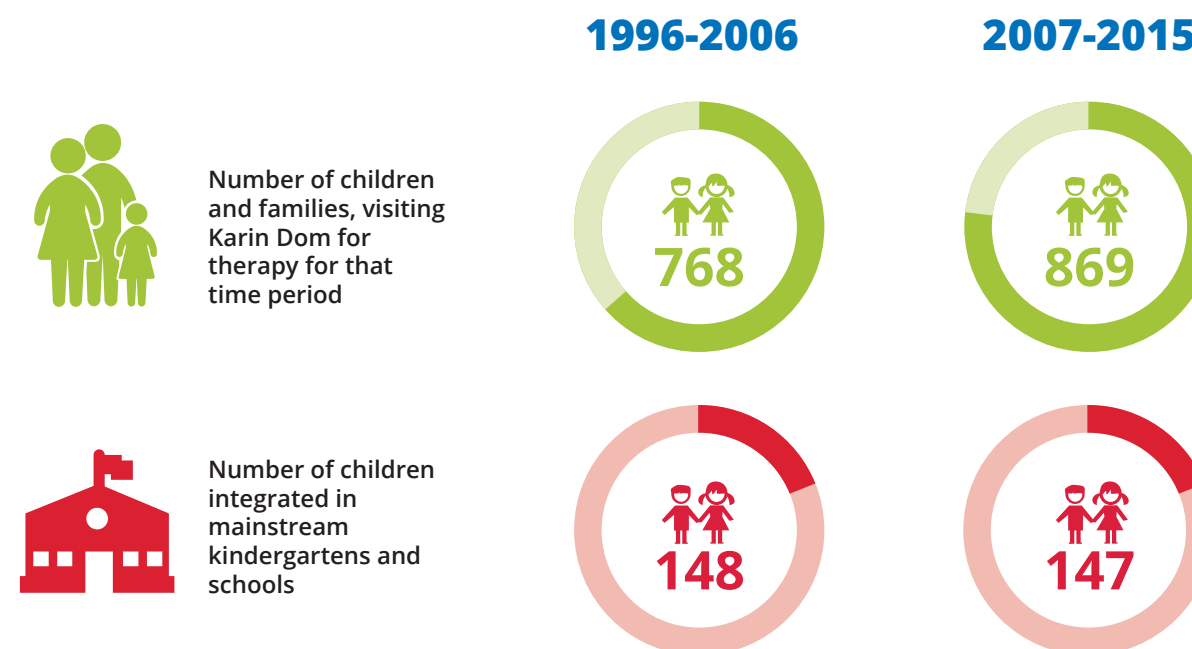
*„... People say that God sends special children to special parents only. Hence, me and my husband should be very, very special. Our little daughter Karerina has a gene mutation... She is adorable, funny, shy, careful, lovable, caressing and adores her elder brother. Katerina taught me so many things. She turned my view of life upside down. She taught me how to value the smallest things in life – a smile, a hug, a word, a pace... Thanks to Katerina we fall in Karin Dom's world. There we found friends for life – true people with big hearts. The support on behalf of the team and rest of the mothers I met there is highly valuable for me! I will stay silent again! Words are unnecessary. Compliments!“*

Iva, **Katerina's mother**

## FINANCIAL SOURCES IN 2015



## NUMBER OF CHILDREN WHO USED KARIN DOM'S SERVICES IN THE PERIOD FROM 1996 TO 2015





## EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM

Karin Dom is initiator and motor for the Early Intervention service giving a chance for a hundred families.

Early intervention is a complex of professional services for children aged 0 to 3 with developmental delays, disabilities, atypical behavior, social and emotional difficulties. This is a mobile service aiming at prevention.

Karin Dom's Early Intervention Program includes home visits as well as maternity hospitals visits. The team is multidisciplinary and includes: Peadiatrician, rehabilitator, special teacher, social worker, speech therapist, psychologist and breastfeeding consultant.

The service supports parents and helps them to be more prepared in the care of their children with special needs. The service aims to prevent abandonment of children in institutions.

*„... Our child attached to Karin Dom's team members who used to work with him. Our child loves them! Playing games and the time spent with them are very useful and important for Victor! Our life was full of joy and smiles. We see our child is able to run and laugh. He is trying to say his first words, he plays and put efforts in any activities he is involved in. We are happy. We thank to Karin Dom's Early Intervention program specialists. Without their help we, as young parents, could not achieve such a fabulous result for such a short period of time...I am happy they became a part of our life and mostly in our child's life. I wish them to be healthy and dedicated! Thank you!"*

*Virginia, Victor's mother*



EVERY CHILD HAS THE  
RIGHT TO A GOOD START  
IN LIFE!



# TRAINING AND RESOURCE CENTRE

Since 2001 Karin Dom develops training activity. In 2009 Karin dom receives a license to work as a Professional Training Centre. Through our trainings we spread Karin Dom's achievements and internationally recognized working methods for children with special needs and their families. We work in the interest of the Bulgarian society by ensuring an opportunity for improving specialists' qualifications in the field. This would lead to better quality of the services provided and the education of children with special needs.

Karin Dom's training team consist of professionals with lots of practical experience in the work with children with special needs, specialists in the field of special education, speech therapy, psychology, physiotherapy, early intervention, social work and social services management. We offer specialized trainings led by internationally recognized specialists. In 2016 Karin Dom starts online trainings through which we can facilitate the access to information and improve qualifications of specialists in the field.

## TRAINING CENTRE PROVIDES:

- Open trainings for specialists;
- Training services on request;
- Consultations and supervisions;
- Conducting seminars and conferences
- Adaptation of training programs depending on the trainees'needs;
- Development of information materials, support literature and resources;
- Online trainings – we focus on changing attitudes from expert approach to family-oriented support approach.

## TRAININGS ADVANTAGES:

- We emphasize on practical trainings – we share our experience and successful practices, give recommendations and practical advices on particular cases;
- Trainings are interactive;
- We provide additional materials on the training's topic;
- We issue training certificates;
- Our online trainings are also practice based.

IN 2015 WE SHARED OUR EXPERIENCE WITH MORE THAN **84 ORGANISATIONS** AND PROVIDED TRAININGS TO **1625 INDIVIDUALS**

“

This was the most useful training I have ever participated in. It changed my overall attitude! Training was professional, resourceful and it completely overpassed my expectations. I admire the smiles and the team spirit we worked with. ”

*Shared by teachers and head teachers of Special schools in Bulgaria after a training in Karin Dom.*

“

Training was highly professional, with a direct introduction of the material. Lots of issues became clearer to me regarding the Montessori environment, presentation of materials, goals and tasks. ”

*Shared after a training conducted by Feodora Stancioff*

“

We thank to Zvezdi and Andreas, trainers at Karin Dom, for sharing their experience with us. There are many things we may learn from them. Huge thanks! We will remember the training in Karin Dom with lots of positive feelings, smiles and pleasant mood. Thank you for the warm welcome, Karin Dom! We will always remember this training. ”

*Shared by students from Moscow State Pedagogical Institute*

“

Training was very useful for my job as speech therapist and special teacher. I would be glad to participate in other Karindom's trainings! ”

*SOS Children's Villages*





## OUR DONORS

We are deeply grateful to all individual and corporate donors who believed in us and supported Karin Dom's cause. With the help of people, companies and organisations donating resources and materials, we in Karin Dom managed to confidently develop our activity. All of you, donors and friends, have a key role in developing Karin Dom as nationally recognized centre for providing services to children with special needs. We believe we will continue to improve our partnership in the name of the children.

**Thank you for being with us!**



## OUR VOLUNTEERS

**„I feel good when I help someone...“**

This is shared by a volunteer of Karin Dom. In Karin Dom they manage to utilize part of their free time, to find a way to express their internal needs to develop as individuals and professionals and to be good. Our volunteers differentiate by age, education and interests. They come from all over the world – high school and university students and professionals. Some of them come to learn and gain experience. Other come to share their skills and knowledge as well as to support us in introducing new practices. They have something in common – they have the same happy faces and wish to help. They help us in organizing events, campaigns and celebrations. With their help we maintain the beauty of Karin Dom's garden. We are inspired by their enthusiasm and energy.



Thanks to the efforts of the volunteers, we managed to organise the "Smile Karin Dom" festival in 2015 in Varna

Number of volunteers in Karin Dom from 1996 ro 2015.

# 513



## Karin Dom **in the year 2020**

IN KARIN DOM'S DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR 2015-2020 WE DEFINED THE FOLLOWING DIRECTION OF OUR FUTURE WORK

### 1 HIGH QUALITY SERVICES FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AND THEIR FAMILIES

- Delivering of established Karin dom practices and adapting new working methods and approaches
- Introduction of diagnostics and integrated medical-social services
- Provision of integrated all-day Montessori education to children

### 2 ENHANCING PUBLIC SENSITIVENESS TOWARDS SOCIAL INTEGRATION OF CHILDREN

- Leading information campaign for changing attitudes
- „Parent club“, Saturday-Sunday initiatives for social integration
- Attracting various public groups for participating and supporting Karin Dom's activities

### 3 PUBLIC IMAGE OF KARIN DOM. TEAM CAPACITY AND MOTIVATION

- Attracting new financial resources – projects, donors, sponsors and development of business activities, PR
- Offering trainings for work with children with special needs and their families
- Exchange of experience and improvement of qualifications through participation in national and international conferences, seminars and trainings and team buildings
- Expansion and modernizations of facilities

### 4 PARTNERSHIP NETWORK FOR IMPROVING QUALITY OF LIFE OF CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

- Expanding partnerships with universities and representatives of medical, education and social service sectors
- Development of manuals, trainings schedules, trainings and seminars for students and specialists working with children with special needs
- Participation in working groups and organisations for improving policies for children with special needs



## CENTRE FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS TRAINING AND RESOURCE CENTRE

[www.karindom.org](http://www.karindom.org)



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[www.ngogrants.bg](http://www.ngogrants.bg)