

## More or less ...



The greatest lack in the lives of the 400 children that the Foundation supports is love, attention and education. The result of this void is a complete lack of confidence, social skills and motivation to learn.

The Foundation has therefore developed these three projects to emanate a structural change, split up into different age category needs.

- **Physiotherapy: for babies and toddlers between the ages of 0-4 years.** Primarily to supply the love and tender care so needed by these infants. Secondly to stimulate blood circulation which will in turn improve the physical development as well as the mental stimulation of the baby/infant.

- **The Baba project: for children between the ages of 3-7 years.**

A surrogate grandmother who will read to the children, sing songs with them, and play games, etc... As well as learning these social skills and stimulating their development, the children will also receive the physical hugs that they so desperately crave.

- **Extra education: for children between the ages of 12 -18 years.**

Thanks to learning a trade or receiving extra lessons these children will have better prospects in life. The children also gain insight into how they can fend for themselves when they are faced with finally leaving the (protective) children's home environment and being confronted with the outside world at the tender age of 18.

Isn't this a wonderful chance for you, your whole family, sports club or group of friends, to make a huge difference in the lives of many of these children!



## Contact details



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*Photo* Left: Doctor at the Children's Home in Sofia.  
Right: Agnes van Uchelen, founder of the Foundation.

Sponsor - printing costs:



# Deplorable conditions in Bulgarian Children's Homes



Bulgarian Children's Refuge Foundation  
'faith, hope & charity'

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## Physiotherapy for babies and toddlers



We are currently searching for sponsors to help with the acquisition of a physiotherapist for this child and the many others between the ages of 0-4 years old. Due to the total lack of funds for the children's homes there are hardly any qualified staff to look after the children properly.

Children who are unable to walk on their own just lie in their beds all day and have absolutely no form of mental stimulus. Without any kind of help these children will always be the victims of today's uncompromising society, their future prospects nihil. Physiotherapy can be a life-saver in such circumstances. With your help, these children can have a chance to learn to walk, or even just to sit upright: in other words, the chance of a humanitarian existence.



### Costs:

A physiotherapist costs 295,- euros a month. The foundation tracks all development, and this will be posted on our website. Your donation for this project would be most welcome, under the heading 'physio'.

## Baba project



All the Bulgarian children's homes are in great financial need. Often there are not enough staff in order for the children to receive even the most basic love and care that they so desperately need. The children between 0-7 years old especially need love, attention and assistance as they are indeed at this most vulnerable stage of their life.

The children rarely receive a hug and there is no time for singing songs or even for a walk outside. It is heartbreaking that most of their day will be spent just lying in their beds, and only changed or fed at long intervals. For those children who also have a handicap, physical and mental stimulation is a basic necessity.



The Baba project, organized by the Bulgarian Children's Home Foundation, tries to cope with these needs. A Baba is usually a retired woman who can take care of these children, a surrogate grandmother. For four hours a day, she will take care of the physical and emotional needs of three children. A Baba provides love and assistance to the children, plays games with them, gives them hugs and listens to them. With this help the children can learn to bond and develop social skills in a relatively short space of time. In short, what the children need is a Baba.

### Costs:

A Baba costs around 75,- euros per month. Again the Foundation follows all developments closely, and these are available on our website. Your donation for this project would be most welcome, under the heading 'Baba'.

## Education - better prospects



When the children reach the ages of 18/19 they are impelled to leave the children's home but are sadly unprepared for fending for themselves. They have never learned to take care of themselves, and how for instance to handle money matters. They have no idea how survive in the real world. They are literally left on the street, on their own. Many of course end up in criminal activities and/or prostitution.

The goal for this educational project by The Bulgarian Children's Home Foundation is to prepare children from 12-18 years old for an independent existence. The children would be able to learn a skilled trade and obtain a diploma, or to follow extra lessons in for instance English, music or computer skills. This would make all the difference in their chances of obtaining a job and therefore achieving a better future for themselves. With your help we can recruit a qualified teacher to guide and teach the children.



### Costs:

A teacher costs approximately 200,- euro a month. The Foundation follows all developments closely, and these are available on our website. Your donation for this project would be most welcome, under the heading 'Education'.