



ТАВИТА-БЪЛГАРИЯ
ФОНДАЦИЯ
София - БЪЛГАРИЯ



TABITHA-BULGARIA
FOUNDATION
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Хуманитарна помощ и социални проекти **** Humanitarian Relief and Social Projects

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REPORT ON DREN'S BABA-PROJECT 2008/2009

at the Social Home for children deprived of parental cares "JOY"

The Baba Project at "Joy" Home in Dren has involved children with problems and special needs. In the last 6 months we have had 9 retired women who have taken care of 19 children. Seven of them are paid by donors from Stichting Kindertehuizen Bulgarije "geloof, hoop& liefde (NL).

The individual cares which each granny exerts on the entrusted children have significant impact on the entire physical and mental progress of the kids. Thanks to the Babas' support, the children have managed to overcome their initial aggression and auto-aggression, which is typical for those children. Progress in the development and certain maturity in the children's behaviour have been noticed with all kids. We strongly believe that the individual cares are of great importance because the Babas supply them love, attention and with knowledge about life. By introducing the children to their families' life, the Babas teach the children social skills, which help them grow as personalities. This leaves positive traces on their minds and their behaviour.

ALLOCATION OF THE CHILDREN TO THE BABAS

1. Mrs. Ekaterina Turneva – she has been working on the project since 01.01.2007 till now. She takes care of the seven year Victoria and seven year Svetoslav, both with Dawn syndrome. The two children are greatly attached to their "granny" and participate in all activities she suggests to them with enthusiasm. They work with plasticine and are able to hold a pencil and even try to draw pictures – an action which was unthinkable of them two years ago. Their concentration is more stable these days. The frequent walks Mrs. Turneva takes them to her house and to the village have enriched the children's notions and mental pictures about the surroundings which provokes and stimulates their speech contacts. Victoria has started to speak and Svetoslav is prattling, even pronounces few words correctly.

Mrs. Turneva registers in a notebook any changes or peculiarities in the development, behaviour and progress of the children in separate notebooks.

Thanks to the loving cares of baba Katja, as the kids call her, we have witnessed substantial progress in the children's development, they have shown potential and the children were not sent to a Home for handicapped children. In September specialists from the Regional Inspectorate of the Ministry of Education examined them and decided that their progress was remarkable and they should not be sent to a special institution for disabled children. They were convinced that the babas' approach was great for those children.

2. Mrs. Maria Gurbeva – working on the project since 01.01.2007 till present. At the moment she looks after three-year-old Emil and six-year-old Vesselin, both with average degree of mental retardation.

Vesselin is a fragile child who was often ill and could not speak. That was the reason we allocated the kid to the cares of Mrs. Garbeva.

The daily cares and walks have helped the child gain more knowledge of the world which has had a positive impact on his development. He has started speaking because he learnt the names of many objects. He has accumulated impressions about the surrounding world, has learnt the names of the animals,

flowers, plants which has stimulated his progress. Vesselin has started to speak and build his sentences in a logic way. We have noticed that even his emotional assessment of a situation has



matured. For example he says:” He is bad because..... “ or “The dog is good because it does not bark or bite .. “

Vesselin feels very much at ease and happy with granny Maria and when she is not around he is looking or asking for her and is very sad.

When Emil came to the orphanage we decided to allocate him to Mrs.Garbeva because for a child of three he had notable potential and knowledge. We decided that baba Maria’s individual cares would help him develop his potential. Thanks to her efforts and support Emil feels at ease, acquires information, learns social skills and habits, enjoys singing.

In addition to her duties with Emil and Vesselin, Mrs.Garbeva, who is a retired musical pedagogue, has organized a vocal group “Joy” with some of the children from the orphanage and works with them every day. In March the group participated in the national festival for folk songs “Orpheus spring” and won a special prize. Later on this year they were also awarded at the national competition “The Sun is coming” and participated in the festival in Kovachevtzi. The children were honoured with special diplomas. They also took part in the show for small talents Mini Miss and Mister and were shown on the TV. All those activities improved the children’s self-confidence and made them socialize with the world outside the orphanage.

3. Nikolina Kargova – has been working on the project since 15.12.2007. Initially Mrs.Kargova took cares of Krassimira – 5 years and Darin 4 years and the results were very good. They profited from the baba’s special attention and support and were sent to a pre-school kindergarten where they managed very well. They still keep contacts with the granny but because they spend the day at the kindergarten we have assigned new children to Mrs. Kargova. That is why since May this year the newly arrived Vesselina of 3 years was given to her. At the beginning the girl was very shy, unsociable, sad and without any hygienic habits. Thanks to Baba Nicky, as the granny is called, the girl has adapted to the life in the orphanage, has learnt some social and hygienic skills and now feels more at ease. In August this year Mrs. Kargova has started looking after six year old Maria who is autistic and diagnosed with average mental retardation. Maria seems very fond of her baba now and we see certain tendency of improvement in her behaviour.

4. Mrs. Vitka Boshnjachka – has been working on the project since January 2008. We entrusted her the cares for the twins Jadi and Lucas – 5 years. At the beginning the boy Lucas was quite slow and his development was retarded. The loving cares of the granny have done a great deal for him. He started to speak, has accumulated knowledge for the surrounding world. Thanks to the daily cares of baba Vitka, the regular walks in the village and to her house the children have made a remarkable progress. Mrs. Boshnjachka does her utmost to help the children feel happy and does it with patience and love. The children visit her house every day; know her family and her domestic animals by name. Lucas often speaks about her dog and goats or about her vegetable garden. They know the names of all vegetables and fruit that grow in her house. The children feel very upset when baba Vitka has to leave the orphanage and often cry for her when she is not there.

5. Mrs.Lalka Kartzelina – been working on the project since January 2008. At the moment she looks after Tzvetanka – 5 year old and Marjana – 2 year old. Tzvetaka is a mentally and physical retarded child who showed at the beginning hyperactivity, aggression, auto-aggression and was on sedative medications. That was the reason we included the child on the baba program. Thanks to the granny’s support the child has compensated much in her development. Now she speaks logically, has learnt hygienic and social skills, sings well, knows the texts of many songs, feels calm and is always smiling. Marianka is the youngest child in the orphanage. She was specially accommodated at the orphanage in Dren because the social workers were aware of the Baba program in the home and knew that for such a small child that would be a great opportunity. Since one of the children who were under the cares of Mrs. Kartzelina was adopted we immediately placed Marianka in her hands. The individual cares which the child enjoys have a great impact on her development. The child is very fond of her granny, feels at ease with her and is happy in the orphanage.

6. Radka Vajarska – has been working on the project since the spring of 2009. At the beginning she was assigned two boys to take care of: Krassimir of 3 years and Kiril of 6. Krassimir’s physical and psychological development has been retarded and he did not know even his name, could not chew the food but ate only liquid or strained food. His behaviour was so inadequate that we wondered if he could hear or understand what we were saying to him. He often had hysterical outbursts, cried unceasingly, hurled down and his screams were rather disturbing. Granny Radka was not put out but the child’s condition and made a lot of efforts to help the child. She started looking after the child only



two days after he had come to the orphanage and in the next 4 months we witnessed a serious change in the child's behaviour. Now Krassimir is much quieter, manages to concentrate his attention on games, and eats by himself from the general food. The child reacts more adequately, smiles, looks more sociable and friendly.

Kiril is a lonely and sad child; he often isolates himself and keeps away from the other children. We thought that a baba would make feel him more comfortable. Indeed we were surprised by the change in Kiril's behaviour once we provided a baba for him. The emotional connection that has been established between Kiril and baba Radka is very strong and supportive for the child. Now he looks lively and cheerful, feels at ease and happy.

7. Mrs. Tzvetanka Tzvetkova – has been working since early spring 2009. This is the only woman who works with four children, all of them of a prep-school age. The children are Dean, Dora, Tzvetanka, Milena and Gabriela. Initially all five kids went to a pre-school kindergarten group where they were being prepared for the school. The children were slow in grasping the material that was taught at school, could not recognize the letters, nor could they calculate. Mrs. Tzvetkova is a retired teacher who has put a lot of efforts to help the children learn the letters and attempt to read and to calculate. Thanks to her hard work, ambition and strict teaching every day, the children were able to acquire learning skills. Because of the preparation and the studies, the children caught up with the other classmates at the prep-school group. They have received a lot of know age about life, society and the world around them and before they started school in September the children could count up to 10 and could write the numbers. They have learnt to recognize all letters from the alphabet and are trying to read and write some of the letters. Mrs. Tzvetkova's efforts have given all five children an equal opportunity at the kindergarten and they could compete with the local children. The children have just started primary school and they feel self confident because they have been well prepared for the school. Now Mrs. Tzvetkova is helping them after school with the homeworks, gives them extra exercises in the afternoons, keeps in touch with their teacher at school.

