



ANNUAL REPORT

For the accounting year
January 1, 2012 – December 31, 2012 r.

Content:

-  Reachout.BG plans for 2012
-  What we achieved in 2012
-  Voluntary support programme
-  Help from experts
-  Vacation program and preparation for the new school year
-  Events
-  Training for volunteers of Reachout.BG
-  Cooperation with other organizations
-  Financial account
-  Reachout.BG plans for 2013

Reachout.BG plans for 2012

-  To create conditions for sustainable development of our activities at children's orphanage P. Slaveikov;
-  To enhance our school support program through the preparation of separate programs to the individual kids;
-  To look for opportunities for providing of accommodation and assistance in finding a job to youths, leaving children's homes;
-  To expand our voluntary network via identifying and attracting new corporate partners, as well as creating corporate social responsibility programs for companies operating in Bulgaria;
-  Continue organizing education presentations in order that children in institutions acquire a broader knowledge;
-  Organizing working meetings of NGOs whose aim is to build lasting partnerships and exchange good practices for working with children without parental care;
-  Carry out trainings of volunteers, engaged in the different initiatives of Reachout.BG

What we achieved in 2012 ?

In the last year the team of Reachout.BG directed all its efforts to the sustainable development of the support program for children from Petko Slaveikov orphanage. We held regular working meetings with the management and the personnel of the Home, discussing the program and its results. The support we received from the management of



the Home and the educators of the children allowed us to set up a special study space. Reachout.BG bought the equipment and arranged the study space together with the children who showed great enthusiasm in assembling the tables and drawing the curtain.

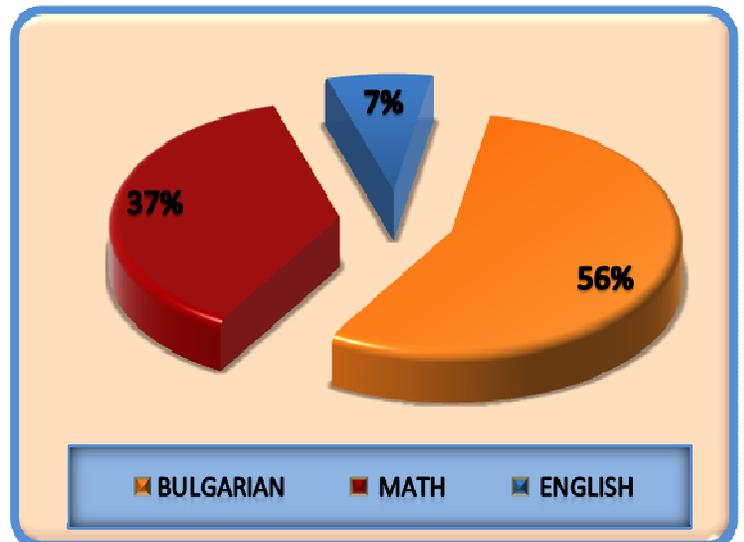
Our program was divided into two directions: **Voluntary support** and **Special support**.

Voluntary support:

We continued the individual school support program which we started in 2011. However the number of children enrolled in the program as well as the volunteers who helped them learn Bulgarian, English and Math, also increased. The curriculum content was determined according to the children's level of advancement on every subject, the study habits and the children's interests. Since the basic aim of Reachout's volunteers is to provoke children's desire to learn more the teaching methods and ways of working were different for each individual child. Most of the children involved in the program received voluntary support for more than one study subject.

Along with that the team of Reachout.BG implemented for the first time a system reporting the hours of voluntary work. In this way we can accurately present how many hours have our 10 permanent volunteers worked as well as how many hours and on which subject they have worked with each child. In 2012 our volunteers worked **317 hours: 177 hours** teaching Bulgarian;

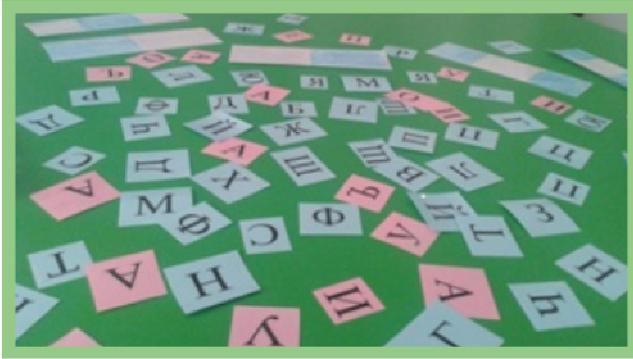
116 hours – Math and **24 hours** – English.



 **Bulgarian** – The main aim of the classes is to help children overcome reading and writing difficulties, as well as to provoke the children’s interest in books. With some of the children we had to focus on basic skill and read short texts, while we read and discussed fairy tales with others. Of course we were also writing homework and even essays.

 **Math** – For some children counting is an easy task while for others it’s not so easy. Some of the children we’re helping found multiplication and division very difficult. We can praise ourselves that this is not a problem anymore. Some children still have difficulties, however they exert a lot of efforts and are getting better and better. We also help children who are doing very well and want to learn how to solve the most difficult math problems.

 **English** – In 2012 there was an increase in requests for English lessons. The reason is that children are learning ever more complex things and grammar is difficult for some of them. The program of Reachout.BG is their only opportunity to get help for learning English outside the school. Therefore new volunteers joined our team to help children learn English.



In February Reachout.BG started a very beneficial cooperation with **Ubisoft Bulgaria**. Together we launched a regular Saturday morning initiative which we called **Reading club**. Most of the children who receive individual support took part in it.

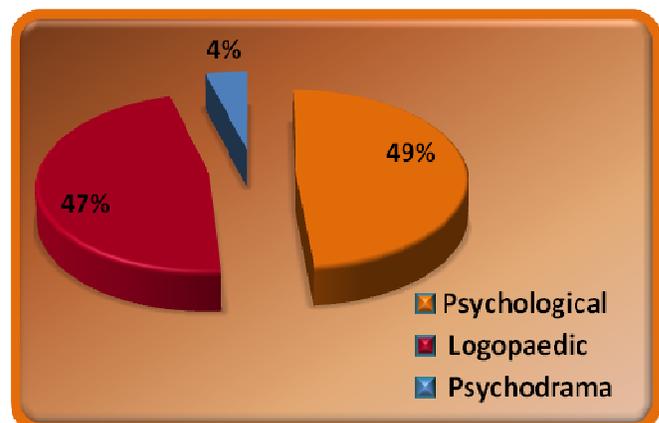
Most of the activities took part mainly at the Home. We also held some activities in the Borisov's garden and went to theater.

Children over 10 years of age rarely have the opportunity to participate in any activities or events in their spare time outside the school or during holidays and vacations. Therefore the Reading club becomes a place where they can have thematic activities and can learn new things or get answers to questions which interest them. Most of the ideas for activities as well as all working materials for the Reading club were provided by the volunteers from Ubisoft.

On two summer Saturdays we had outdoor activities, namely picnics in the nature. We went to the Vitosha mountain and the meadows near the village of Iskrets where we played different sports and amusing games.

Specialized support

In the last year Reachout.BG's psychologists and the speech-therapist carried out a total of **281 consultations**, **137** of which psychological, **132** logopaedic and **12** as psychodrama sessions.



Logopaedic Help

Reachout.BG provides this type of specialized support for children with special needs for a second consecutive year. For the period under review Reachout.BG's speech-therapist continued working individually with the three children with Down syndrome. The progress is slow because the specialized support came pretty late - during children's adolescence. However, the results were noticed by the home's personnel, which became the reason for another request to be made for other children with speech problems.

Psychological Support

During this year weekly individual psychological consultations were provided for the three children with Down syndrome. The psychologist's work with these children was extended in the direction of developing their communicative skills and supporting their cognitive development.

Other two children with no learning disabilities were directed to psychological support because of difficulties they felt in their learning and traumatic experiences they had gone through.

Summer vacation

We provided a child from the home with a tutor to help it make up for the gaps in its Bulgarian language and mathematics knowledge. Studies were carried out three times a week and for the entire summer the child and its tutor succeeded going through the 1st and 2nd grade material. This helped the child compensate what it missed in the first two grades and start 3rd grade more confident in itself and more willing to study.

We enrolled two children from the P. R. Slaveykov orphanage in a theatrical mime workshop for the entire summer vacation. They attended it twice a week,

found new friends and had a lot of fun. In the end of the vacation the children and their new friends made a performance to show us what they'd learned.

How We Helped Children to Prepare for the New School Year

The beginning of every school year is an important moment in all children's lives. They are excited to find out what their new textbooks will be like, what will be the curriculum, what other appliances they will need. The opportunity to make choices of their own in buying school appliances is among the first situations in their lives in which they have to take responsibilities for their tasks. Such moments, however, are rare in the lives of children in Homes. Textbooks, toys, clothes, etc. are bought for everyone by the institutions personnel or enter the homes as donations. Therefore the children do not participate in everyday activities such as going to a store or a book-store, do not understand that there are limits to the money the grown-ups can spend to buy different things and as a whole do not receive the opportunity to build up social experience.

As the Reachout.BG team tries to encourage children to take initiative, to express their wishes and to participate in deciding matters, involving them, in the first days of the school year we set the task for everyone to prepare a list of school appliances. Afterwards every child, accompanied by the volunteer who helps them, went to buy the appliances. A certain amount of money was assigned, equal for each child, under the condition that they purchase their appliances without exceeding this amount. Most of them learned what a budget was for the first time and had to calculate by themselves whether the things they chose to buy are within their means.

For an 8-grader, who no longer has the right to free textbooks, Reachout.BG bought a full set of textbooks and appliances. He was assigned the same task as the rest of the children.

Our team's observation is that the children took huge pleasure in looking for and purchasing stuff as well as in calculating the prices of their appliances.

Support for talented children

In 2012 Reachout.BG provided such a support for the first time for a child, who does not live in an institution.

We helped Maria Daskalova, a 10-grader from 18 High School "William Gladstone" to participate in You and Me in Beijing - Summer Camp 2012, through buying her plane ticket.

The event was organized by the Foreign Languages School at the Beijing University for International Studies. More than 100 teenagers from 14 countries took part in the summer camp.

Maria was chosen to participate in the camp because of her excellent marks in school and her achievements in learning Chinese.

Events

 **In the nature** – In the summer of 2012 we organized one-day trips for the first time, together with the company Ubisoft. We went to Vitosha and to the Iskrets village. We played different sports and entertaining games, picked up cones, hazelnuts and nuts. We told the children interesting things about the mountain, the forest and the rivers. For most of the children these were the only moments outside of Sofia during this summer.

 **To continue** – Children met their old friends, were introduced to new people and watched a theatrical play with the participation of alumni of the Social education and professional center “Knyaz Boris I”. Before the start of the performance, we took a walk at the Military Club

building and discovered that some important years from the Bulgarian history are written on its ceiling.

 **Christmas banitsa & wine** – This was the event we organized to share the progress in our work with the people who had supported us from a long time. As most of them live in the United Kingdom this event took place in the Bulgarian embassy in London.

 **Christmas walk** – It took place on the second day of Christmas for a second consecutive year. We brought the children we work with from the “Petko Slaveykov” Home to the children’s version of the “Magic Flute” in the National Opera House. We were in the second row which allowed the children to have a good view of what’s happening on the stage, to follow the actors and to have a close look of their beautiful costumes. They liked the songs as well.

Training of our volunteers

Reachout.BG relies heavily on its volunteers for conducting its educational activities with the children from the “Petko Slaveykov” orphanage. Therefore it was very important for us to establish a network of volunteers who were willing to work with the children for extended periods of time. To achieve this in 2012 we created a new set of rules for initial selection of volunteers.

Furthermore, we insist that they are prepared to start working with the children and therefore this year we implemented the practice of offering trainings for our volunteers. We hope that in this way we have come up to their expectations as the work with the children is a challenge for them which brings them satisfaction from helping the others on the one hand and helps them gain experience and even have fun on the other hand.

Cooperation with other organizations

In the last year we continued our collaboration with the “Step for Bulgaria” Foundation which carries out the “Steps in the Future” project for neglected children. To help the realization of this project Reachout.BG aided a young man from Shelter in Berkovitsa to start a paid practice in Penny market.

We laid the foundations of a new partnership when in November we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with a protected home for people with learning disabilities over 18 years of age, where a girl with a Down syndrome, whom we’ve helped for a second year, was relocated. The support of the Reachout.BG’s specialists helped her not feel abandoned again and for her fast adaptation at the new place.

Financial account

Financing sources and realized expenses for the period January 1, 2011 – December 31, 2012 in Bulgarian leva (BGN).

In Bulgarian leva (BGN)	2012 г.
Revenue	32,435
Expenses	19,461
<i>Psychologist</i>	3,362
<i>Speech Therapist</i>	2,863
<i>Training</i>	2,687
<i>Others</i>	991
Total direct expenses	9,903
<i>Salaries</i>	7,836
<i>Accounting services</i>	1,200
<i>Others</i>	867

In 2012, Reachout.BG carried out several successful fund-raising campaigns. A large part of the money were collected around Christmas Day after we organized the event **Christmas banitsa & wine**. We would like to emphasize that the above table does not account for the free work of our volunteers which is worth BGN 2 485.

Reachout.BG plans for 2013

-  To extend the reach of our program in the "Petko R. Slaveykov" orphanage prioritizing providing more specialized help to the youngest children;
-  To improve our program for school support via the preparation of individual programs for separate children;
-  To develop a program of cultural-educational and sports activities for the children's spare time;
-  To look for opportunities for providing accommodation and support in finding jobs for adolescents, leaving the homes;
-  To expand our volunteering network via identifying and attracting new corporate partners as well as creating corporate social responsibility programs for companies operating in Bulgaria;
-  To provide training for the volunteers engaged in different Reachout.BG's initiatives;
-  To organize working meetings of NGOs whose aim is to build lasting partnerships and exchange good practices for working with children without parental care;