



**EveryChild Bulgaria  
Foundation  
Annual report  
2006/2007**



### **Our vision:**

„Happy Childhood and Future for Every Child in Bulgaria!“

### **Our mission:**

„Every Child“ Bulgaria Foundation is a non-governmental organization, which in partnership with children, families, communities, local and executive authorities protects the rights of the child in Bulgaria. We develop modern practices and we lobby for policy changes in order to improve the situation of the most vulnerable children.

### **Our guiding principles are:**

- To give an opportunity for equal chance to children and their families living in extreme poverty;
- To protect the rights of the child and support children in need;
- To make efforts for the elimination of discrimination to children with physical or intellectual differences, as well as differences based on religion, gender or ethnicity;
- To propose appropriate models and demonstrate best practices which can be adopted and developed at the local level;
- To respect the dignity, religious and cultural values of our partners;
- To develop open, honest and effective partnerships with our sponsors and constituency ;
- To encourage reform, good governance and the development of civil society.



**“Every Child” Foundation is a member of :**

- The “National Network for Children” , which is a member of the Regional child network for Central and Eastern Europe, Russia and the Baltic states associated with UNICEF (RNC);
- “Social policies” Platform;
- Southeast European Child Rights Network (SEECRAN);
- International Foster Care Organization (IFCO).

## **General Review of Activities in 2006**

“Every Child” Bulgaria Foundation has operated in Bulgaria since 1992 through the representation of *EveryChild UK* to support the central and local government in the process of reformation of the social policy in Bulgaria and the development of social services for children and families at risk.

“Every Child“ Bulgaria Foundation was established in October 2004 as a foundation in public interest, and it started its activities as a Bulgaria non-governmental organization in January 2005.

The organization is licensed for social services for children by the State Agency for Child Protection (SACP) and registered by the Agency for Social Assistance (ASA) at the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy for delivery of a range of social services for children and families.

In 2006 the organization has been implementing the following projects:

- Complex for Social Services for Children and Families – Plovdiv
- “Equal Access to Education” Project in Haskovo
- Centre for consultation and support to children at risk and their families

**In 2006 the organization continued implementing the planned strategic objectives for the period 2003-2007:**

1. Equal access, improved systems and legislation for children with disabilities, Roma children guaranteeing inclusive and quality education for 1-8 grades in three municipalities in Bulgaria.
2. Improved and developed legislation, systems and structures for delivery of family care, as well as care close to that of the family to children in institutions or children at risk of being accommodated in institutions.



3. „Every Child“ Bulgaria Foundation is independent and respected NGO.

**The three main program components:**

1. Education.
2. Family type of care.
3. Organizational development.

**Geographic range of the projects during the year:**

1. Haskovo.
2. Plovdiv.
3. Sofia.

**Personnel:**

The average staff number during the financial year 2006 was 20 employees. These included management staff, financial and administrative staff, experts, social workers, psychologists, rehabilitation therapists, social assistants.

**Budget and funding sources:**

The budget for 2006 was equal to BGN 345,608.00 . The sources of funding are as follows:

- 80% institutional donor *EveryChild UK*;
- 15% PHARE PROGRAM through Ministry of Labour and Social Policy;
- 0.03% “HENKEL”, Bulgaria;
- 0.02% PHARE PROGRAMME through Ministry of Finances



## **The activities of the organization on the three strategic objectives in 2006:**

1. Equal access, improved systems and legislation for children with disabilities, Roma children guaranteeing inclusive and quality education for 1-8 grades in three municipalities in Bulgaria.

### **1.1. “Equal Access to Education” Project - Haskovo.**

The timeframe of the project is 2004 – 2007. In 2006 a range of activities were undertaken in achieving the aims and objectives of the project and contributing to the sustainability of the results. In the school year 2006/2007 a total of 21 children with different disabilities and educational needs were integrated in the mainstream schools and kindergartens in Haskovo. This contributed to achieving the integration of 70 children in total from the start of the project.

#### **Project goal and partners**

The project goal is to ensure that children with disabilities in Haskovo have effective access to two mainstream kindergartens and one school by 2007. Within the remits of the project accessible architectural environment and access to transportation to school and back should be achieved in the school. Effective supporting systems should be achieved as well. All this is achieved by the implementation of Bulgarian legislation and international legal acts in the area of inclusive education as well as the joint efforts of all interested parties in the project.

#### **Activities**

The architectural accessibility was still being in process in 2006. The ramp in the “Otets Paisii” school was being further reconstructed to ensure the right inclination for wheelchairs.

The recruitment of specialists in the three educational bodies needed to support the children with special educational needs continued. These people were providing additional support: resource teachers, speech-therapists, hearing impairments rehabilitator.

A range of training sessions took place where parents, teachers, local authority administration from Haskovo, personal assistants of the children with disabilities took active part. The training sessions ensured increased capacity of the local actors in the following areas: development of individual educational programmes, assisting methods to children with disabilities, implementation of the Bulgarian legislation in the area, sensitivity and awareness on disabilities.

#### **1. Training sessions that took place:**

- training the personal assistant of a child with disabilities – trainer: Pavel Pavlov, freelance psychologist and trainer
  - training the members of the Team for Complex Pedagogical Evaluation - structure of the Regional Educational Inspectorate in Haskovo – trainers: Prof. Radulov and Mira Tsvetkova, both from Sofia University, “Special Pedagogics” Faculty
  - Training the project team and the pilot educational bodies teams – trainer – Tatjana Collin (Technical Expert recruited by the organisation)

#### **2. Study-tours :**



- accessible kindergarten in Sofia;
- Serbia, Subotica and Belgrade;

The individual educational training programmes that all children needed were all prepared – a total of 21 by the end of the year. All of these programmes were being implemented in line with the special needs and the progress of the children.

Two meetings of the Steering Group on the co-ordination and management of the project took place. Representatives of all local and national authorities as well as all other stakeholders took part in this Group.

As a result of the good practice and its positive effects, the project had an influence and from this school year 7 more schools opened their doors for children with disabilities, and the number of integrated children became 70.

It is natural that the relations between the project partners indicated that the other schools and kindergartens in Haskovo also needed support in the process of implementing effective inclusive education. EveryChild Bulgaria Foundation is continuing its search for additional funds to ensure that inclusive education could be integrated in all schools in the town, the region and nationally.

In 2006 a Project for an SMS Donation Campaign was prepared to collect funds for the construction of adapted elevators. Our Project partners are the Ministry of Justice, the State Agency for Child Protection, Nova Television, Radio FM+, two schools in Sofia and one in Haskovo. The Project will be launched in April 2007.

In 2006 a Project for applying for a donation before the “Henkel” company for purchasing of a lap-top and Braille display for sightless children was prepared. The donation was made formally in December 2006 to the Haskovo Resource Centre.

The contract between “Henkel Bulgaria” OOD and the “EveryChild” Bulgaria Foundation was concluded on 15.06.2006 in Sofia.

The benefactor donated an earmarked donation in the amount of the BGN equivalent of EUR 7,500 (seven thousand and five hundred) for purchasing a computer with a Braille display and a Braille printer to equip the resource cabinet in the mainstream school “St. Cyril and Metodii” – Haskovo City. The purpose of this donation is to assist the integration and training of children with vision impairments.

The mobility of the purchased equipment permits it to be assigned to and used in different schools according to the needs of the children. The software supplier company decided to donate it to the Foundation and with the EUR 1,000 foreseen for it we decided that it would be appropriate to purchase equipment and instruments for developing the fine psychomotor system of children with disabilities. In the beginning of each school year the director of the resource centre shall assign the donation to schools and kindergartens where it will be most needed and used.

According to the donation contract all sightless children from the whole Haskovo region will have access to this equipment.

The equipment for developing the fine psychomotor system will be assigned to two mainstream kindergartens and “St. Paisii Hilendarski” school because they have the highest number of integrated children with special educational needs.



Upon the completion of the “Equal Access to Education” Project, the donated equipment will continue to be used in the most rational manner for the needs of children with disabilities in Haskovo Region. This is a guarantee that no matter in which school or kindergarten the child is integrated it will receive the best possible supporting environment for its development.

It is our deep conviction that success in local practices should transform into an instrument for changes at a national level. This is one of the reasons for us to produce a film on the project, in which the main players in the process – the children, parents and teachers - will tell us how each of them was able to achieve what they are doing successfully for a second year now. The promotion of the film “Equal Access to Education” is planned for 2007.

The team of “EveryChild” Foundation is convinced that only purposeful and continuous actions can lead to a structural change and that is namely what the educational system of children with disabilities needs – a structural change, a change in the way of thinking, a change in the attitudes at all levels: parents, teachers and supervisors.

Lobbying for legislative amendments in the area of integrated education:

- The expert in the “Inclusive Education” project took part in a Ministry of Education and Science working group on the elaboration of a new Regulation for training of children and school-children with special educational needs and/or chronic illnesses.

**2. An improved and developed legislation, systems and structures for providing family or close to family care for children in institutions or at risk of being placed in an institution.**

**2.1. Project “Provision of Services in a Complex for Social Services for Children and Families in Plovdiv Municipality”.**

The project for development of services in the Complex for Social Services for Children and Families in Plovdiv Municipality is part of the project “Child Welfare Reform in Bulgaria” of the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy. The value of the Project is BGN 293,324 and it is funded by the World Bank. After the successful holding of a tender, a tri-lateral agreement was signed between the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy, Plovdiv Municipality and “EveryChild” Foundation, which is a consortium of five NGOs.

The Project timeframe was 01.07.2005–31.06.2006. After this date Plovdiv Municipality undertook the administration and management of CSSCF and the developed and provided services independently.

During the Project, part of the services in the Complex for Social Services for Children and Families, Plovdiv, were provided by a Consortium, in which “EveryChild” was the leading organisation. The organizations participating in the Project consortium of “EveryChild” were: the National Alliance for Volunteer Action, Community Care Foundation “Diva”, Regional IGA Fund and “Samaritans” Association. The challenge faced by the leading organization was the fact that CSSCF, Plovdiv was the most large-scale in the country – as far as financing, human resources, and building fund are concerned. Moreover, for the first time in Bulgaria 5 non-governmental organizations, which have proven to be suppliers of social services for children and families formed a Consortium for such activities.



**The common goal of the project for development of CSSCF in Plovdiv is:**

- To improve welfare and protection of children's rights in Plovdiv Municipality through promoting the development of community-based services (for example deinstitutionalization, prevention of abandonment and services for street children) such as economically effective alternatives to institutional care for children.

**The specific goals foresee the development of CSSCF services in the following tracks:**

- **deinstitutionalization** – services for the development of alternatives forms of childcare: foster care and adoption, services for reintegration of children from children's homes into their families; improved quality of care and social integration of children from specialized institutions in Plovdiv Municipality;
- **prevention** – services for prevention of child abandonment; services in support of pregnant women and mothers with infants in risk of being abandoned; prevention of deviational child behaviour; information and consultancy services at a Hotline telephone, daily care and services for children with disabilities;
- **Working with street children and prevention of school drop-out** – services in support of temporarily or permanently homeless children, of children working or living on the street and of school drop-outs.

**The CSSCF Team**

The CSSCF team consisted of permanent staff, volunteers, family consultants and experts from the organizations. In total the team was around 60 – 70 people.

- **The permanent staff** consisted of Complex employees at a managerial level, social workers, psychologists, rehabilitation therapists, social assistants, financial and administrative staff.
- A **volunteer CSSCF team** was built-up in support of the permanent staff in all of its activities. A scheme for support of the work of the CSSCF team was developed.
- **The consultants:** a family therapist, child psychiatrist, child psychologist, lawyer specialized in family law, doctors and others, provide more specialized services to the children and families. They joined the multi-disciplinary teams of Complex permanent staff and volunteers depending on the children and families - addressees of the services.
- **Experts of the "EveryChild" Foundation Consortium** provided training, methodological support and supervision to the teams of staff and volunteers.

**Standards of CSSCF Services**

Regarding the Complex, "EveryChild" Foundation guarantees the development of services in line with **the highest modern standards**. The policies, procedures and methodology of services corresponded to the newest notions of child development and child care. They are supported by tested practices of the organizations of the Foundation Consortium and guarantee the protection of child rights to the largest extent.



Upon completion of the project part, which was financed by the MLSP and the World Bank within the Project “Reform for Improvement of Child Welfare in Bulgaria”, the funding was overtaken by the municipal budget as a delegated state activity.

### **The anticipated Project results were**

- employed, trained and managed CSSCF staff – 36 people;
- inclusion of 28 volunteers in service-development;
- Developed CSSCF staff capacity for provision of expertise to the Consortium organizations;
- Rules of Procedure of CSSCF, the Centre for Public Support, “Mother and Baby” Unit and Centre for Working with Children in the Street approved by Plovdiv Municipality and the MLSP;
- An established and functioning range of services in support of families in childcare, developed in three buildings based in Plovdiv Municipality;
- Reduction of the percentage of children abandoned upon or soon after delivery (compared to the total number of deliveries);
- Reduction of the percentage of children of the total number of care cases, which are accommodated in institutions, including children with disabilities;
- Reduction of the percentage of children raised in institutions compared to the total number of the child population;
- Reduction of the cases of school drop-outs;
- Increased percentage of children accommodated in a family environment;
- Successful social reintegration of children and young people leaving institutional care;
- Over 100 participants passed parent courses for primary prevention of abandonment;
- 20 parents with problems in relation to protection of their child passed parent courses;
- Held over 500 family consultation sessions, including social, family planning, legal, psychological;
- 70 families of children and young people who suffered violence included in the individual and group programmes;
- 250 children and young people who are neglected or at risk due to other factors included in the programmes;
- 250 families of children and young people who are neglected or at risk due to other factors included in the programmes;
- Over 200 professionals and institutions will have information on the new services and will forward clients;
- Formed multi-disciplinary team to work with children with deviant behaviour;
- 72 children worked with a notebook “I am learning to choose”;
- Conducted 4 days of open doors with over 200 visitors;
- Work with 10 children in Life History, month 11;
- 30 meetings between children and parents, month 8;
- Trained 30 people from 5 institutions for child care planning and direct work with children, month 11;
- Conducted 15 group sessions with children from institutions;



- Involvement of people from the communities in the development and application of the services;
- Developed information materials package for enlistment of foster families, month 4;
- Held information campaigns;
- Organized 1 support group for foster parents with 10 participants;
- Over 30 adoptive families passed a preparatory course;
- Minimum 20 street children in Plovdiv received adequate and effective services from the Centre for Work with Street Children;
- Trained staff for active on-the-spot work with street children;
- Development of club activities according to age and individual interests for 36 children;
- Preventing the school dropping-out of 36 children through inclusion in the services offered by the Centre for Work with Street Children;
- Groups for parental skills;
- Held 36 consultations for families with children living on the street and dropping out of school;

### **Achieved Project Results**

- Completed initial selection and ensured on-going selection for the needs of the teams;
- Employed and trained permanent staff for application of services for prevention and deinstitutionalization of children and families;
- Completed selection of consultants and agreement on the provision of services to CSSCF clients
- Developed and practically tested methodology for selection of volunteers – selection, training, motivation;
- Organized two formal campaigns for selection of volunteers, total selected volunteers for CSSCF activities – 21;
- Developed systems for support and development of the teams through on-going training, methodical days, individual and team supervisions;
- Formed CSSCF team of permanent staff, consultants, volunteers and experts;
- Disseminated 25,000 information materials, media coverage 50 times;
- Published 3 issues of information bulletins on CSSCF activities. Disseminated over 300 editions of monthly programmes on CSSCF activities;
- Held official CSSCF opening, Open-Doors Day, two Regional Meetings, four Children Days and a Final Project Event.
- Held regional meeting on prevention and regional meeting on deinstitutionalization
- Conducted information campaigns “Foster Care” and “School without Violence”;
- Produced film on CSSCF;
- Developed and functioning wide partner network;
- Established working relations with the “Child Protection” Department;
- The Plovdiv Complex is the leader among the 10 pilot complexes according to number of serviced clients. 709 clients used Complex services in the pilot part of the Project;
- Conducted 1,560 individual and family sessions;



- Organized 16 group forms for provision of services and over 20 types of individual and family forms of social services provided with a different work purpose under a total of 10 activities;
- Number of conducted sessions with group users of services – 268;
- Number of participants in group sessions – 463;
- Developed organizational and management systems for administration and planning of the activities;
- Developed systems for monitoring, assessment and reporting of the activities in CSSCF;
- Entry into possession of the three CSSCF buildings. Acceptance of basic and additional equipment;
- Overall delivery of CSSCF work to Plovdiv Municipality in view of guaranteeing sustainability of the activities;
- Increased sensitivity of team, clients, professional communities and partners regarding the needs of children and the problems of abandonment and institutionalization.

All activities planned by “EveryChild” Foundation and the partners in the Consortium for development of CSSCF, Plovdiv were developed and the results exceeded expectations.

## **2.2. Project „Centre for Consultation and Support of Children at Risk and their Families” - Sofia**

The Project was launched at the end of December 2005 with duration until December 31, 2006. It was prepared in line with the programme for child protection in Vazrazhdane, Ilinden and Krasna Poliana areas and adopted by the Commission for Child Protection under the Social Assistance Directorate of Vazrazhdane Municipality, of which the Foundation is a member. Project activities were in line with the basic priorities of the programme adopted by the Child Protection Commission of Vazrazhdane Municipality. “Animus Association” Foundation was the official Project partner.

The goal of the Project was to demonstrate a sustainable model of partnership between non-governmental organizations, institutions, the local authorities, communities and children in the delivery of community based social services for prevention of abandonment of children at risk and for social integration, authorization and re-integration of children from Home for Raising of Children Deprived of Parental Care “P. R. Slaveikov” **through the establishment of a Centre for Consultation of Children at Risk and their Families, providing services mainly on the territory of Vazrazhdane, Ilinden and Krasna Poliana Municipalities.**

**The developed services are organized in the following directions:**

- **prevention of abandonment:** specialized assessment; coordination of the multi-disciplinary team; training, intermediation and advocacy; informing and consultation; practical support; work on the supporting system; family conferences; individual work with children; group work with children; therapeutic work with children/parents;
- **reintegration and social integration** of children from Home for Raising of Children Deprived of Parental Care “P. R. Slaveikov”, individual work with children;



supervised meetings and contacts between the biological family and the child; family consulting; advocacy; practical support; support for parents whose children were accommodated in a children's home and reintegrated; family consulting and support upon return of the child in the family; group activities related to authorization of the children by the institution; ensuring activities in support of social integration of children.

In the framework of the Project a team of social workers developed and delivered services to children and their families in the communities of the three areas, children from Home for Raising of Children Deprived of Parental Care "P. R. Slaveikov", "Sveta Sofia" Hospital. The "EveryChild" Foundation team works in active partnership with the Department for Child Protection under the Social Assistance Directorate of Vazrazhdane Municipality. As a result of the signed tri-lateral partnership agreement between "EveryChild" Foundation, Social Assistance Directorate, Vazrazhdane Municipality and "Sveta Sofia" Hospital, the social workers gave everyday shifts on the territory of the clinic with the purpose of ensuring support and consultations for mothers who have decided to abandon their children right after delivery and for prevention of abandonment. On the territory of the Home for Raising of Children Deprived of Parental Care "P. R. Slaveikov", the social workers contributed for reintegration of the children accommodated in the institution and for ensuring possibilities for their social integration. Upon a request of the home's staff, the social worker works with the children for the acquisition of special skills and competences.

### **Project results**

#### **"Establishment of a Centre for Consultation and Support of Children at Risk and their Families on the Territory of Vazrazhdane, Ilinden and Krasna Poliana Areas" for the period 2005 – 2006**

The achieved Project results were:

- An employed and trained team for delivery of community based services for children at risk and their families.
- A developed wide range of community based services for prevention of abandonment and reintegration
- Developed partner network around the coordination and management of the centre
  - Set-up project management group with the participation of the local and state authorities
  - Signed Cooperation Agreements with Social Assistance Directorate – Vazrazhdane, Home for Raising of Children Deprived of Parental Care "P. R. Slaveikov" and "Sveta Sofia" Hospital
- Developed wide partner network for case work. Over 50 professionals are partners in the Project activities.
- Raised awareness and knowledge of the communities in the three areas on the problems of abandonment and institutionalization of children.
- Two types of brochures elaborated, over 1,000 copies disseminated.



- Work on a total of 69 cases aimed at prevention of abandonment. A total of 305 meetings with children and families held for rendering family support and 84 meetings with representatives of local and state institutions with the purpose of intermediation, advocacy and work with the supporting system.
- 32 mothers and children born in “Sveta Sofia” Hospital received prevention services at the maternity ward level. After consultations with the social workers in the maternity ward around 40% of the mothers who expressed a wish to abandon their child withdrew from their intention.
- Over 100 children placed in the Home for Raising of Children Deprived of Parental Care “P. R. Slaveikov” used services for authorization, social integration and reintegration. Over 70 children were consulted in the course of 135 meetings. 89 children received support for celebrating personal events. 55 children took part in group activities for development of social skills, 32 children were included in sports clubs with the intermediation of the Project team.
- Wide range of services applied for development of parental capacity.
- Introduced effective models for working with children and families, including from ethnic minorities.
- 20 student volunteers were included in the Project activities.
- A guide of suppliers of social services for children and families in Sofia Municipality licensed by the SACP elaborated. 200 copies disseminated.
- Held Round Table on partnership in the delivery of social services for children and families.
- Held 3 meetings with the community for awareness-raising concerning problems of abandonment and institutionalization of children.
- Formed children’s discussion group on rights of children. 4 meetings held with the participation of 20 children.
- Elaborated and disseminated Charter of the children from Vazrazhdane, Ilinden and Krasna Poliana Area.

In the framework of the Project a wide range of community-based services was elaborated, focused on prevention of abandonment and reintegration. The professional competence of the key Project partners contributed largely to the success of the Project – “EveryChild” Foundation, “Association Animus” Foundation and the Department for Child Protection – Vazrazhdane. Sharing common values and priorities concerning child development, the partners focused the services and practices on the actual needs and rights of the children at risk and their families on the territory of Vazrazhdane, Ilinden and Krasna Poliana Area.

As a result of the Project activities sustainability of the activities and services was achieved, which we see as a guarantee for quality and effectiveness. The developed partner network continues to function around the Centre services and case work. The team continues to work on delivery of services for prevention of abandonment and reintegration in a narrower target group in view of guaranteeing higher quality and effectiveness of the services. The activities of the maternity ward



team have been preserved, whereas the social workers continue to take shifts with the purpose of consulting and supporting women who have expressed a wish to abandon their child after delivery.

In view of the above, we believe that the implemented Project activities and the achieved results guarantee the fulfilment of the set goals.

### **What is the benefit of the Project and beneficiaries?**

#### Direct users

- 69 children at risk of being abandoned and their families receive community-based services for prevention of abandonment. 32 mothers and children born in “Sveta Sofia” Hospital have received services for prevention at a maternity ward level.
- Over 100 children placed in the Home for Raising of Children Deprived of Parental Care “P. R. Slaveikov” benefit from services for authorization, social integration and reintegration.
- 20 children from the Ilinden, Vazrazhdane and Krasna Poliana Areas participate in a discussion group on children’s rights.
- 15 professionals working on the problems of children and participating in the Child Protection Commission on the territory of the three areas have received support for the development of skills for planning and coordination of community based services.
- 90 representatives from the three areas – citizens and professionals took part in the meetings and discussions on the problems of children in the three areas and the effect of institutionalization.
- 38 specialists in the area of alternative services to institutional case, Project partners, clients and beneficiaries of the Centre took part in the Round Table organized in the framework of the Project.
- 20 student volunteers took part in training and work on Project activities.
- 50 professionals are partners in the Project activities and cases, on which the Centre is working.

#### Indirect users:

- Over 480 children are indirect beneficiaries of consultations with professionals working on the territory of the three areas.
- Over 300 children and representatives of the Community have access to brochures, information on the problems and rights of children and the Charter elaborated by the children in the three areas.
- Over 100 professionals, representatives of the community and the local institutions had access to the guide of suppliers of social services for children and families in Sofia Municipality licensed by the SACP.
- Over 20 representatives of the local authorities and children’s institutions.
- Over 10 representatives of local business.



### **3. „Every Child“ Bulgaria Foundation is an independent and respected non-governmental organization, a preferable partner to children, families, communities, local and central government.**

To achieve this strategic goal the management of the organization took specific actions which can be summarized in brief in the following directions:

#### **3.1. Strategic Management**

In 2006 the organization had its first Bulgarian members of the Board registered. The Bulgarian members had their first meeting in September and since that meeting continued quarterly meetings to ensure strategic management of the organization. The members of the Board are prominent members of the Bulgarian society and each one of them is a committed members. They are: Mr. Maxim Behar – Executive Director of M3 Communications Ltd. And a Chair of the Bulgarian Business Leaders Forum; Mrs Zlatka Mihova – teacher in New Bulgarian University on social studies and family therapist; Mr. Plamen Dimitrov – Chairperson of the Bulgarian Association of Psychologists and an Organisational Development expert.

In this reporting period the organization had its annual meeting and agreed its future three years. The future strategy is indicating three main strategic directions for the organisation: 1. Specialising and improving the quality of key services for the most vulnerable children and their families in supporting the process of deinstitutionalization in Bulgaria. 2. Increasing the visibility of the organization, 3. Diversifying the funding streams for the organization.

To ensure contemporary systems and techniques for management and development of the human resources the organization continued its partnership with the HR agency “Docheva and Partners”.

#### **3.2. Finances and fundraising**

This year was very active in terms of fundraising. The organization had a total of 16 applications to the following donors: 3 Municipalities, PHARE Programme (Deinstitutionalisation component), two NGOs (BCAF and FWCI), state budget, South East European Trust, one company “Henkel”. Out of these 6 were successful.

### **3.3. Every Child foundation is a preferable partner to children, families, communities, local and central government.**

- During the past year we received 9 proposals from non-governmental organizations and 4 proposals from municipal structures for joint activities.
- In 2006 “EveryChild” Foundation widened its project activities by aiming its efforts at drafting and submission of project proposals within the PHARE Programme, Project “Deinstitutionalisation through Provision of Community Based Services for Risk Groups”. “EveryChild” was a partner in two Projects-



- in Plovdiv, of the National Alliance for Volunteer Action and of 3 municipalities – Sadovo, Rakovski and Sopot
- with Montana Municipality

The Projects were won at Phase 1 of the Programme and the launching of the activities is scheduled in the beginning of 2007.

- At the end of 2006, an invitation for applying under phase 2 of the PHARE Programme, Project “Deinstitutionalisation through Provision of Community Based Services for Risk Groups” was received from Velingrad Municipality and from the International Social Service of Smolian Municipality.
- In 2006 three representatives of “EveryChild” Foundation were included as members of 3 working groups at the SACP in relation to the National Integrated Plan for Child Protection. The work of the groups will be ongoing within the whole year 2007.
  - We received positive feedback from partners and beneficiaries of the project services.
  - In 2006 three Daily Centers for Disabled Children (Haskovo, Velingrad and Dimitrovgrad) stated a need for training in supervision and teamwork before “EveryChild” Foundation. The staff of the DCDCs in Haskovo and Velingrad was trained in 2006 and the training of the Dimitrovgrad staff was planned for January 2007.
  - In October 2006 “EveryChild” Foundation prepared a position on the amendments to the Regulation on Selection, Evaluation and Approval of Foster Parents and on Professional Foster Care. The position was disseminated among the state institutions and the civil sector. The position was highly appreciated and the feedback on it is positive.
  - We endeavoured to include the children and families with whom we work, our non-governmental sector partners, local and national authorities in the management of our projects.

## **Media**

The organisation sustained its active contacts with the Bulgarian media and generally the society to ensure promotion of our activities and results.

In October the organisation celebrated its 15th Anniversary since it first started operation in Bulgaria. Back in 1992 the Christian Children’s Fund of Great Britain started supporting vulnerable children and families. We received greetings from the Deputy Minister of Labour and Social Policy, the Chairperson of the State Agency for Child Protection, Mayors and other partners.

Throughout the year we have participated in programmes in the following media: Balkan Bulgarian Televisions, the National Radio (Hristo Botev programme), Darik Radio, Info Radio.



The organization continued its active **Lobbying and Advocacy** activities.

On European level the Country Director delivered a presentation at the Council of Europe on the situation of social services delivery in Bulgaria – opportunities and challenges.

In Bulgaria the organization submitted one position paper on professional foster care to Governmental structures to express an alternative position on the measures needed for the successful development of this service. Experts of the organization take part in three working groups of the National Council for Child Protection, the national working group for the elaboration of a National Strategy for the Child, in two working groups for the update of quality standards on social services.

On local level the organization took part in 3 Municipal Committees on Child Protection (consultative bodies on child protection on local level).

We continue our active collaboration with the NGOs. We are still members of the management bodies of two networks: the Social Platform (Formerly Social Family) and the National Network for Children.

We are positive for the future of “EveryChild” Bulgaria Foundation and most of all – for the reform and for the lives of the most vulnerable children!

**Ivanka Shalapatova**

**Director**

**EveryChild Bulgaria Foundation**

**24 April 2007**