

Frontline Bulgaria

November 2012 Newsletter 23



The Team!

Mary, Gill, Esther and Sophie (OT's) and Laura (SLT) had a very busy week in Ruse, 3rd to 11th November...joined by Velizar who succeeded in translating even the most obscure English words!

Training!

Topics included *Team-Working* and *Postural Management & Positioning* at Ruse University (Esther and Laura) and *Values & Inclusion, Communication* and *Sensory Integration* at Baba Tonka House (Mary and Gill). The lively and interactive workshops involved 60 OT students and 10 staff from childrens' and adult services in Dve Mogili, Shumen and Pazardjik

Families!

An evening at Baba Tonka House, hosted by Friendship Church, provided another opportunity for parents of children with disabilities to meet and explore the needs of their families – together with the Frontline team, Cristian from Motivation Romania and guests Rich and John from IMPACT/Mosaic, USA. Frontline is in touch with over 35 families in Ruse

Sensory Room!

A room at Baba Tonka House was temporarily transformed into a small but cosy therapy space, improvising with physio balls, gym mat, parachute, bean bags, sensory objects, games etc.

Children!

We enjoyed lively individual sessions with twelve wonderful children at home, school, day centre and Baba Tonka House, meeting many of them and their parents for the first time. We began to get to know them and assess their postural, mobility, seating, communication and sensory processing needs. Many wheelchairs and buggies were checked and adjusted, particularly in the small group homes. Laura assessed children that have feeding and swallowing difficulties

Equipment!

More equipment was issued from Baba Tonka House to meet assessed needs. With the help of Friendship volunteers, many more items have been collected and delivered to Social Care Homes, Baby Homes and families elsewhere in Bulgaria, enhancing mobility, independence and quality of life

Relaxation!

We shared news and exchanged ideas with many friends, with and without disabilities; Appreciated fine weather and blue skies throughout the week; Enjoyed lots of lovely Bulgarian food;



Received the usual warm welcome at Friendship Church; Celebrated achievements such as the first anniversary of the Association of Bulgarian Ergotherapists (ABET) of which Mary and Gill are delighted and privileged to be honorary members. Thank you to Liliya and Petya from Ruse University!

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2013!

'New Frontiers in Occupational Therapy'

EU Leonardo mobility project in partnership with Ruse University and Friendship

In October we received our EU contract and funding, enabling us to offer 6-month placements in Ruse during 2013. The project offers OTs an invaluable opportunity to develop their personal and professional skills in a different cultural environment. It aims to build strength into the development of Occupational Therapy in Bulgaria as well as offering community-based therapy.

***We welcome enquiries from UK OT's.
Please contact Frontline for further information
and application form***



Thank you to everyone who has supported us in various practical, material, financial and prayerful ways during 2012 including...

Friends of Bulgaria + Actability + Meetings Industry Meeting Needs + PhysioNet + A2HW + Delamode Transport + Motivation Romania + Friendship Church + Sawyers Church + New Life Church + York St. John University + Ruse University + FSCI + Karina + Children from Future + Woodhouse School + individual donors and many other NGO's, friends and colleagues in the UK and Bulgaria. We share this journey together!

ARE YOU an OT, PT or SLT with an interest in areas such as paediatrics, posture management, seating, mobility, sensory integration, family support, dysphagia?

Would you consider joining a volunteer Frontline team going to Ruse for a week in 2013? You'd need to be self-funding but the rewards are great!

To find out more, please contact Gill Soper on gill.frontlinepartnership@gmail.com

Please pass this request on!

Please consider whether you could support 'Frontline Bulgaria'

by going to www.frontlinepartnership.org and donating via



Thank you!



To follow Frontline's activities in Brentwood and Bulgaria, please go to:-

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/frontlinepartnership> (Frontline)

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/frontlinebulgarianews> (Frontline Bulgaria News group)

www.frontlinepartnership.org