

Frontline Bulgaria

December 2014 Newsletter 27



Original design by Frontline's 'CAFÉ ART' project

*We wish all our friends a very
Happy Christmas!*

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace ...'
Rom. 15 v 13

Highlights of 2014!

March – Celebrating the completion of the EU project 'New Frontiers in Occupational Therapy'!

The final event included training seminars in Ruse and Veliko Tarnovo and an 'Open Day' at Ruse University to showcase the development of the OT profession in Ruse and the work of four Frontline OTs throughout 2013. The Centre for Social Rehabilitation and Integration, opened by the Association of Bulgarian Occupational Therapists in Ruse in 2013, is now well established, providing therapy services for children with disabilities.

September – Celebrating the 10th anniversary of Friendship Church!

The weekend included a visit to the Rock Monastery, a delicious Feast and a Thanksgiving service. We were very happy to share in this special occasion with other visitors from Bulgaria, Germany and England, including friends from European Partners in Christ and Bures Church, Essex who have supported Friendship Church for many years. We also made a brief trip to see friends in Vidin where Frontline Bulgaria started in 2002, including a visit to the amazing 400 year old Venetian warehouse that has been renovated by Christian Mission Church, creating a very special youth centre and place of worship.

October – Friendship fruit and vegetable farm!

Samuil Teodosiev from Friendship Church lived and worked in Essex from May to September before going to All Nations Christian College in Hertfordshire. After visiting Frontline's community horticulture project 'The Gates' in May, Samuil encouraged Friendship Church to start a similar project in Ruse involving care-leavers living in protected homes and youngsters with learning disabilities. A piece of land was soon found and the first crops (onions and garlic) were planted during our visit. We also enjoyed a session of groupwork including decorating a cake as a field of carrots and pumpkins!



November – Provision of equipment for children with special needs! For some years Frontline has collected donations of good used equipment from various UK locations including PhysioNet in Yorkshire and has delivered them to Delamode, Essex for free transport to Sofia. Having linked PhysioNet directly to Delamode we are hoping Frontline will be able to step back somewhat from storage and transport logistics. In Ruse, Lily Buyuklieva efficiently arranges collection from Sofia, and onward distribution to children throughout Bulgaria by means of her new Facebook group 'Equipment for Children with Special Needs'. Within 6 weeks the group has rapidly gained its' first 200 members, indicating the considerable depth of need.

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/549755425155695>

Lily attaches a modest tariff to each item, towards transport costs. After the shipment and distribution of the first load of 32 items, we believe that this system will continue to be successful and sustainable. We are very grateful for the ongoing support of Delamode Transport and the PhysioNet volunteers, and for the immense efforts of Lily who herself has a young daughter with a disability.

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/physionet?fref=ts>



PhysioNet 
Helping the disabled overseas

What next?

Since 2002 'Frontline Bulgaria' teams have focused particularly on the needs of children and young adults with disabilities living in institutional care or resettled into small homes. In recent years our emphasis has changed to include children living at home with their families, and on encouraging the development of Occupational Therapy in Bulgaria.

Frontline is essentially committed to building an inclusive community by helping to break down barriers to inclusion and offering opportunities for people to participate and contribute, regardless of disability or disadvantage

Whilst continuing to help facilitate the provision of donated special needs equipment, Frontline Bulgaria's **main focus in 2015** will be to support Friendship's community action programme, particularly the development of the fruit and vegetable farm which we aim to 'twin' with Frontline's similar project 'The Gates' in Brentwood. We believe this new community-driven venture in Ruse could be replicated elsewhere in Bulgaria, providing valuable opportunities for training and employment, whilst enriching local communities.

Thank you so much for all your practical, material, prayerful and financial support for 'Frontline Bulgaria' throughout 2014



To follow Frontline's activities in Brentwood and Bulgaria, please go to
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/frontlinepartnership>
<https://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/frontlinebulgarianews>
www.frontlinepartnership.org


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