In support of children in Foster Care
September 2018 - March 2019
For our Children Foundation

Why did we choose Foster care?

With only 9 institutions for child care being closed in 2018, there are still 27 more Homes for Children without parents.

More than 800 children continue to live in these institutions deprived of the love and care essential for the development of every child.

In 2018 there were more than 3000 reported cases of risk for children to be separated from their parents. Half of those led to a separation of the child from the family.

Every child deserves a family

All children deserve the soft embrace, warm smile and kind attention of a loving family. The only way to provide abandoned children with such nurturing care in the short term is to find a foster family which would take care of them until adoption. Foster care is a challenging profession which requires dedicated foster parents and qualified social workers.

- There are no less than 2351 foster families in Bulgaria which take care of 2205 children (Sept 2018).
- Thanks to the funds raised by the Festival of Asian Cultures 53 children received security, safety and the opportunity to pursue their full potential in the home of a foster family in the period September 2018 - March 2019.
- In the first three months of 2019 3 new children were welcomed in foster families which the Foundation supports.

Together we provide Future for a Broken Childhood

1. We recruit the best Foster Parents for our Children.
2. We equip Foster Parents with key Knowledge and Skills.
3. Our Social Workers provide 24-hour support to all Foster Families.
4. We provide a Variety of Specialists to ensure the Holistic Development of Every Child.
5. We apply the Highest Standards of Quality Social Care.
6. We focus on the most Vulnerable Children at the Youngest Age.
7. We cultivate Communication and Socialization Skills.
8. We advocate for qualitative development of Foster Care on state level.
How we make a difference?

- Taking care of foster children is a very difficult task and requires intensive preparation. In the period September 2018 to March 2019 we organised three trainings for our foster parents on topics of major importance for child development: prophylaxis for child illness, encouraging child development and challenges in early childhood development.

- Our foster parents have a very challenging task. On the one hand, they help the children to overcome the trauma of family separation and to pursue their developmental potential. On the other hand, they face a personal trauma which is often hard for them to endure - the children are placed with them only temporarily. As soon as an adoptive family is found or the reasons for family separation are overcome the child leaves their home. Many foster parents shared they need support in dealing with this separation. For this reason we introduced a new service - group therapeutic sessions mentored by an outside family consultant. This innovative approach was highly acknowledged by our foster parents who welcomed the opportunity to build a community of likeminded people and friends.

How we support foster children?

Our practice shows that social and communication skills are crucial for the development of children. They give them a chance to take part in a shared experience with other children at their age and to feel comfortable as members of a community. This is most important when children start attending school and need to adapt to a highly social environment. For this reason we seek to cultivate these skills in foster children on time and with as many group activities as possible.

Stimulating children's development through play

- Playing allows children to use their creativity to develop imagination, dexterity, physical, emotional and cognitive abilities.
- Playing is important for the development of a child's brain.
- Through playing children in the earliest age interact with the world around them and get to know it better. We encourage children to fight their own fears by role-based games with other children and parents. As they start to feel comfortable in this game-world, children develop new competences that lead to an increase in their confidence.
Abandoned children are often traumatised and need special assistance to overcome the regression caused by this trauma. We at For Our Children Foundation have designed innovative developmental programmes and activities with which children can learn in a secure environment. By making use of specially designed toys and stimulating instruments, our social workers cultivate in children spatial awareness, self-esteem, fine motor skills, listening and creative abilities. Our colleagues also develop children's language capacity and socio-emotional control.

In October 2018, we organised a visit for the foster families to the historic complex at Tsari Mali Grad. One of our foster children was supported in taking part in a course on French language. We were able to give the foster children a wonderful Christmas celebration with gifts and an opportunity to enjoy time together. Children and Foster Families were assisted with material and financial support necessary for a decent standard of life.

The Foundation's foster care team handled two cases of emergency in February 2019:

- In the first case, the Department for Child Protection asked one of our foster families to urgently accommodate a child. Kilili was one year old at the time and was left in the office of the social workers by his relatives. He was brought to the foster family without any private belongings or spare clothes. Thanks to the quick reaction of our foster family and the team of social workers at the Foundation, the child was successfully accommodated. Material support was provided to cover first needs: clothes, diapers, medical checks. The next two months showed that our actions have led to a successful adaptation of the child in its new foster family. Kilili got used to his foster parents and enjoys spending time with them, hiding shyly behind his foster mother, Gloria, when someone talks to him.

- In the second case, one of our foster families hosted a new-born baby, Yana. The child was abandoned by her parents at the hospital and had spent four months in a nursery bed at the maternity ward. Only doctors and nurses had tended to the child's most essential needs. Now Yana grows in the home of our foster mother, Natalia, and the results are apparent: the baby grows, smiles and curiously explores the new world.
HOW A FOSTER PARENT REWROTE THE STORIES OF SIX CHILDREN

Four years ago Daniela Velikova decided to dedicate her life to the most defenseless creatures - newborn children up to three years old without parents. And so she became a foster parent. Since then she changed the lives of six girls, five of whom already found their permanent families. Finally, the pretty Elena, found her way to Daniela last year and still grows surrounded by the sincerity of her love and care.

Daniela regards foster care as her mission. She writes poetry but her real artworks are written in invisible ink - that's how she rewrote the stories of Maria, Kalina, Nevena, Raci and Lina, and now Elena. Their smiles are her muse and she finds support in the help of her parents and daughter. Daniela dedicates all her attention and love to the foster children and her grandson, so that they may grow happy, loved and enjoying a wonderful childhood.

"Even though I have a very hard time going through the separation with the foster children, I know that it is not us who matter, but the children. It is important that they receive the love and care which would give them wings". Daniela shares. Daniela taught these 6 girls to dream. Thanks to her they now know how to draw a happy family. They know how to love.

FINANCIAL REPORT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Report</th>
<th>from 01.06.2018 until 31.03.2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foster Care Programme</td>
<td>Foster Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian Festival 2019</td>
<td>16 453,90</td>
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<tr>
<td>Received amount for investment:</td>
<td>16 453,90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Activities:</td>
<td>Expenditures:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provision of specialists for supporting foster children and families (doctors, psychiatrists, social workers, medical experts, psychologists, family consultants, speech therapists, social workers, accountants, experts, coordinators, supervisors)</td>
<td>8 118,65</td>
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<tr>
<td>Socializing activities for foster children and families: courses for children, sport activities, talent activities, art workshops, celebrations for children, excursions, camps, campaigns and events</td>
<td>1 460,39</td>
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<tr>
<td>Material and financial support for accommodation of children with foster families. One-time support for food, medical expenses, medicines, packages for care for new-born, different kinds of therapies, diapers, materials for working with children, specialized medical checks, interventions, facilities for children with special needs</td>
<td>6 110,38</td>
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<tr>
<td>Expenditures for organizational development and capacity building. Administrative expenses: postal and courier services, technical facility-sustaining and office equipment, stationery and mobile phones, internet, cleaning and hygiene materials, expenditures for coordinating the team working with a child</td>
<td>741,79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>16 453,90</td>
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<td>Balance</td>
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THANK YOU FOR CONTRIBUTING TO OUR CAUSE. TOGETHER WE GIVE FOSTER CHILDREN THE CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE A TRULY HAPPY CHILDHOOD.

FOR OUR CHILDREN FOUNDATION

MAY 2019