

STELLAR ARTS FOUNDATION

Newsletter

February, 2009

Dear Friends,

Since the inauguration of our nonprofit organization we have, with your incredible generosity, accomplished many of the goals that we felt were important to aid the unfortunate children in the orphanage in Barzitsa, Bulgaria.

Meanwhile the European Union has introduced higher standards for the operation of orphanages in the Eastern Block countries and more money is dedicated for this purpose. We believe that these improvements make our continued presence within the orphanage not as necessary now and we can take the next step toward higher goals.

We are proud of our contributions toward the positive changes that are occurring at this time in the orphanage in Barzitsa. The “Baba” program that we started and essentially ran ourselves is now continued by the in-house staff. Many of our ideas were adopted and implemented, which we consider a great success. Two of the Babas (local grandmas who worked with our program) have been hired to continue working with the children. A library has been established, a kitchen has been installed where children learn to cook and try recipes together with the Babas. Folklore activities are ongoing. A physiologist is hired full time as well as a full time nurse and a few more educators. The children are happier and better care is taken toward their education and behavior. We will continue to offer assistance to the staff when and if they feel it necessary.

We are now in a position to expand our efforts more toward the further growth of the older children between the ages of 15 and 18 years.

The state mandates that when a child reaches the age of 18 years s/he must leave the home and offers no further assistance to their continued growth. We feel that most of the children are still ill prepared to assume life in the adult world after they leave the orphanage. They lack the skills of blending with society, communicating with more fortunate young adults, dealing with financial responsibility, and looking for a job just to name a few.

To this end, we have expanded our activities to include the orphanage in nearby Provadia as well as the home in Barzitsa. Our planned activities are geared toward introducing the children to life outside the walls of the institution. We are working in close association with the social services agency and have rented a room in Provadia, which is a larger city, an urban center, and has the necessary facilities to accomplish these goals. We will expose the children to various business entities, educational institutions and cultural activities. They will receive instruction in how to complete applications for work and to write formal letters. We have hired a psychologist and a social worker to assist the children to achieve these skills.