



July 2012 Newsletter 22

News update following visits to Ruse in May and July

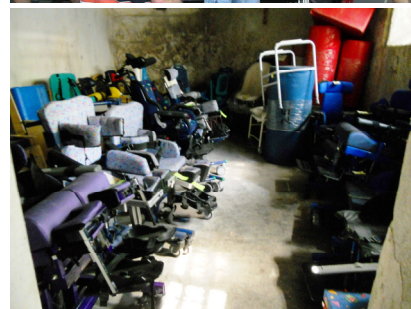
Our first task during a brief 4-day visit in **May** was to relocate eight van-loads of goods from an expensive warehouse to a free basement (children's equipment) and to Baba Tonka house (adult equipment and 30 bikes). A team of volunteers from Friendship Church completed the task with their usual cheerful vigour and we set about sorting the equipment. Much of it needed some degree of re-assembly, repair or adjustment

Having safely stored the equipment until our next visit, we turned our attention to the distribution of the bikes, hoping that every child that arrived would find a bike to suit them. We needn't have worried. Within an hour each bike had its' pedals re-attached, saddle adjusted, handle bars straightened and had found a happy new owner.

During our 7-day visit in **July**, we issued 90 wheelchairs, strollers, walkers, shower chairs etc. for children living with their families or supported in day services and early intervention programmes. Any remaining items were moved, cleaned and 're-housed', again with considerable help from volunteers of all ages from Friendship and the 'House of Opportunity'. Apart from some adjustable Saturn chairs (and similar), and small 'classroom-type' chairs, there is currently very little children's equipment left. A revised Inventory will be distributed soon including the readily-available items for adults (zimmers, crutches etc.)

Through this activity it was a pleasure and privilege to meet 16 more families who care for their disabled children at home in Ruse, often in difficult circumstances. Parents from most of these families, together with several others we already knew, came along to an open evening at Baba Tonka house. They were able to connect up with us and one another and, by means of a questionnaire, expressed their most pressing needs. This will help us identify the focus of our future activities in Ruse.

Three parent representatives will be amongst 20 key people we invited to an event in Ruse in late July when Motivation (based across the Danube in nearby Romania), will present examples of self-sustaining projects that enhance the quality of life for children and young people



with disabilities. The aim of the day is to begin an action plan to develop a 'community support network' for children and young adults. More news on this later in the year!

Motivation also assessed several children for wheelchairs and adaptations, funded by Frontline. The children in the small group homes had sensibly left the heat of Ruse (40 C +!) to holiday in the mountains, so we didn't see them this time.

We are now looking for four UK Occupational Therapists interested in spending six months on placement in Ruse whilst supporting the development of OT and modelling a community-based therapy service. During the week we met both our EU Leonardo programme partners - Ruse University and Friendship.

It's now time to start building a volunteer team for a one-week visit to Ruse in early November (perhaps an opportunity to explore the possibility of a six-month placement?). We particularly need a paediatric physiotherapist to join the OTs and SALT who are already considering coming. Please put word around!

'THANK YOU' to all who have supported 'Frontline Bulgaria' during the last 6 months, through many expressions of goodwill, material and financial donations, practical help, prayer support and encouragement.

TOGETHER we can make a difference!

Actability + Meetings Industry Meeting Needs + Friends of Bulgaria + PhysioNet + A2HW + G&S Smirthwaite Ltd + Delamode Braintree + Motivation Romania + Friendship Church + Sawyers Church + New Church Suffolk + York St. John University + Ruse University + FSCI + Children from Future + individual donors and many other NGO's, friends and colleagues in the UK and Bulgaria.



ARE YOU an O.T. or PHYSIO with an interest in areas such as paediatrics, posture management, seating, mobility, sensory, family support?

Would you consider joining a volunteer Frontline team going to Ruse for a week in early November 2012?

You'd need to be self-funding
but the rewards are great!

To find out more, please contact Gill Soper on
thesopers@thesopers.wanadoo.co.uk

Please pass this request on!

Please consider whether you could support 'Frontline Bulgaria'

by going to the Bulgaria page on
www.frontlinepartnership.org

to donate through

Thank you!



CAN YOU HELP PLEASE?

We are looking for FREE transport
for small part-loads, Sofia to Ruse!!!



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)

FRONTLINE enables and supports people with a learning disability and high support needs to live full and productive lives through their active inclusion, participation and contribution in the community