

The cover features a vibrant orange background with a central white square containing the title. The title is composed of several lines of text in various colors: '20' in lime green, 'Cedar' in light green, 'Foun' in teal, 'dation' in teal, 'Annual' in purple, and 'Report' in orange. The year '14' is positioned to the left of the main text, with the '1' in lime green and the '4' in yellow-green. The entire design is framed by a thin purple border and intersected by horizontal and vertical stripes in lime green, orange, teal, and purple.

20 Cedar
Foun
dation
Annual
Report
14



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A Message from the Executive Director

Maya Angelou once wrote, “The ache for home lives in all of us, the safe place where we can go as we are and not be questioned.”

This is indeed the unvoiced call of the thousands of children and young people in Bulgaria who are still hidden away in large institutions, swept up in a system that cares nothing for their needs or potential as human beings. We at The Cedar Foundation clearly understand this call, and continue to work tirelessly to answer it. So that everybody can have a real home, in a community which values and accepts their individuality.

It is with great pride that we present to you our 2014 Annual Report. Our dedicated team has worked hard to expand our programs and our influence during the year, and have much to show for it. We’re ready to move 50 new young people into our care in Kazanlak, and have helped our children in Kyustendil find their voices. We touched the lives of hundreds of children by training the people who will care for them, and have affected thousands of others through our national lobbying and advocacy activities. We’re also proud of our sister organization in Tanzania, who are laying the foundations for developing local communities through health care and combating violence against women and girls.

I thank all of our supporters for being a part of our Cedar Family. Ahead of us lies much work – it will be years before we can fully reform these well-entrenched, old systems which cause so damage to so many vulnerable children and young people. But that day will come. I hope you will be with us when it does.

With warm regards,

*Lindsay Saltgiver
Executive Director
Cedar Foundation*



Board of the directors

Mrs. Bianca Summerfield
Mr. Bernard Coffey
Mr. Bryan Turner
Mr. Dimitar Rusev
Mrs. Lindsay Saltgiver
Mr. Mark O’Sullivan
Mr. Stuart Byfield



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Who We are

We envision a better Bulgaria

...A Bulgaria which values, accepts and respects every individual as an integral part, contributing to the richness of society.

...A Bulgaria which offers real support and ensures that equality in opportunity, self-determination, and civic and social participation is available to ALL.

The Cedar Foundation continues to play a leading role in making this vision a reality

We work on the forefront of social service reform, by developing alternatives to institutional care for neglected children and young adults, with and without disabilities.

We are pioneers

Since closing a large institution for children with disabilities in 2010 (the first project of its kind), we have helped pave the way for thousands of neglected people to find support, be empowered, and lead a more independent, meaningful life.

We are committed to systemic change

We partner with local, regional and national agencies to establish and expand good models, where staff are highly trained and treated as professionals. We strive to share these models in other areas of Bulgaria, so that as many people as possible can benefit from our hard work.

We are tireless

We are a small, yet highly-dedicated and vigorously active team, with an unwavering passion for seeing real, positive change occur in the lives of the children we serve.



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Lately, we've been
focusing on

2014

Establishing a full range of sustainable, high-quality services

In 2014 we prepared **4** new small group homes for **50** children and youth

Increasing Bulgarian public's acceptance of and engagement with people with disabilities

In 2014 we gave **374** community members the opportunity to engage with our children

Defending the rights of disadvantaged people by engaging in sustainable policy reform

In 2014, we actively advocated for the right of participation of children with intellectual disabilities and continued to support the deinstitutionalization reform in Bulgaria

Becoming a market leader for social services, and establishing a path to expansion of our model

In 2014, we touched the lives of over **800** children, trained **180** professionals in **40** communities

Raising awareness and encouraging compassion through expanding our volunteer network

In 2014, **80** volunteers and advisors enriched their own lives, by becoming involved as Cedar volunteers



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Our Achievements

Successes in the Development of Social Policy in Bulgaria

We have been an active member of the **Inter-ministerial Expert-level Working Group** on Deinstitutionalization and the National Council for Child Protection.

We implemented an advocacy campaign on the right of children with intellectual disabilities to participate, supported by the **Ombudsman of the Republic of Bulgaria** and the State Agency for Child Protection.

We contributed to the independent review of the implementation of Joanna Rodgers' "Vision for deinstitutionalization of the children in the Republic of Bulgaria", prepared per UNICEF Bulgaria assignment, and as a member of **Coalition "Childhood 2025"** we participated in the development of proposals for its update.

Projects

The Cedar Foundation and the Municipality of Kazanlak started a **project on the deinstitutionalization of nearly 50 children and young adults.**

This project will provide a loving family-type environment to all of these young people in Kazanlak, and begin their integration into the community. In 2014, we began hiring and training the staff who will provide the necessary support to the children and young adults before and after the move to their new home.

The Cedar Foundation was a partner in the European project **"Hear Our Voices! Promoting and encouraging the participation of children with intellectual disabilities"**.



We helped our children with intellectual disabilities in Kyustendil develop new skills, so they might feel free to make choices and participate in decisions which affect them. The skills which they acquired and continue to expand help them in their everyday lives, in many ways. One of our young adults was the first Bulgarian representative with intellectual disabilities ever to make a presentation to UN Commissions in Geneva. Her presentations focused on her rights and desire to live a life in which she had the right to make a choice.





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Our Achievements

Projects

Camille Latimier, Human Rights Officer at Inclusion Europe
„The Cedar Foundation has played a key role in the project Hear Our Voices. They demonstrated in practice how children, who have been deprived from any choice, can step by step take control of their daily lives, starting with little things to reach bigger decisions. One of the keys of the project has been the participation in Geneva of one of the young people living in a group home in Kuystendil. The contribution of the Cedar Foundation over the 2-year project has been very valuable for Bulgaria but also for the other European countries.”

In partnership with the State Agency for Child Protection, we organized seminars on the management of family-type homes and provision of quality care to children and young adults with disabilities. We **trained 158 professionals**, in 6 regions in Bulgaria.

We began our project **“Together for Change: Advocating for a Better Quality of Life in Social Services”**, implemented in partnership with the Welfare Department of the City of Reykjavik, Bulgarian state and local authorities and the Institute for Social Policy and Social Work in Bulgaria. The goal of our project is to change the model of how we measure quality in social services in Bulgaria. We will apply the best practices of the Icelandic model to the Bulgarian environment, and will train the authorities in charge of measuring the quality of social services in Bulgaria.

We built a **Social Rehabilitation and Integration Center** in the town of Kyustendil – a joint project of The Cedar Foundation and the Municipality of Kyustendil and funded by the U.S. Embassy in Sofia. The Center will service



approximately 100 people in the region. It will provide the development of new skills and opportunities for independent living of people with disabilities through programs for integration and overcoming social isolation. Services will include: psychological consultations, therapeutic and rehabilitation activities, and opportunities for finding employment.

We opened a **Day Care Center for Young Adults with Disabilities** in the town of Kazanlak – a joint project of The Cedar Foundation and the Municipality of Kazanlak, with the financial support of the U.S. Embassy in Sofia. The social service currently meets the needs of 15 young adults with disabilities aged 18-35, helping them develop skills for independent living. At the same time, we continue to support the Day Care Center for Children with Disabilities in Kazanlak.





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The **team** in Focus

Silviya Krysteva, Social Therapist in Family-type Homes “Siyanie” in Kyustendil

“The children’s successes are also my successes. I am happy that I can be of benefit to them, to support them, and to encourage them to develop as personalities. My job is difficult but noble, and I feel satisfied with what I do. My biggest success for 2014 is related to one young woman I work with. Her enormous personal achievement was to complete the 8th grade and continue her studies in a professional high school for textile to become a dressmaker. In 2014 she learned many things she had not known in the institution. Although small, for her they are a huge progress, which we achieved together through the individual approach focusing on the person, which we apply in our work.

In difficult times I think that when you work with your heart and be consistent, anyone you work with can achieve progress. The trust of the children in me and the support of my colleagues give me great confidence to go ahead. And every little progress of the children and young adults makes me happy and empowered.”



Magdalena Badeva, Project Manager, Stara Zagora Region

“When I met the children and young adults who we expected to start living in the new family-type homes in Kazanlak, the project idea became real. My efforts and work gave results. In moments of hardship and despair, I often find time to spend with them. When I know what they need and want, I know what I fight for. The good collaboration with the other members of the foundation, the variety of work, and the everyday challenges create a dynamic which empowers and stimulates me. It is motivating to direct your efforts towards a higher purpose, but it is even more motivating when they lead you to specific results.”



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Our volunteers

The work of The Cedar Foundation is so successful thanks to the support of our volunteers – **people who take our mission as their personal cause** and give help generously according to their abilities. In 2014, more than 40 Volunteers from Bulgaria spent over 600 hours in support of our work. We also had active participation of volunteers from abroad, and 2 groups of more than 20 students from the International School of Zug and Luzern in Switzerland implemented several projects in the family-type homes in Kyustendil. 9 more Volunteers from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development took part in support of our work there.

"When I came back to Bulgaria after more than four years abroad, I was led by a strong desire and feeling that I have to apply my experience and knowledge to something meaningful. For me it was important to work in a team of motivated and visionary people who truly believe in the cause they support. I met precisely such people at The Cedar Foundation. My volunteer experience with them was one of the reasons I was hired as Development Manager at the CORPS for Education and Development – CORPlus Foundation. I have many nice memories from the time spent with The Cedar Foundation team." **Gergana Yaneva, Volunteer**



40
volunteers
from Bulgaria



40
volunteers
from abroad



600
hours
volunteering



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Testimonials

"Thank God that He brought us together with our friends from The Cedar Foundation, because together we achieve a real change in the lives of the children and young adults with disabilities in our town." **Petar Paunov, Mayor of Kyustendil**

"We have been supporters of The Cedar Foundation since 2006. The work that Cedar does is important not only for the lives that they touch, but for the communities they work in, such as Kyustendil, where we live. A few years ago we set up the automatic donation, which is wonderfully convenient. We all have good intentions to give; but especially for us the automatic debit option is great as we don't even have to think about it, yet know that we're continuing to supporting the cause that we love!" **Casey and Angel Angelovi**

"My husband and I support the Cedar foundation because it works on a cause very close to our hearts. We believe that every human being deserves a fair chance at a happy and fulfilling life, no matter their obstacles, disabilities, and short comings.

We know that the Sponsor-a-Carer program is just as important as directly sponsoring a child, because without the great caregivers and instructors the children and young adults would not be able to take their place and function in a normal society.

We believe that the Cedar foundation makes dreams become reality even if these dreams might seem so small and insignificant to most, like one day having a job." **Petya and Safwan Hak**

Our Programs

Our **Sponsor a Child Program**

was widely supported by our partners from Orphan Sponsorship International.

Through this program, 18 children and young adults receive funds for personal needs every month, thanks to generous individuals.

Sponsor a Carer is a program for hiring caregivers to work directly with children and young adults. In 2014, it provided for the salary and training of 15 staff in Kyustendil who work on a daily basis with 15 children and 7 young adults with disabilities. The progress and development of these children happen thanks to the individual approach and professionalism in the work of these employees.



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Our Events

1. Traditional PUB QUIZ Events **7 000 BGN**
2. Christmas Bazaars **1 700 BGN**
3. Annual Charity Ball **37 000 BGN**
4. "Around the World in a Day", Hilton Sofia **7 000 BGN**
5. Charity Football Tournament **1 650 BGN**





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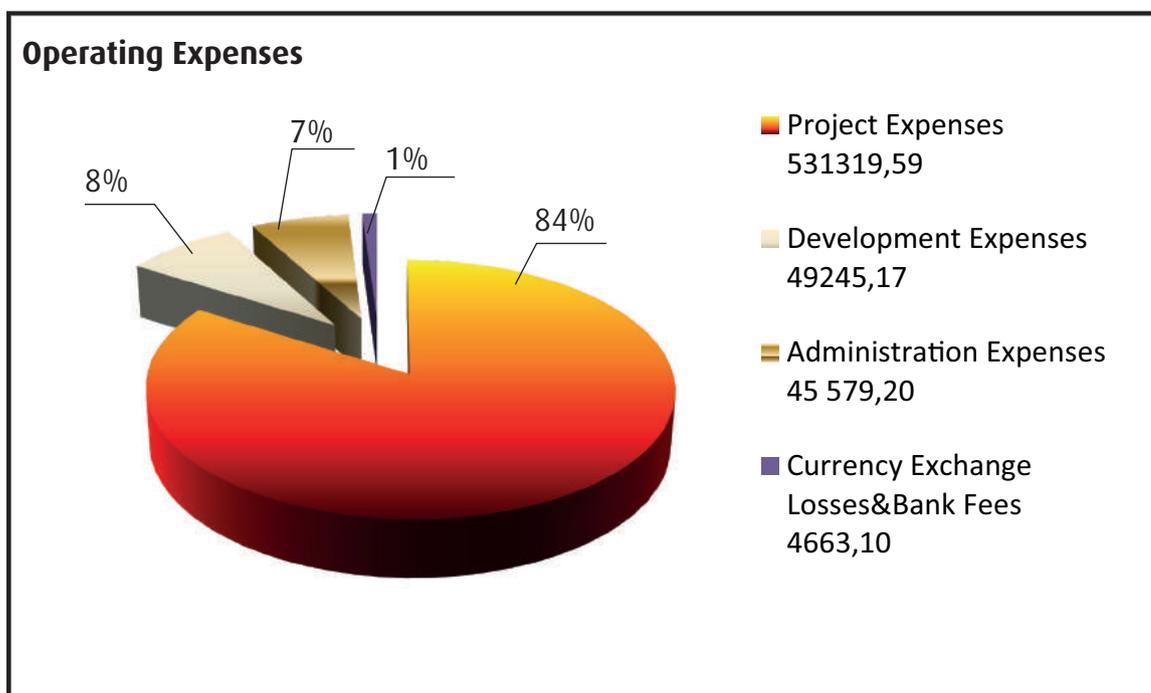
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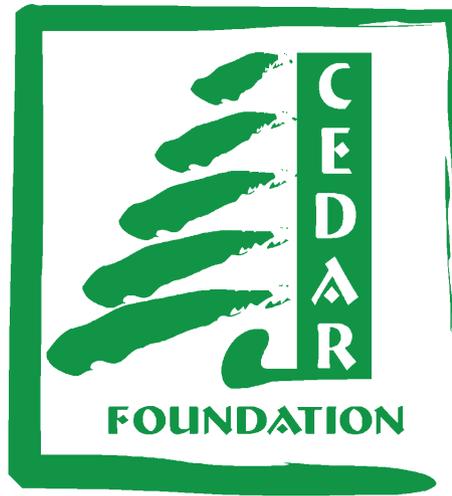
Overview

Operating Year 2014

Operating and Financial Revenue	BGN	%
Donations from events and projects	234 199,29	40%
Financing projects with state budget	199 296,00	34%
Donations Cedar Switzerland	133 690,27	23%
Individual donations	11 208,32	2%
Corporate donations	7 726,72	1%
Interest and exchange rate gains	4 305,63	< 1%
Total Revenue	590 426,23	

Operating Expenses	BGN	%
Project Expenses	531 319,59	84%
Development Expenses	49 245,17	8%
Administration Expenses	45 579,20	7%
Currency Exchange Losses&Bank Fees	4 663,10	1%
Total Operating Expenses	630 807,06	





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