

CHILDREN OF LIFE

Photographs – Nikola Apostolov

This exhibition presents portraits of children who have received help and support at the Complexes for Social Services for Children and Families in 10 of the largest cities in Bulgaria: Bourgas, Varna, Pazardjik, Plovdiv, Rousse, Sliven, Sofia, Stara Zagora, Targovishte and Shoumen.

The photographs were taken in May 2006 on the occasion of the official closing of the 5-year Child Welfare Reform Project implemented by the Bulgarian Ministry of Labor and Social Policy and funded through a loan from the World Bank. The project supported the Bulgarian government in carrying out the child protection reform, aiming to provide each child at risk with the opportunity to grow up in a family environment.

Special thanks go to the children, the parents and the staff of the Complexes for Social Service who made this exhibition possible.



Since a speech therapist, an art therapist and an educator have started working with Mitko at the Complex for Social Services in Rousse, he is doing much better in school



The children come to the Complex in Rouse, because they get help and support and also because they find it interesting. Tony, 14-years-old, participates in the break-dance club



Diana, 12-years-old, comes to the Complex in Vazna a couple of times per week to prepare her homework



Kizil, 17-years-old, and his social worker from the Complex for Social Services in Stara Zagora work together so that he gets better prepared to live independently when he leaves the Residential Home for Children



Silvia enjoys taking part in various activities offered by the Complex in Bouzgas



Vanya, Petya and Mila always come together from the Residential Home for Children, where they live, to the Social Service Complex in Plovdiv, where they learn new things



Sonya, 8-months-old, is very attached to her mother, with whom they are temporarily accommodated at the "Mother and Baby" unit in Vazna



Rossi and Mimi can hardly wait until the start of the dancing lesson at the Complex in Bouzgas