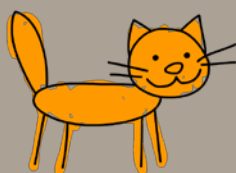
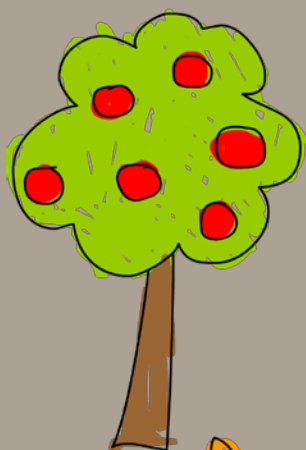
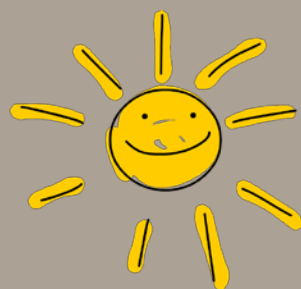


Center Against Abuse

Dardedze



Annual Activity Report 2010

## Center Against Abuse „Dardedze”

### *Letter from the Board*

Dear partners, friends and supporters!

During 2010 we have repeatedly asked ourselves questions - what is our organization, what do we want to achieve and change in the next decade, which programs and services are still needed and which ones should we develop more, what should be our focus for the future? We are grateful that with the support and help of Save the Children Sweden expert Henk van Beers we have attempted to find answers to these questions through strategic planning. This process of asking and finding answers has helped us to define a strong emphasis on child participation.

2010 gave us opportunities to also learn from the best experiences and practices in other countries, through attending various important conferences, as well as organizing a field trip for a team of professionals working with abused children in various parts of Latvia to York, UK. This trip was possible through a partnership project with Latvia Probation Office and collaboration with experienced expert from UK Nigel King.

Much effort was placed in developing a new web page [www.bernskacietusais.lv](http://www.bernskacietusais.lv), that serves as a web resource center for professionals, students and parents around the issues of child abuse, child as a victim or witness of crime. We continued the work of educating and training professionals in the field of child protection, education, health care and law enforcement on the issues of child abuse, resilience, and child as a victim of crime. Especially important was the in-depth training program for police that we are able to conduct in partnership with Oak Foundation and State police.

We were glad that we were able to begin addressing one of the problems for the professionals working with the problem of child abuse in Latvia – the lack of professional literature related to the issue. We published a Manual for professionals working with the problem of child abuse, and we plan to keep working in this direction in the future, as well.

By the end of 2010 we were able to bring into existence one of our dreams we have been carrying in our hearts for a long time – establishing of a Honorary Advisory Board of Center Dardedze. We are grateful for respectable people, such as our former president Mrs. Vaira Vīķe – Freiberga, and others who are willing to share their tremendous knowledge and experiences with us in advising our work. We are proud to have our „own” prosecutor, doctor, pastor, researchers, social anthropologist, and a number of experts representing social and psychological field. We appreciate the

contribution of our Advisory Honorary board who helps us look at our work from a different perspective and guides us with their precious advice.

We are happy for every child and family we have met this year giving us opportunity to touch their lives and giving us back in so many ways – through teaching, guiding and letting us see changes in their lives.

I am thankful to each and every staff member and every partner for the accomplishments of this year, allowing us to believe that the work we are doing together is making a difference in our children's lives.

On behalf of Center „Dardedze”

**Agnese Megne**

Chair of the board of Center „Dardedze”



## Center Against Abuse „Dardedze”

Center Against Abuse „Dardedze” is a non- governmental, non-profit organization working to prevent child abuse in Latvia and to provide direct help to children exposed to sexual, physical, emotional abuse and neglect.

Our vision and mission is planted in the belief that every child has the right to feel safe, to be loved, cared for, nurtured and respected. Therefore the professional team of our center works towards enhancing:

- child's safety and protection at home (in the family)
- child's safety and protection at school
- child's safety and protection in residential placements
- child's safety on line
- child's safety in community

We actively work towards preventing child abuse in all levels, and provide support and help when child abuse occurs.

We believe that by emphasizing public opinion, educating society and by early identification of high risk and early intervention providing help to families with children at risk, we can prevent child abuse and protect our children from all forms of violence.





## Programs run by Center Dardedze in 2010

### Helping abused children and families

Since the first day of Center „Dardedze“ one of the main tasks has been to provide assistance to children who have been victims of sexual, physical, emotional abuse and neglect. Initially our Center ran a shelter support program for children who were removed from their families due to abuse, as well as out-patient counseling services. The Shelter program was closed several years ago, but we still continue to work with children and families both to process trauma caused by abuse and to provide every possible support to this family, as well as work in a preventive manner to provide support to families where there is a high risk of child abuse.

Depending on each case, we work either with individual, family or group approach for assessment or therapeutic purposes, with sand therapy, play therapy, theraplay, etc.

Our team of professionals – social workers, psychologists, psychotherapist, vocational therapist, art therapist always works using multi disciplinary approach, engaging all responsible parties for the best outcome of the case that would be in the best interests and needs of a child.

*“There is always more to be done.” /Andrea Ingram/*

#### Program facts:

##### Goal of the program:

Provide assistance to children affected by abuse and their families and caregivers; to reduce trauma caused by it and strengthen and support the child and family

Carried out since: 2001

Time of the program in 2010:

January - December

In 2010 program was funded by:

- Riga City Council
- Oak Foundation
- Save the Children Sweden

How many children reached through the program:

159 (85 girls; 74 boys)

How many parents reached through the program:

261 (204 women; 57 men)



# Child abuse prevention program

## “Džimba safety program”



### Džimba safety program:

- Child focused program for reducing child victimization
- Every child should receive instructions on personal safety that are positive, comprehensive and effective
- Every parent and educator should receive support and guidelines on how to teach personal safety to their children

### The goals of the program are:

- To enhance a child's ability to avoid victimization
- To enhance a child's self esteem
- To reduce the feelings of guilt and blame that often are associated with victimization
- To promote disclosure of abuse and victimization
- To enhance and coordinate community response
- To enhance communication between parents and children about personal safety
- To reinforce adult supervision and protection
- To deter offender behavior

*“It is easier to build strong children than to repair brokenen.”*  
*/Frederick Douglas/*

Center “Dardedze” runs various activities under the Safety program: Džimba Safety lesson in kindergartens, Džimba Safety 9 step program in kindergartens, Džimba Safety trip for 1st -3rd grade students and their teachers, Džimba Safety Summer schools for children, Džimba Safety parent workshops and special Safety information web site [www.dzimba.lv](http://www.dzimba.lv).

The idea of Džimba Safety program was developed gradually with growing understanding of the importance of prevention programs that would address children about their personal safety, at the same time addressing adults – parents and teachers about their responsibility in safeguarding children.

The special character was developed in joint efforts with children who was named Džimba. He now lives in Latvia in a Safety House, teaching children and adults the Safety rules in relationship with both strangers and especially people whom we know, with adults and peers.

Various activities from Džimba Safety program has been ran for more than 6 years now. Here are some quotes from the feedback received after attending and learning about the program:

A 2nd grade teacher from Riga Plavnieku Elementary school:  
*“The Safety trip was fabulous! Children were captured by the educational adventure. It was a real school of life that taught children to stop and think weather the situation they*

*are engaging in is safe or not. Great job! I gained knowledge that I never even had for myself!"*

*A child who was randomly interviewed by Latvian Radio on the street asked about his most memorable event of the year: "I remember the most the Safety trip where I met Džimba and learned about my personal safety! I want to go back and take part in the program again!"*

*A parent attending Džimba Safety workshop for parents: "I was shocked that no one had ever talked to me about my personal safety when I was a child, therefore I never knew how to teach that to my own children. This workshop has empowered me as a parent to do everything possible to protect my child".*

*A principle from Lauberes elementary school in Ogre region: "I am so thankful for the opportunity to bring this unique Safety program to the kindergarten students of our school and have our staff trained in applying it. It is so rare that programs like this are available also to the schools in rural areas. I am glad that through this program our country side children can feel safer and realize that they cannot completely trust every person they meet on their way."*

*A Board member of Carnegie Social Initiative Fund financially supporting "Džimba Safety Trip program": "Every child of the world should have an opportunity to attend such a program!"*





## *Džimba Safety lessons in kindergartens*

This is a 30 – 40 minute long interactive lesson in kindergartens where a trainer teaches children the lesson of „My body is MINE” safety rule. During the interactive activities children learn the difference between a safe and unsafe touching, about the things that can be kept in secret and things that shouldn't be kept in secret. The main goal of the lesson is to help children identify adults whom they can trust and tell if someone touches them inappropriately, and to encourage them not to keep it in a secret. After the lesson kindergarten teacher receives a folder of materials that can be used in the further work with children to refresh their knowledge of the personal safety issues.

Program facts:

How many children reached  
through the program:  
3 686 children

How many teachers reached  
through the program:  
230 parents

Carried out since: 2005

Time of the programm in  
2010:

January - December

In 2010 program was  
funded by:

Aizkraukles bankas  
sabiedriskā labuma fonds

Goal of the program:

To provide safety knowledge  
and skills to kindergarten  
children and teachers  
about the Safe and Unsafe  
touch and how to act if  
anyone uses unsafe touch in  
relationship with children



## *Džimba Safety program in pre- schools - 9 step pilot program*

In 2009 Center "Dardedze" developed a 9 step preventive educational program to be applied in 24 kindergartens and child care institutions in Latvia. There were 24 professionals trained who became Safety trainers and carried out the 9 step program in their work places. In 2010 16 of the trained staff of kindergartens and care centers continued implementing the Džimba Safety trip program in their everyday work reaching new children and parents. One 40 minute safety lesson was included in the regular pre-school curricula during the 9 week period every week. Parents were informed with a special letter every week, introducing them with the Safety issues children have learned during the week and giving them special home work to be completed together with children. Knowledge on children's safety was tested before and after program. After the completion of the program 87% of children could recognize potentially dangerous situations, knowing how they should act in these situations.

Program facts:

*Goal of the program:  
To prevent child  
abuse through  
comprehensive and  
consistent knowledge  
for children in  
personal relationship  
with other people*

*How many children  
reached through the  
program in 2010:  
737 children (and their  
parents indirectly)*

*How many teachers  
reached through the  
program in 2010:  
62 teachers*

*Carried out since:  
2009*

*Time of the program  
in 2010:  
January - December*



## *Džimba Safety trip for 1st – 3rd grade children*

Džimbas Safety Trip for 1st – 3rd grade students is a 3 hour interactive adventure during which children learn 8 personal safety rules that are important in reducing the risk of these children to become victims of violence. During the program children go through 4 interactive stations, learning the key factors of safety in relationships with peers, adults, strangers and people whom they know. This program also involves teachers and parents with a purpose to continue the discussion with children after the program.

This program helps children recognize abuse, teaches how to be safe and where to look for help when they are exposed to violence and/or abuse.

The knowledge of all the program participants is assessed before they attend the Safety trip program, as well as after 1 month and after 6 months to 1 year after children have attended to program. The results show that children's knowledge change dramatically after attending the program. When children were asked if they would go and help a strange person to find the lost kitten, 87% of children said that they would go and help before attending the program. After the program 89.17% children gave the correct answer, stating that they would not go and would tell an adult they trusted about it.

Program facts:

*Carried out since:  
2009*

*Time of the program  
in 2010:  
January - December*

*In 2010 program was  
funded by:  
Carnegie Social Initiative  
Fund*

*How many children  
reached through the  
program in 2010:  
2 348 children*

*How many teachers  
reached through the  
program in 2010:  
112 teachers*









## Džimba Safety Summer Schools

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It is a 4 day interactive prevention program for children 4 – 8 years old, involving their parents. This program is a fun, interactive way to learn Safety rules in relationships with other people – adults, peers, strangers and also persons children know well.

The core principals of the program are:

### 1. Children have the rights to be safe

Children learn what personal safety is and that they have the right to be safe.

### 2. There are some fundamental principles underlying all activities we do with the children and adults in Safety program

a) Children learn to identify deceptive behavior (it's not what people look like, their age or how well you know them – it's what they ask you to do that is important.

b) Restore instincts and feelings (how to trust and act upon their feelings and instincts)

c) Builds self confidence (if they feel valuable, they feel worthy of being safe)

Program facts:

Carried out since:  
2008

Time of the program  
in 2010:

January – December

In 2010 program was  
funded by:

Dardedze own funds

How many children  
reached through the  
program in 2010:  
61 children

How many parents  
reached through the  
program in 2010:  
122 parents

## Džimba Parent's Club – child safety workshops for parents

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At the end of 2010 we added a new component to Džimba Safety program and it's called Džimba Parent's Club. We organize parent's workshops once a month where parents are welcomed to come together and learn more about how they can protect their children, what they can teach their children, as well as how to become the best moms and dads possible for their children. These workshops soon became very popular and now there is already an established core group of parents who have become strong supporters of the child safety issue and have become Parent Ambassadors of the Džimba Safety program.

Since 2007 we have ran a child safety web resource [www.dzimba.lv](http://www.dzimba.lv) for 3 target groups – children, parents and professionals. During the last years it has become rather popular among children as well as adults. It provides interactive tools to communicate child personal safety issues to children in a playful, non-threatening way, giving opportunity to both parents and teachers initiate dialogue with children about their safety.



## Courage to be friendly – anti bullying program

This is a special program designed to help schools and other child related institutions and organizations to build child friendly environment, develop anti-bullying policy and intervention plan in case bullying takes place. This program involves students, schools' staff and parents. Courage to be friendly was started and still remains as a part of the "Friends Across the borders" project started by Save the Children Sweden to be carried out in all three Baltic States – Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia, giving each country the freedom to design the program according to individual needs and challenges.

*"When the lives and the rights of children are at stake, there must be no silent witnesses" /carol Bellamy/*

Courage to be friendly activities in 2010:

- Special 40 minute "Courage to be friendly" sessions held in 224 classroom auditoriums, reaching 4119 students in the 5th – 9th grade age group. At the end of each session students report what they have understood from this session filling in a text message that they would write to a friend who missed a class. 85% of students who attended Courage to be friendly session state that it had helped them understand what bullying really is and that they can do something to stop it.
- During 2010 Dardedze was able to lobby the mandatory requirement for each school to have a policy for anti bullying work in their schools in order to protect students from bullying in schools. Dardedze provides assistance to schools in developing anti bullying plan and plan for intervention in cases of school bullying.
- Established representatives of "Courage to be friendly" student network in order to sustain the anti bullying activities and work in schools.
- Courage to be friendly competition for schools took place in April. 37 schools with 44 classes and 1083 students took part in the competition sharing the work they do in their schools of prevent bullying. The most active class received a prize – trip to Stockholm to get acquainted with the anti-bullying work in schools of Stockholm and attend "Friends" day in one of the largest parks of Stockholm.
- Students of Courage to be friendly network developed special postcards with the anti bullying message to be distributed to their peers to motivate them not to remain indifferent to the problem.



- Program web site [www.drosmedraudzeties.lv](http://www.drosmedraudzeties.lv) is used to reach students, teachers and parents with the latest information on bullying, as well as to provide a way to communicate the problem and look for help.
- There were therapeutic assistance provided in 17 cases of bullying, as well as 43 online counseling provided to students writing and asking about their situations of bullying.
- A summer camp called "Friendship recipes" was held in July with the participants of Courage to be friendly student network. Unique calendar for schools "Friendship recipes" was created by camp participants that was published and then distributed among Courage to be friendly schools in Latvia.
- A social campaign "Friendship Day" was organized as a special day on November 12th with a purpose of addressing students to pay special attention to tolerance and friendship towards each other. For a whole week in November students could send in a photo of their class and a statement that they proclaim their class as a Friendly and Tolerant class. All the photos afterwards were joined in one collage of Friendship Day. Campaign was well reflected in TV, Radio and electronic media.
- Courage to be friendly program was implemented in 4 boarding schools of Latvia, helping the schools to develop Anti bullying policy and working with the school staff and students together.
- Special teacher and parent workshops were organized once a month on the subject of bullying September – November with 92 participants all together.

#### Program facts:

Carried out since:  
2008

In 2010 program was funded by:

- Save the children Sweden
- Swedbank
- Riga City Terminal Ltd

Goal of the program:  
To prevent the problem of bullying in schools and raise awareness of the problem in our society

Time of the program in 2010:  
January - December

How many children reached through the program in 2010:  
7345 children

How many parents reached through the program in 2010:  
157 parents

How many teachers reached through the program in 2010:  
326 children

How many unique website attendees in 2010 at [www.drosmedraudzeties.lv](http://www.drosmedraudzeties.lv):  
27 817





## Child abuse prevention and early intervention program for families at risk with young children „Guardian angel”



Program “Guardian angel” – community based prevention program for young parents with children 0-3 years old. This program is for new parents (parents at risk), providing education in child development, parent and child relationships, and adult relationships; information on community resources; and enhancing parent-child bonding and attachment. The main goal is early intervention and prevention of child abuse in these families.

Program’s Guardian angel goal is to create a support system for new families where young parents come from orphanages, or are families that are in high social risk situations and are expecting baby or parenting a young child.

The program was re-designed in 2009 putting a much larger emphasis on individual support to young parents at risk, as well as on engaging local community in supporting these parents. In this program we are involving volunteers from community to train them to become support persons for high risk families with children. Every year we work with young mothers who have graduated from orphanages or residential placements and do not know how to be the best moms for their children due to the lack of knowledge and personal experience.

We not only provide them professional assistance, but also pair them up with a trained volunteer from community who then becomes informal help and support to this family - being a role model, friend and support in the most difficult time of this family's life, almost like a “Guardian angel”. Volunteers are regularly trained, supervised, monitored and supported by professional staff to ensure healthy relationship between all parties.

This is an important program for the whole community, because it is an example of good practice showing how the community itself can get involved in empowering and strengthening its families for the safe and healthy childhood of its children.





To assist parents we also produce special materials for them. In 2010 we produced a small book for parents called "I can help you" where information to parents are provided from a young child's perspective, guiding them in the main areas of safeguarding young children.

Program facts:

**Goal of the program:**

To provide early intervention in the high risk families with young children and prevent child abuse in the families, providing both formal and informal support from professionals and trained volunteers from local community

How many children reached through the program:

21 child

How many parents reached through the program:

24 parents

Volunteers engaged In 2010:

15 new volunteers

Carried out since: 2002

In 2010 program was funded by:

- Foundation "Ziedot.lv"
- Oak foundation
- Save the Children Sweden



## Pathways to competence



This is parent support group program for parents of children 0 – 7 years old with the aim to reduce child abuse risk in these families. There are 2 groups per year with up to 15 parents in each of them. Groups meet once a week for 10 weeks with 2 group trainers, discussing such topics as child development, understanding the needs of a child, nonviolent disciplining,

building attachment, playing with your child, family traditions, etc. At the same time special group for children is held as well, where children learn positive communication skills and problem solving. The purpose of this group is to train parents to reduce risk of child abuse in these families. Families are referred either by social services, schools, and hospitals or may sign up themselves.

The topics of the program are:

1. Understanding early child development and temperament.
2. Helping children develop body control and positive body image.
3. Developing a secure attachment.
4. Encouraging play and imagination.
5. Encouraging language and communication.
6. Laying a foundation for positive self esteem.
7. Disciplining to encourage self regulation, morality and a sense of conscience.
8. Encouraging emotional regulation.
9. Encouraging concentration, planning and problem solving.
10. Encouraging social competence, empathy and caring behavior.

Program facts:

*Carried out since:  
2002*

*In 2010 program was  
funded by:  
Save the children Sweden*

*Goal of the program:*

*To train parents in  
non violent parenting  
approaches and help  
them build their own  
informal support  
networks to prevent  
child abuse in these  
families*

*How many children  
reached through the  
program in 2010:  
42 children*

*How many parents  
reached through the  
program in 2010:  
34 parents*





## Child as a witness or victim of crime

Since year 2001 we are also active in providing support to children who are involved in criminal proceedings as witnesses or victims of crime. We have often faced the situations where children have been severely traumatized by involvement in criminal proceedings due to the lack of consideration of children having special needs when being involved in this proceeding. We provide trainings for law enforcement professionals – police, prosecutors and judges dealing with cases involving children. We have also been active in lobbying changes in legislation allowing video interviewing of children in friendly environment and then considering that as a legal evidence in the criminal proceedings that would protect children who have already been traumatized.

Our Center was one of the first ones in Baltic States establishing Child friendly forensic interview room, where child was interviewed in the presence of psychologist reducing the anxiety and traumatization level of a child. We also provide supportive services to the child and the family, becoming representatives of a case in the court, giving our testimonies of the interactions with the child that can be helpful during the proceedings.

We have also carried out various campaigns and activities to raise public awareness of the issue, as well as build capacity of professionals involved in interactions with children, emphasizing the sensitivity and need of a child friendly approach.

In 2010 we were able to provide support in 64 such cases.

In 2010 Center has developed a special web resource [www.bernskacietusais.lv](http://www.bernskacietusais.lv) that serves as a resource for professionals involved in working with children who are victims or witnesses of a crime, as well as to families, parents, social workers and teachers with theoretical and very practical information related to the issue of child as a victim or witness of a crime.



## Active projects in 2010

### *Sexual Abuse against Children at Residential Institutions*

**Funded by:** European Commission under the “DAPHNE III” Program

**Time period of the Project:** January 2009 – December 2010.

**Partners of the Project:**

1. Social Activities and Practices Institute, Bulgaria
2. Nobody's Children Foundation, Poland
3. Children Support Center, Lithuania
4. Association for the Social Support of Youth, Greece

**The objectives of this project are:**

1. Set-up a national Support Council
2. Prepare, translate into English and submit a report about the current situation in Latvia
3. Carry out a qualitative and quantitative in-depth study of the essence, main aspects and characteristics of the phenomenon sexual abuse against children at residential institutions and its impact on the victims of the abuse, based on the results of the analysis of the current situation in Latvia
4. Identify good national practices and submit recommendations about future activities and measures
5. Provide Latvian assistance for the making of the movie and web site
6. Organize one-day national conference.

### *Childhood without abuse – towards a better child protection system in Eastern Europe*

**Funded by:** Oak foundation

**Time period of the Project:** 2010 – 2013 This is a second stage of the project. The first stage of the project was 2005 – 2009.

**Partners of the Project:**

1. Social Activities and Practices Institute, Bulgaria
2. Nobody's Children Foundation, Poland
3. Children Support Center, Lithuania
4. National Center for Child Abuse Prevention, Moldova
5. Child Well Being Fund, Ukraine

This project is being implemented in 6 countries simultaneously. The coordinator of this project is the Nobody's Children Foundation in Poland. Project activities are aimed at improving the child protection system in Eastern Europe. The major goal of this project is to improve the competencies of professionals working with children exposed to violence and abuse, as well as to raise general public's sensitivity to the problem of child abuse.

**The specific objectives of the program include:**

- Educating the society, broadening public knowledge about prevention of child abuse and neglect, and empowering intervention opportunities;
- Changing the attitudes of parents and caregivers associated with child rearing and child protection;
- Diagnosing attitudes, knowledge and skills of Eastern Europe's professionals working with abused children and improving their competencies through training programs, supervisions, site visits, publications and research;
- Developing regional standards and solutions in the field of child abuse and neglect based on proven strategies used in other countries and by more experienced organizations participating in the project.
- Lobbying for the introduction of legislative amendments necessary for changing and implementing social policies that would ensure effective child protection

**The project involves the following activities:**

- Social campaigns
- Lobbying in favor of legislative changes and building an integrated child support system;
- Publishing educational materials addressed to professionals, parents and children
- Organizing conferences, training sessions, supervisions and site visits;
- Conducting research on social attitudes towards child abuse;

For these 4 years the main priority topics of the project are: child sexual abuse, child witness and supporting families with young children.

More detailed information about this project is available at [www.canee.net](http://www.canee.net)



## ***Multidimensional protection of child victims of crime***

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**Funded by:** Prevention and fight against crime 2008 EC Action Grants

**Time period of the Project:** July 2009 – June 2011

### **Partners of the Project:**

1. Social Activities and Practices Institute, Bulgaria
2. Nobody's Children Foundation, Poland
3. Children Support Center, Lithuania

### **The objectives of this project are:**

1. To ensure that child who is a victim of crime participating in legal procedures are protected in accordance with the European Union's guidelines.
2. To improve skills, competences and sensitivity of professionals involved in legal interventions.
3. To enhance progressive changes in the practice of interviewing children.
4. To disseminate information about child victims of crime (research and expertise results).
5. To encourage cooperation between NGOs from East European countries.

## ***Making a difference: joint response to child abuse in Zemgale district, Riga, Latvia.***

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**Funded by:** Oak foundation

**Time period of the project:** October 2009 – September 2012

### **Specific objectives of the project:**

1. To improve the protection of children from abuse through building the capacity of police, social workers, doctors and other Child Abuse and Neglect professionals and better coordinating their efforts.
2. To empower parents and the community to better protect their children.
3. To provide direct services for children who are victims of abuse in Dardedze center.

Main goal of this project is to establish and support professional network providing services for abused children and families, as well as advocating for the best interests of children in Latvia.

## ***Helping abused children and preventing child abuse in Latvia (Violence prevention)***

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**Funded by:** Save the children Sweden

**Time period of the project:** January 2010 – December 2010

### **Specific objectives of the project:**

1. To train up to 30 parents of young children in non abusive parenting approaches through a specially designed 10 step program "Pathways to competence"
2. Provide support for additional clients in the situation of child abuse or high risk situations
3. To involve local community in providing support to young high risk families with young children thus reducing the risk of child abuse in these families
4. To enable center "Dardedze" to function and run its preventive and therapeutic programs in times of financial recession in the country.

## ***Child as a victim or witness in Criminal proceedings***

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**Funded by:** Swiss Confederation and Republic of Latvia through the Latvian – Switzerland partnership program.

**Time period of the project:** December 1st 2010 – November 30th 2011

### **Specific objectives of the project:**

1. To promote integrated action of the institutions involved in investigation and court procedures, when child is involved in the criminal proceedings as a victim or witness of crime.
2. To protect the best interests of the child involved in criminal proceedings and to promote the renewal of his/her life quality.
3. To develop guidelines and standards of child friendly interviewing; as well as adapt and absorb theses guidelines and standards into practice.

### **Partners of the Project:**

Center "Valdardedze" in Valmiera, Talsi crises center, Latgale regional support center "Rasas pērles" and Ventspils Crises center for families and children "Pasparne", as well as Riga Council Welfare department.

## *Involving volunteers in improving child safeguarding in families*

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**Funded by:** Swiss Confederation and Republic of Latvia through the Latvian – Switzerland partnership program.

**Time period of the project:** December 1st, 2010 – May 31st, 2012.

### **Specific objectives of the project:**

1. Based on the best volunteering practices in the world, to develop a volunteer system in Latvia to provide in formal support to families with young children in crises.
2. To recruit and train 50 volunteers in providing support to up to 100 children in crises families.
3. To develop a NGO and municipality partnership model in implementing the volunteer informal support to families program.
4. To train 16 volunteer mentors/supervisors who would provide assistance to support to volunteers in working with the families.

### **Partners of the Project:**

Vidzeme regional support center "Valdardze", Talsi crises center, Ventspils crisis center for families and children "Paspārne" and Riga City Welfare Department.



## Campaigns in 2010

### *Campaign “I have the right not to be afraid!”*

This campaign was initiated by our Polish partner organization “Nobody’s children foundation” and implemented in terms of the project “Childhood without Abuse – towards a better child protection system in Eastern Europe” 2nd stage.

Campaign “I have the right not to be afraid” was mainly addressing professionals dealing with children as victims or witnesses of crime during the criminal procedures – police officers, prosecutors and judges, as well as the representatives of children – psychologists and parents.

During campaign there were special posters and leaflets produced with the Charter of the rights of child victim” produced and distributed to the target audience through trainings, partnerships and other important events.

During campaign we also produced a special web page [www.bernskacietusais.lv](http://www.bernskacietusais.lv) where professionals and parents can find useful information regarding this topic.

Partners of the campaign: State Police, General Prosecution Office, Ministry of Justice and Children’s Rights Inspectorate.



**Man ir**

**tiesības nebaidīties!**

Bērns kā cietušā vai liecinieka iesaistīšana Kriminālprocesā ir īpaša situācija, kurā bērnam ir tiesības būt pasargātam, atbalstītam un uzklausītam, negūstot papildus traumatisku pieredzi.

Lai palīdzētu speciālistiem, kas sastopas ar bērnu kā nozieguma upuri vai liecinieku, veikt savu darbu bērnu interesēm un vajadzībām atbilstoši, Centrs „Dardedze” kopā ar sadarbības partneriem ir izveidojis portālu [www.bernskacietusais.lv](http://www.bernskacietusais.lv), kurā ir pieejama plaša informācija, kas saistīta ar vardarbības pret bērnu jautājumiem.

## Campaign “Courage to be friendly”

In 2010 we were able to continue what we started a year before and organize a special campaign “Courage to be friendly” to address the issues of bullying in school. This campaign was also formed around child participation where they participated in sending in the photos of their class and description why they are the friendliest class. At the end of campaign all the photos were combined in one joint photo collage as a hand for friendship. Issue of bullying was addressed in media as well as in different activities in schools organized by children themselves.



**12. novembris**  
**DRAUDZĪBAS DIENA**

Uzaicini šodien pusdienās to kolēģi, ar kuru parasti kopā nepusdieno, izrādi cieņu un laipnību darba biedram, kuram sen neesi pievērsis uzmanību - iepriecini viņu uzsmaidot, izpalīdzot, noliekot uz galda konfekti vai vienkārši mīļi sasveicinoties! It kā sīkumi, bet tik nozīmīgi un ikdienas steigā dažkārt piemirst!

Vienu dienu taču varam pamēģināt iztikt bez kolēģu dalīšanas labajos un sliktajos!!



Sīkāka informācija – [www.drosmedraudzeties.lv](http://www.drosmedraudzeties.lv) vai [www.draugiem.lv/draudzibasdiena](http://www.draugiem.lv/draudzibasdiena)





# Publications of 2010

## Es varu teu palīdzēt



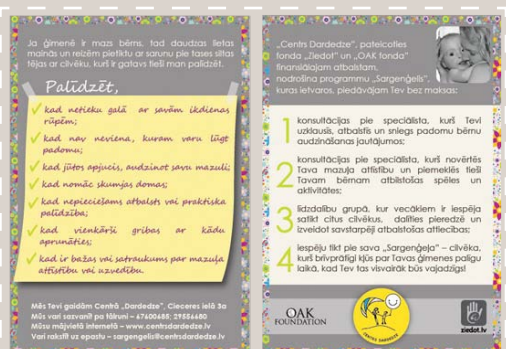
A booklet for parents "I can help you"

Poster for schools with anti bullying message "TOP 5 or 5 reasons to choose to be friendly"



Calendar with friendship recipes produced by children

Information sheet for parents with young children about "Guardian Angel" program







Anti bullying cards produced by children themselves

Manual for professionals working with abused children



Leaflet with the Charter of the rights of a child victim



Poster "I have the right not to be afraid"



Booklet for parents and law enforcement professionals "Child as a victim or witness of Crime"

## Important events with and for Center “Dardedze” in 2010

- Established focus on child participation issues
- Strategic planning for the whole organization with an international expert Henk Van Beers
- Conference held at the parliament of Latvia April 23rd, 2010 “Considering the best interests of the child in multidisciplinary cooperation when working with cases of child abuse and neglect” in partnership with international expert from UK Margaret Lynch
- Partnership with international expert from UK Nigel King in child friendly interviewing of children
- Partnership with Latvia Probation Office in developing a special program in treating sex offenders and victims of child sexual abuse
- Study visit to York, UK to learn about child protection system and child interviewing
- Participation in 12th World Congress of the World Association for infant Mental Health in Leipzig
- A special in-depth training of 12 sessions started for the police officers of Latvia in “Child friendly interviewing of children victims of abuse”
- In partnership with Bulgarian organization SAPI and Oak foundation conducting the training for representatives of child care institutions and residential homes on the issues of Resilience
- Opening of a new web resource center [www.bernskacietusais.lv](http://www.bernskacietusais.lv)
- Establishment of a new Board of Honors of Center “Dardedze” with respected representatives and experts of various fields who are concerned about the issues of child abuse
- Development of the Manual for professionals working with abused children



- Special training for prosecutors of Latvia in partnership with General prosecution office about the issues of child abuse and child as a victim or witness of crime
- Capacity building – international supervision for the staff and volunteers of Center “Dardedze” with Irish expert Brenda Molloy introducing a special program implemented in Ireland called “Community Mothers”
- Annual National Conference organized by Center “Dardedze” on child abuse issues “Phenomena of child abuse in the period of last 10 years in Latvia – numbers, facts and challenges”
- Annual “Friendship Day” held on November 12th - as a campaign combating bullying schools in Latvia
- Development of quality standards and methods of evaluating services of psycho -social rehabilitation provided to abused children in Latvia.







## Funding for the operation of Center "Dardedze in 2010

Grant (project) based funding:

Carnegie Social Initiative Fund:  
19 107 LVL

Social Activities Practices Institute  
(Daphne program):  
13 851.65 LVL

Fundacja Dzieci Niczyje  
(EU Crime prevention program):  
12 750.87 LVL

Oak Foundation:  
31 982 LVL

Fundacja Dzieci Niczyje  
(Childhood without abuse  
program funded by Oak  
Foundation):  
16 472.50 LVL

Soros Foundation:  
1 492.76 LVL

Foundation Ziedot.lv:  
11 815.46 LVL

Radda Barnen Sweden:  
62 566 LVL

Foundation AB.LV:  
600 LVL

Latvian Children Foundation:  
9 282 LVL

**TOTAL: 179 920.21 LVL**

Donations:

Lursoft Ltd:  
300 LVL

Swedbank:  
5 000 LVL

Riga Central Terminal Ltd:  
8 000 LVL

Daugavas Vanadzis:  
290 LVL

Private donations:  
5 000 LVL

**TOTAL: 179 920.21 LVL**

Subsidies for providing services  
to abused children and families:

Riga Social Services:  
12 662 LVL

Others:  
4 941 LVL

Thanks to all our partners, supporters and donors in 2010:



**CARNEGIE  
SOCIAL  
INITIATIVE**



**Save the Children**  
Sweden



**SKONTO METALS**



**LURSOFT**



**ziedot.lv**



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