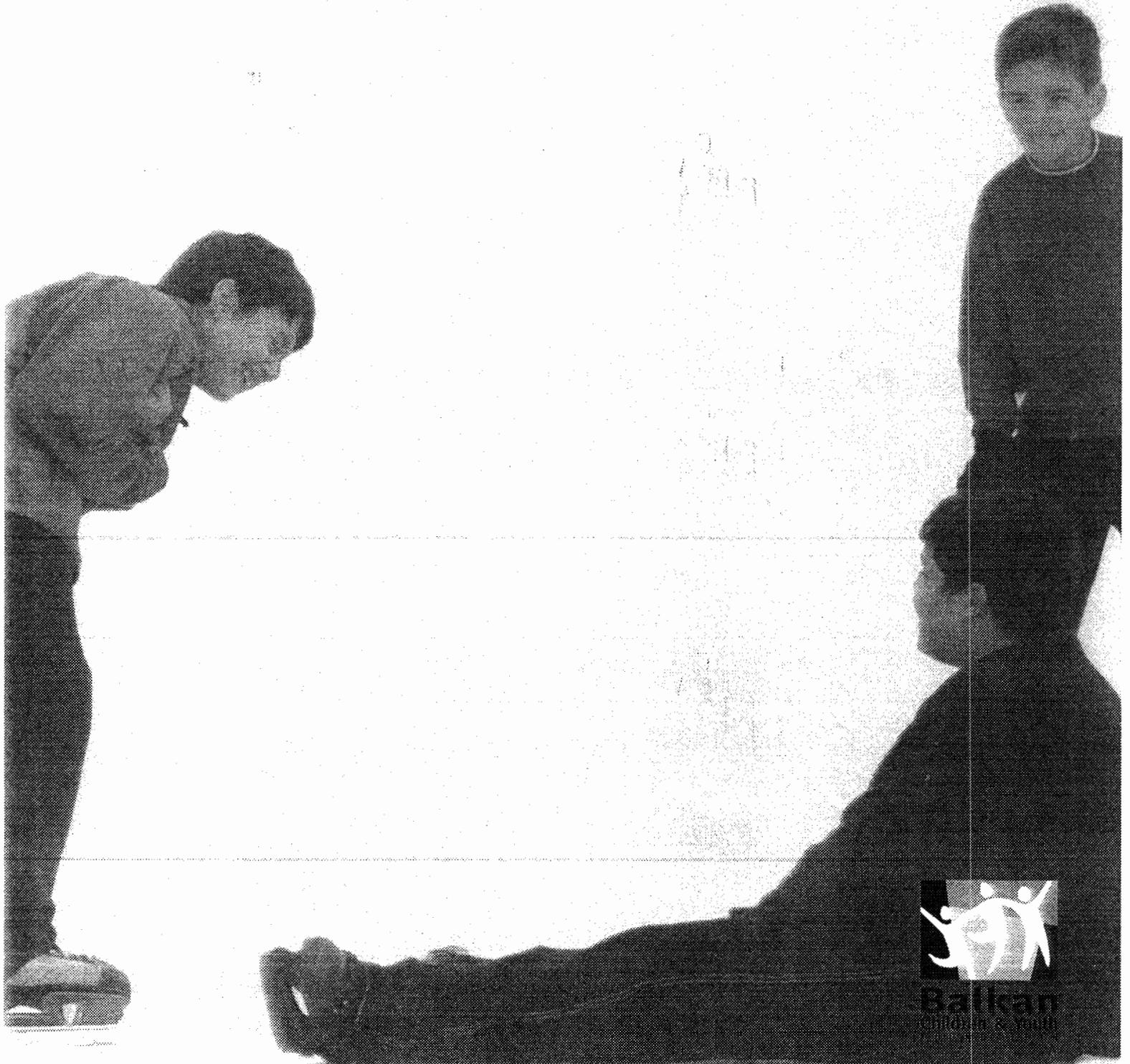


Balkan Children & Youth Foundation

2003

annual report

PD-ACG-261



Balkan  
Children & Youth

*BEST AVAILABLE COPY*



A Partner of the International Youth Foundation Global Network

## Who We Are

Founded in 2000, the Balkan Children and Youth Foundation (BCYF) is dedicated to improving the conditions and prospects for young people throughout the Balkan region. With regional operations headquartered in Skopje, Macedonia, BCYF's goal is to serve as a catalyst in strengthening the youth development sector throughout the region through a range of capacity-building supports, targeted grantmaking, and networking opportunities.

## A Member of the International Youth Foundation Global Network

BCYF was established with support from the International Youth Foundation (IYF), a nongovernmental, grantmaking organization dedicated to improving the conditions and prospects for young people where they live, learn, work, and play. BCYF is a member of the IYF Global Partner Network—currently operating in nearly 50 countries and territories—and continues to receive financial and technical support from IYF.

Over the last decade, IYF and its global network of in-country Partners have helped millions of young people gain access to the life skills, education, job training and opportunities critical to their success. For more information, please visit our website [www.iyfnet.org](http://www.iyfnet.org)

### Table of Contents

<b>2</b>	Letter from the Chair
<b>4</b>	What We Do
<b>5</b>	Strengthening the NGO Sector Serving Children and Youth
<b>7</b>	Promoting Positive Youth Development
<b>12</b>	Encouraging Tri-Sector Cooperation
<b>14</b>	Grantmaking 2003
<b>26</b>	Financials 2003
<b>31</b>	Contributing Donors
<b>32</b>	BCYF Board of Directors
<b>33</b>	Staff



This publication was made possible through support provided by the Regional Services Center-Budapest, U.S. Agency for International Development, under the terms of Award No.194-A-00-02-00102-00 to the International Youth Foundation. The opinions expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the U.S. Agency for International Development.





## Mission

The Balkan Children and Youth Foundation is dedicated to improving the conditions, prospects, and quality of life for young people, ages 5 to 30, throughout the Balkan region.

## Strategies

- Increase social investments in support of young people in the region and enhance cooperation among the business, government, and civil society sectors.
- Promote positive, long-term youth development by increasing the effectiveness, scale, and sustainability of children- and youth-serving programmes.
- Strengthen the capacity of nongovernmental organizations working with children and youth in the region.

March 2004

As I write, violence has once again erupted in Kosovo, a stark reminder that peace in the Balkan region is fragile and not to be taken for granted. It's also a reminder that peace comes not with a declaration, but with small steps taken daily on both sides towards a far-reaching goal. Together, these steps build the momentum needed to create lasting change.

Three years ago, the Balkan Children and Youth Foundation (BCYF) emerged as a bold idea for mobilizing resources and expertise – within and outside the region – in support of its young people. Today, through carefully charted steps, that bold idea is now a firmly-established, regional foundation, which has awarded grants totaling nearly US\$ 1.7 million to 89 programmes serving young people. Throughout these pages, you'll find examples of these programmes, many of which resulted from the dedication and commitment of young people themselves.

Take, for example, Miso Pejkovic, now 25. It was at the age of 19 that Miso, a medical student, decided he wanted to learn from the experiences of other nations and take action to prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Montenegro. Working from a room in his home and with money donated by his parents, he started the Montenegrin Association Against AIDS (CAZAS). Today, CAZAS is a leading force in the fight against AIDS in the country, its trained peer educators having reached more than 12,000 young people. BCYF invests in dedicated leaders such as Miso and their proven strategies for creating positive change.

To acknowledge and strengthen the efforts of the region's young leaders, BCYF inaugurated what is to become an annual Balkan Youth Forum. More than 140 young people from 11 countries attended the 4 day event, held on the Montenegrin coast. Sessions explored issues such as youth employment, civic education, health promotion, and youth policy development. For youth leaders who often work in isolation, the event provided the opportunity to network and share information with others grappling with similar challenges.

Strengthening the capacity of civil sector organizations is a key driver in BCYF's work. Toward that end, BCYF hosts workshops and conferences that bring people together to learn and exchange ideas. One such confer-



ence focused on strengthening the youth sector in Kosovo by enabling its youth leaders to learn from best practices developed in other Balkan nations. A similar event focused on the development of leadership skills and the promotion of democratic values within organizations.

While such events underscore the many positive forces at work in the region, our focus remains on current challenges. Looking ahead, it would be irresponsible and unrealistic to downplay the obstacles facing young people in the Balkans, among them high rates of unemployment, lagging economies, and a lack of faith in both educational and political systems. Asked if she was hopeful about the future, Ana Anjelic, a 22-year-old youth volunteer living in Belgrade, said it was difficult to feel entirely positive about what lies ahead. At the same time, she acknowledged that young people didn't create today's problems and, in the face of such challenges, have no choice but to try and build a better tomorrow.

I can think of no better rationale for the work of BCYF. Despite some very real challenges, we have no choice but to invest in the greatest possible resource for positive change in the region: its young people. As we carry out our work, we are grateful to BCYF's many donors and supporters in helping us to achieve our ambitious mission.



Martti Ahtisaari  
Chairman  
Balkan Children and Youth Foundation



## Geographic Coverage

"Having worked for years in war-torn regions of the world, I am familiar with the formidable challenges of rebuilding communities and promoting the healing process. BCYF has a strong track record of engaging youth in this critical process, and I look forward to supporting its efforts."

*Bernard Kouchner,  
Founder,  
Médecins sans  
Frontières, BCYF  
Board Member*



Albania  
Bosnia-Herzegovina  
Bulgaria  
Croatia  
Kosovo  
Macedonia  
Moldova  
Montenegro  
Romania  
Serbia

*In addition, Greece, Hungary, Slovenia, and Turkey are involved in the programme as part of a regional strategy to network and share expertise, and are eligible for support as participants in regional networking activities.*

## What We Do

The Balkan Children and Youth Foundation (BCYF) acts as a catalyst to promote positive youth development throughout the Balkans. By building alliances at the local, national, regional, and international levels, BCYF is developing a comprehensive strategy to better meet the needs of children and youth. Since its founding in November 2000, the Foundation has worked with more than 200 NGOs, awarded nearly 90 grants in 10 countries and territories, and invested more than US\$ 1.7 million to improve the lives and prospects of Balkan youth. BCYF's core activities enhance young people's opportunities in the areas of employment, technology, non-formal education, health promotion and prevention, and democracy building.

While BCYF seeks to address the urgent realities of a region recovering from decades of ethnic strife and economic isolation, its focus is on developing long-term, sustainable solutions. Toward that end, BCYF aims to strengthen youth-serving NGOs in the Balkans, identify and support best practices, convene individuals and organizations to develop a common vision for the region's youth, and forge multi-sector partnerships to further these goals.

# STRENGTHENING THE NGO SECTOR SERVING CHILDREN AND YOUTH

Throughout the Balkan region, civil society organizations have emerged to respond to some of the most critical children and youth needs – such as expanded educational and recreational opportunities, employability skills training, interethnic cooperation, and health awareness. These groups have often evolved from the passion and conviction of committed individuals, yet most still operate in relative isolation, without access to the knowledge and skills that would enable them to carry out their work more widely, effectively and efficiently. Equipping such organizations and individuals with the tools and strategies to have an even greater impact is one of BCYF's key goals. Capacity building activities include:

## **Training and Staff Development**

BCYF provides grants to youth-serving NGOs to strengthen their capacity, reach, and sustainability. During 2003, national and regional training workshops and conferences were held to support NGOs in the areas of strategic planning, resource mobilization and financial sustainability, and strategies for building tri-sector partnerships. NGO staff also received training aimed at furthering organizational leadership skills, democratic values, and positive group dynamics, as well as expertise in such areas as monitoring and evaluation, financial management, and grant making. One such training workshop took place in Borovetz, Bulgaria, where more than 50 representatives of Balkan youth NGOs met to develop strategies for improving their financial base and long-term stability.



## **The Balkan Youth Forum: Encouraging Cooperation and Networking Among NGOs**

BCYF's first Balkan Youth Forum, held from 17-20 September 2003, in Herceg Novi, Montenegro, attracted more than 140 representatives of child and youth-serving NGOs from across the Balkans. Aimed at encouraging cooperation and networking among these organizations, the Forum provided participants with training opportunities, group discussions and debates, and the chance to contribute to a set of recommendations for the network as a whole.

The event focused on four programmatic priorities: youth policy development; youth employment; civic education; and health promotion and prevention. Participants also enhanced their knowledge in such areas as advocacy and public involvement, sustainability and fundraising, networking and regional cooperation, and needs assessments in youth work.

*"Youth Business International (YBI) and BCYF share a commitment to mobilize leaders in business, government, and NGOs to help young people in the Balkans succeed as entrepreneurs."*

*Andrew Fiddaman, Youth Business International (YBI), a program of The Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum*



### **Partnership Exchanges**

As a way to foster cooperation among youth organizations grappling with similar issues and challenges, BCYF funds exchanges through which NGO staff share best practices and experiences. In 2003, the Balkan Youth Partnership Programme enabled local staff to meet with their counterparts in different countries to enhance their effectiveness and outreach in such areas as education, youth employment, and the promotion of youth participation. An exchange between Big Brother Big Sisters programmes in Skopje, Macedonia and Plovdiv, Bulgaria, for example, enabled staff in each locality to explore ways of improving their projects' effectiveness and scale.

### **Promotion of Best Practices**

BCYF has adapted a Framework for Effective Programming (FEP), developed by the International Youth Foundation in consultation with youth experts around the world, to promote best practices and sound organizational policies among youth-serving organizations. That framework emphasizes such strategies as prevention and early intervention, a holistic approach to youth development, the involvement of parents and extended family, and cost-effectiveness. (See [www.balkanyouth.org](http://www.balkanyouth.org) for complete Framework description.) As part of the capacity-building process, BCYF staff and consultants identify existing programmes for children and youth in the region, and assess their strengths, weaknesses, and needs. BCYF's growing database of effective, best practice programmes in the Balkans represents a valuable resource for directing funding and technical assistance to local NGOs. The database will be available on the BCYF website by mid 2004.

"The Center reinforces among children a sense of their own culture, while exposing them to others. Through playing and asking questions, they learn that while we're all different, we have many of the same ideas and feelings." –

*Susanna Kirandziska,  
Director of the  
Foundation for  
Educational and  
Cultural Initiatives,  
Skopje, Macedonia*

# PROMOTING POSITIVE YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

BCYF and its many partners are united in the belief that young people's engagement and leadership are critical to the social and economic revitalization of the Balkan region. Building upon their skills, talents, and creativity, and providing opportunities for youth to become positively engaged in their communities, is at the core of our work. BCYF grants provide support in the following areas:

**Democracy Building** – Recognizing the vital role young people can and must play in strengthening their communities, nation, and the region as a whole, BCYF works to expand opportunities for volunteerism, community service, and civic education among Balkan youth. Such programmes aim to promote confidence, self expression, and critical thinking. Building a spirit of tolerance and reconciliation among the diverse ethnic groups in this region is a particularly urgent task.

In 2003, BCYF supported a range of activities in this area, including a programme in Albania that offers young people the chance to participate in street theatre as a way to raise awareness about healthy lifestyles, multicultural cooperation, and gender equality. Youth from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, and Serbia have gained new knowledge



## Promoting Volunteerism Among Montenegrin Youth

“Youth have lost the belief that something can change,” says Vojislav Jovanovic, 24, who first started volunteering at the age of 16 in his home town of Podgorica, Montenegro. “I felt useless and wanted to do something with my life,” he recalls. Today, Vojislav serves as Programme Coordinator of the Association for Democratic Prosperity (ZID), a youth-led NGO dedicated to engaging young people in efforts to address urgent challenges in their communities.

ZID seeks to channel young people's energy into strengthening the civil society sector through youth volunteerism, while building their employability skills. As part of its “Active Youth in Practice” program, ZID is educating youth volunteers from six towns on the role of civil society, and equipping them with intensive training in job seeking skills and strategies such as how to write a résumé, research job opportunities, and conduct a successful interview. Participants also learn the basics of non-profit management, including fundraising, communications, and monitoring and evaluation skills. “Most people consider NGO work to be a closed shop,” says Vojislav. “Our idea is to motivate them to get involved.”

## Equipping Young People With Entrepreneurial Skills

At age 17, Peter Uzunov dreams of one day starting his own computer programming business. And while those dreams are still a long way off, he's learning the basics of entrepreneurship through the Youth Centre for Business Innovation, a training programme targeting 15-to 25-year-olds in Haskovo, a city in south-eastern Bulgaria. The Centre, which was created in response to high levels of unemployment in the area and the need to equip young people with practical, job-related skills, targets young people with the potential to develop their own businesses. As part of their hands-on training, participants are developing a website to provide aspiring entrepreneurs with detailed information on how to start or strengthen a small or medium-size business. "We're learning from each other, and learning how to work as a team," says Ivelina Nedialovcova, a 16-year-old programme participant.

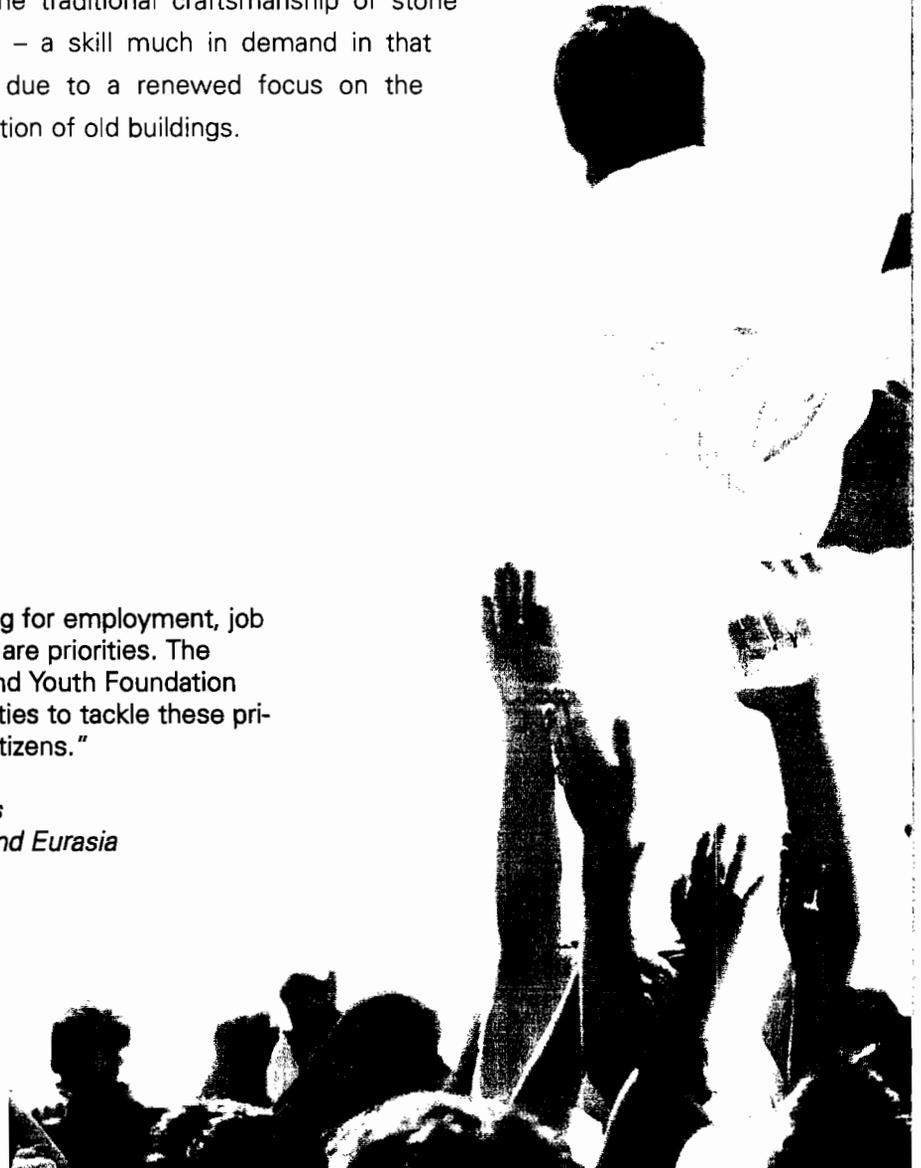
about human rights and democracy, and learning to better understand each other, through the production of six TV documentaries. A centre for women in Croatia is promoting gender equality and tolerance among 1,000 young women and men.

**Employment** – High unemployment among youth leaves many in the margins of society, diminishing their dreams for a better future. Equipping young people with the personal, social, and technical skills to successfully find their place in society and in the economy is a significant focus for BCYF, which places a priority on improving career training and employment prospects for youth across the Balkans.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, for example, students gain employability skills through computer courses and cultural exchanges, while a project in Albania provides unemployed youth the opportunity to learn the traditional craftsmanship of stone carving – a skill much in demand in that region due to a renewed focus on the restoration of old buildings.

"With at least one-third of Balkan youth looking for employment, job creation and building skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> century are priorities. The USAID partnership with the Balkan Children and Youth Foundation provides an opportunity for youth of all ethnicities to tackle these priorities and become productive and peaceful citizens."

*Heather Goldman, Chief of Regional Programs  
USAID Regional Services Center for Europe and Eurasia*



**Non-Formal Education** – Expanding learning opportunities for young people is critical to improving the lives and prospects of today's Balkan youth. BCYF supports programmes that foster greater civic education, reinforce multicultural education, and extend learning opportunities to out-of-school youth. In 2003, BCYF supported activities that included a debating skills programme among primary school students in Kosovo and the delivery of non-formal education activities to 200 young people living in Roma communities across Croatia.

**Technology** – BCYF seeks to bridge the digital divide by promoting programmes that strengthen young people's knowledge and use of technology. Strategies include introducing information and communication technology both in the classroom and through community-based initiatives.

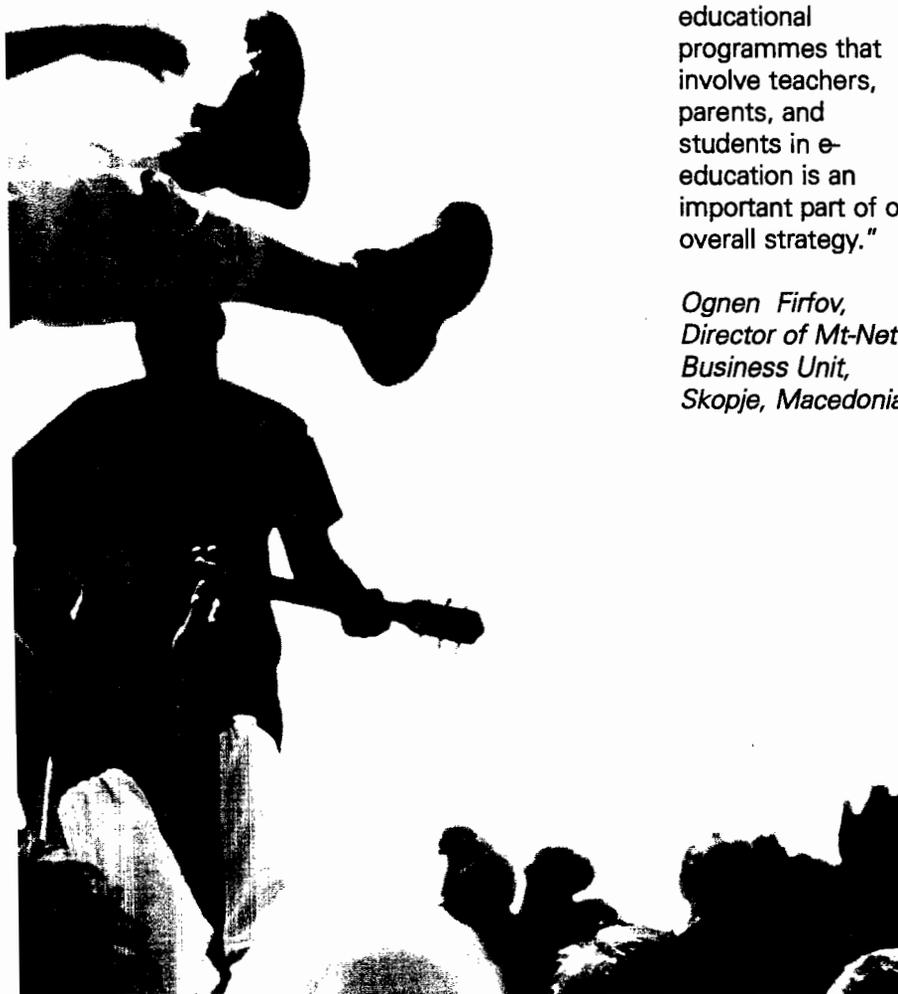
"Supporting educational programmes that involve teachers, parents, and students in e-education is an important part of our overall strategy."

*Ognen Firfov,  
Director of Mt-Net's  
Business Unit,  
Skopje, Macedonia*

## Nurturing Understanding and Appreciation of Cultural Differences

Established in 1997, the Children's Creative Center has adopted a quite literal interpretation of the popular saying, "It takes a village to raise a child." On the second floor of the Center, children of all ages can explore a variety of dwellings, including a prehistoric cave, a traditional Macedonian home, an African hut, a Roma caravan, and a Native American tepee. The Center's non-formal approach is designed to be subtle, explains Suzana Kirandziska, Director of the initiative "Step by Step."

Rather than "tell" children how to think or behave, the Center activities, which include art classes, mask making workshops, and puppet shows, build self-esteem and influence how young people perceive others and their place in the world. "The Center reinforces among children a sense of their own culture, while exposing them to others," explains Suzana, who recognizes the many complex factors that help form children's attitudes and behaviours.



## Connecting Schools to the Internet

“Students are more interested in subjects now because they can use computers and the Internet to do research” says Katerina Mitesvska, an English teacher in Skopje, Macedonia. Instead of spending their time passively listening to lectures, students in her school are now more actively engaged in the learning process through the introduction of information technology in the classroom.

Katerina’s school is one of eight schools in Macedonia to benefit from a unique multi-sector collaboration, supported by BCYF, that equips schools with free Internet connections and trains teachers in IT. While 24 teachers have received the initial training, they shared what they learned with another 150 colleagues. Teachers also benefited from training sessions that promote active learning in the classroom.

**Health Promotion and Prevention** – BCYF invests in programmes that help adolescents address special health needs such as substance abuse, and prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS and other sexually-transmitted diseases. The spread of HIV/AIDS is of particular concern, given the region’s social upheaval over the past decade, increased mobility across borders, and rising rates of intravenous drug use. BCYF promotes a range of activities that address these critical health issues. A programme in Macedonia, for example, enlists volunteers to work at an SOS help line for at-risk youth while gaining valuable training to promote healthy sexual behaviour and prevent drug abuse among their peers. In Kosovo, youth gain greater health awareness, particularly of the risks of HIV/AIDS, drug and alcohol use, and smoking, through the Galaxy Stars initiative.



In Montenegro, at the age of 19, Miso Pejkovic, a medical student, and several of his peers, launched the Montenegrin Association Against AIDS (CAZAS). Organized from a room in Miso's home, and using money borrowed from his parents to produce educational posters and flyers, CAZAS eventually received support from the World Health Association. Since its founding, CAZAS's HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention activities have reached more than 12,000 students across the country. "Education is the key to fighting the disease," says Miso, who trains youth as peer educators, who then offer workshops on HIV/AIDS and substance abuse prevention in their schools. With the support of BCYF, the group surveyed 700 high school students in five Montenegrin towns to assess young people's knowledge of HIV/AIDS and substance abuse, and to identify future peer educators. About 75 have undergone in-depth training and are now educating their peers.



"Most people consider NGO work to be a closed shop. Our idea is to motivate them to get involved."

*Vojislav Jovanovic,  
24, Program  
Coordinator of the  
Association for  
Democratic  
Prosperity,  
Montenegro*

## ENCOURAGING TRI-SECTOR COOPERATION

"I enjoyed working as part of a team. It gave me the feeling I was important and could make good decisions."

*Milan Stapar, 21,  
former member of  
"Youth Parliament,"  
Belgrade, Serbia*

BCYF recognizes that only by working collaboratively can we begin to make a significant and lasting difference in the lives of the region's children and youth. For that reason, we pursue a variety of co-funding partnerships at the local, national, regional, and international levels. BCYF works to generate investments from businesses, governments, NGOs, and international funding agencies, as well as enhance cooperation among the different sectors.

A potent example of the power of tri-sector partnerships is a BCYF-supported education programme in Macedonia, which has equipped 8 schools in disadvantaged communities with Internet access, and trained 300 teachers in ICT. Approximately 4,000 students, ages 9 to 14, are benefiting from these new educational opportunities. The project draws on the resources and expertise of the Association for Information Global Educational Technologies,



Svest, which manages the alliance and provides the training; the Ministry of Education, which provides the equipment, and Macedonian telecommunications, which provides the Internet connection free of charge. In order to promote such alliances, BCYF holds regular meetings with business and government leaders in the Balkans and across Europe, including presentations in 2003 to the German-Macedonian Business Association, the European Foundation Centre's Annual Meeting in Lisbon, and The Prince of Wales International Business Leaders Forum.

In support of its efforts, over its short existence, BCYF has mobilized funds from government agencies, including a US\$ 3 million 3-year commitment from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID); as well as generous support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) and the Peace and Stability Fund, Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Business sector donors include UPM-Kymmene and Schneider Electric, and NGO supporters include Freudenberg Stiftung; the International Youth Foundation, the Kosova Foundation for Open Society and the Gustaf V 90th Anniversary Fund.

"The task of promoting greater cooperation, tolerance, and democracy across the Balkans is a collective responsibility. So we are pleased to support NGOs such as BCYF whose mission is to ensure the region's young people have the skills and opportunities to become active citizens and leaders in their communities."

*Gunnel Unge,  
Senior Adviser,  
Youth/Social  
Work/Culture  
Swedish International  
Development  
Cooperation Agency  
(Sida)*



## GRANTMAKING 2003

"I really like it because it fills my time. Otherwise I'd be sitting at home. Here, I learned how to behave outside my neighborhood and how to be a director and an actor."

*Sureja, 11, participant in "Street Stories," a project of the Children's Theatre Center in Skopje, Macedonia*

During 2003, BCYF provided 58 grants to non-governmental organizations in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Romania, and Serbia and Montenegro whose work focuses primarily on positive children and youth development. This year's grants totalled US\$ 601,666.

Projects seeking funding must fall within the Foundation's five core programme areas: employment, technology, non-formal education, health promotion and prevention, and civic education and democracy building. Additional criteria include an emphasis on holistic youth development, the relevance of activities to the local context (including stimulating interethnic cooperation), the impact of the project on civil society, and the technical feasibility of proposed activities. For additional information, please visit our website: [www.balkanyouth.org](http://www.balkanyouth.org).



**BCYF GRANTS 2003**

**Employment**

**Technology**

**Non-Formal Education**

**Health Promotion and Prevention**

**Democracy Building**

## Employment

### **AIESEC Romania – Career Days**

#### ***Bucharest, Romania***

To prepare young people for productive careers and to facilitate links between youth and the corporate sector. 240 students in 6 cities will receive training in career planning, résumé writing, interviewing, communication, and negotiation. Thousands of others will benefit from career orientation provided through career fairs and access to web-based resources.

**Grant Award: US\$ 11,200**

### **American University in Kosovo Foundation**

#### **– Career Service Center**

#### ***Kosovo***

To integrate young professionals into the work environment through organizing a National Job Fair and an online database through which companies and youth are able to network with one another.

**Grant Award: EUR 3,400**

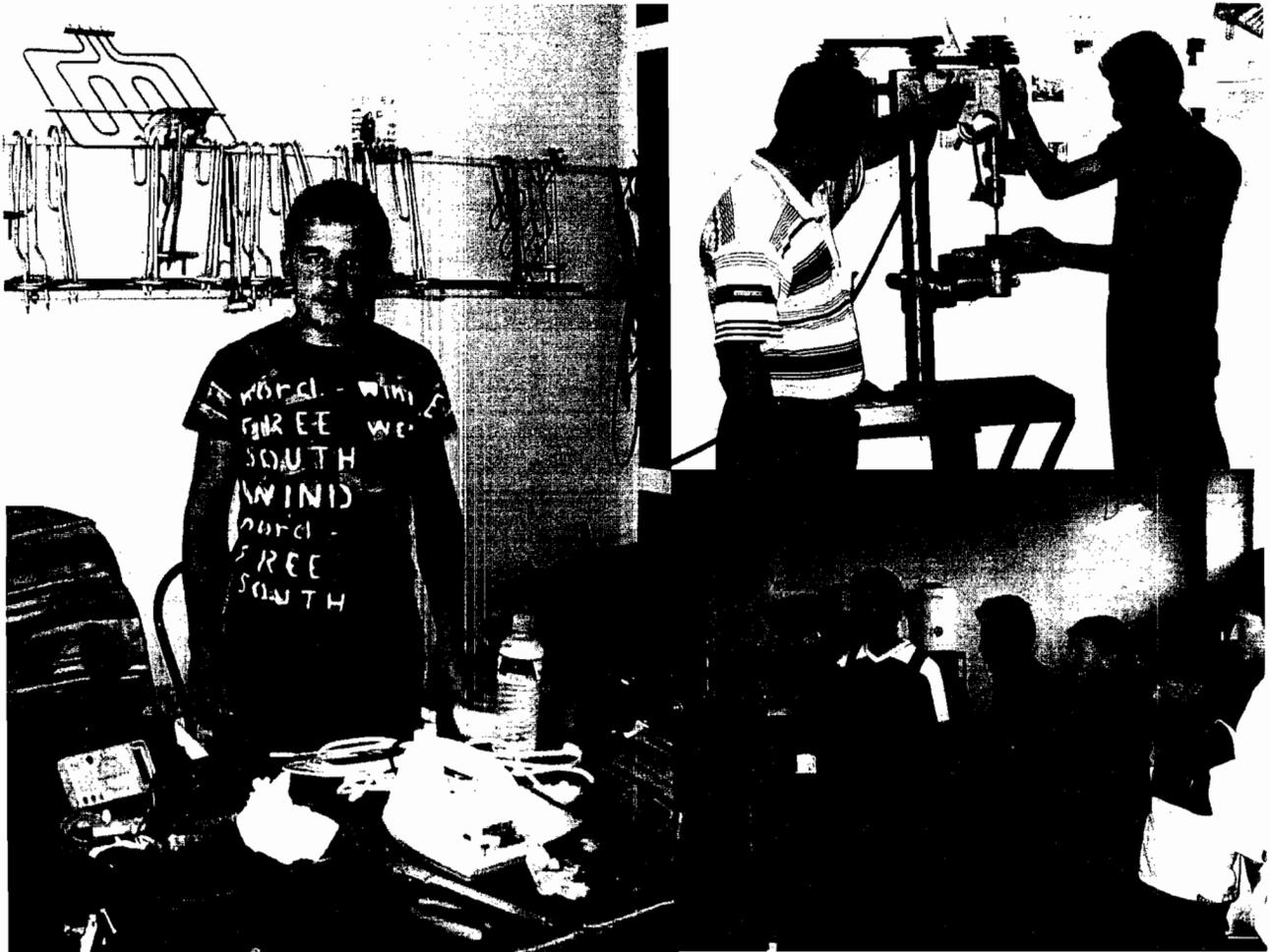
### **Center for Community and Business –**

#### **Developing Tomorrow’s Businessmen**

#### ***Gjakova, Kosovo***

To train youth in business management principles, financial accounting, and marketing, while stimulating dialogue among local business leaders concerning successful entrepreneurship.

**Grant Award: EUR 8,905**



### **Children's Theatre Center**

#### ***Skopje, Macedonia***

To teach intercultural learning and conflict prevention by using theatre as a means to reduce ethnic tensions and violence among children of different ethnic backgrounds. 180 children, ages 7 to 14, from poor, ethnically segregated areas, will work together to write stories and perform plays. Young artistic coordinators, ages 20 to 27, will facilitate the activities.

**Grant Award: US\$ 24,600**

### **Gjilan Youth Center – Work Initiatives (WIN)**

#### ***Gjilan, Kosovo***

To combat youth unemployment through life skills training and networking with local companies to determine their training abilities and requirements.

**Grant Award: EUR 6,738**

### **IRC Youth Center – Apprenticeship for Youth Prizren, Kosovo**

To assist high school graduates in building careers through apprenticeships with small businesses.

**Grant Award: EUR 12,000**

### **Kosovo Action Together – Youth for the Future**

#### ***Kosovo***

To provide job training for youth in such areas as market research, income generation, and business planning.

**Grant Award: EUR 6,460**

### **"NGO Relax" – Printer Preparation – Design Prizren, Kosovo**

To equip youth with graphic design skills and knowledge of printing processes, to better prepare them for the job market.

**Grant Award: EUR 2,900**

### **1 Plus 2 – the Art of Photography**

#### ***Kosovo***

To equip young people with photographic skills aimed to enhance their job prospects and develop networks among aspiring photographers.

**Grant Award: EUR 2,000**

### **Open Society Club**

#### ***Rouse, Bulgaria***

To improve the options for vocational training and qualifications that respond to the current market conditions. 100 unemployed youth, ages 18 to 29, will receive vocational training and employability skills.

**Grant Award: US\$ 16,352**

### **Recreation and Development Union (RDU) - Youth Centre for Business Innovation**

#### ***Haskovo, Bulgaria***

To create a youth business resource and training center where young people may learn business principles, receive IT training, gain free access to the Internet, and research job and internships opportunities. More than 150 youth are expected to benefit.

**Grant Award: US\$ 20,510**

### **Youth Employment Initiative in Serbia and Montenegro**

#### ***Leskovac, Serbia***

To establish a network of organizations and institutions in Serbia and Montenegro that will advocate for greater youth involvement in the creation of national youth employment policies. This activity will build on already existing efforts by the People's Parliament.

**Grant Award: US\$ 14,750**

## Technology

### **Contemporary Art Center – Video**

**Art Fest 2003,**

***Kosovo***

To advance young peoples' multi-media skills through the use of innovative computer programs.

**Grant Award: EUR 6,000**

### **Independent Youth Center – Together**

***Peja, Kosovo***

To equip young people from diverse ethnic communities with information technology skills.

**Grant Award: EUR 7,666**

### **Kosovo Action Together – NGOs**

**Connection to the Internet**

***Klina, Kosovo***

To equip the Center with the Internet access and enhance NGO networking on-line.

**Grant Award: EUR 4,194**

### **Multi-Media Center – Communication in Art**

***Kosovo***

To advance young peoples' multi-media skills through the use of different computer programs.

**Grant Award: EUR 2,500**

### **“New Step” – Training and Capacity**

**Building Center**

***Kosovo***

To provide non-formal education in computer literacy and Internet skills.

**Grant Award: EUR 4,800**

### **TeenNet Centre – Cultural Centre DamaD**

***Novi Pazar, Serbia***

To offer educational opportunities and access to new technologies to youth from Novi Pazar and to promote peaceful multi-cultural co-existence in the community. The project targets children and youth, ages 7 to 19, and 1,366 students will benefit.

**Grant Award: US\$ 24,350**

### **Union of Blind People – Computer “Eyes of the Blind”**

***Prizren, Kosovo***

To equip visually impaired youth with computer skills.

**Grant Award: EUR 7,022**

### **Youth Vision – Youth Perfectionism and Multi-Ethnic Environments**

***Skenderaj, Kosovo***

To equip area youth with computer skills aimed at enhancing their employment prospects.

**Grant Award: EUR 5,000**

## Non-Formal Education

### **Association of Students with Special Needs and Volunteers**

#### ***Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina***

To offer foreign language, computer and Braille Alphabet reading and writing skills to disabled students and volunteers, thereby preparing students for better integration into society. 60 students and volunteers of all ethnic backgrounds will benefit.

**Grant Award: US\$ 4,869**

### **Association Roma for Roma – Healthy Community**

#### ***Zagret, Croatia***

To contribute to the positive development of 200 young people living in four Roma communities through the delivery of non-formal education activities focused on health prevention and promotion strategies, environmental protection, community life, and communication skills.

**Grant Award: US\$ 22,600**

### **Educational and Cultural Initiatives – Celebrating Cultures through Dialogue and Art**

#### ***Skopje, Macedonia***

To promote multicultural understanding and respect for coexisting cultures, explore cultural diversity, and create conditions for better communication among different cultures, through workshops for parents and art and drama activities for children. About 200 children and 150 parents will benefit.

**Grant Award: US\$ 15,800**

### **Forum for Civic Initiative – Debate Tournament**

#### ***Ferizaj, Kosovo***

To enhance debating skills among primary school students with the aim of creating a network of debate clubs.

**Grant Award: EUR 391**

### **IPAK – Youth Build the Future**

#### ***Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina***

To provide educational opportunities for youth ages 15 to 17 living in an area with high unemployment and heavily populated by internally displaced persons. An estimated 300 youth will participate in these activities.

**Grant Award: US\$ 23,866**

### **ODA Theatre – ODA for Youth**

#### ***Kosovo***

To promote self-expression and creativity among youth through engagement in theatre activities.

**Grant Award: EUR 9,120**

### **Youth Vision – English Language Courses**

#### ***Janjeva, Kosovo***

To enhance the English language skills of youth from varying ethnic backgrounds.

**Grant Award: EUR 2,500**

### **Summer and Autumn Seminars, Camps and Workshops – Petnica Science Centre**

#### ***Valjevo, Serbia***

To improve the general level of education in the fields of science, technology, and the humanities, by offering educational programmes that go beyond regular school curricula and using modern teaching methods. About 680 youth and 130 teachers will participate.

**Grant Award: US\$ 20,650**

## Health Promotion and Prevention

### **Anti DANS – Health Education of Kosovo Youth**

#### ***Kosovo***

To survey the needs of youth in the area of health education and foster suggestions for promoting healthy behaviors through school curricula.

**Grant Award: EUR 4,000**

### **Association for Protection and Promotion of Mental Health in Children and Youth Nis, Serbia**

To promote volunteerism by facilitating active volunteer engagement through youth and adult councils. As a result, 200 youth will become volunteers.

**Grant Award: US\$ 10,920**

### **Galaxy Stars – Health Education for Youth Kosovo**

To promote greater health awareness among youth, particularly the risks of HIV/AIDS, drug and alcohol use, and smoking.

**Grant Award: EUR 2,000**

### **MIA – Association for Health Promotion and Education – Youth in Stop AIDS Action Skopje, Macedonia**

To raise awareness about HIV/AIDS among 850 youth and 150 parents in 8 municipalities through a baseline survey, training of peer educators and

NGO practitioners, media outreach, and fostering greater intergenerational communications.

**Grant Award: US\$ 20,805**

### **NGO "Nirvana Club" – Narcomany and Family**

#### ***Kosovo***

To promote healthy behaviors among youth, and awareness of the dangers of drug use, through theatrical performances targeting multi-ethnic audiences.

**Grant Award: EUR 1,500**

### **Third Summer School for Peer Educators on HIV/AIDS and Substance Abuse Prevention Podgorica, Montenegro**

To reinforce ongoing efforts for awareness raising on HIV/AIDS and drug abuse prevention, 50 youth will be trained as peer educators, and 3,000 youth will be reached through the peer education process.

**Grant Award: US\$ 16,984**

### **Tuzla Teenage Centre Telex – Zemlja Dece Tuzla, Bosnia and Herzegovina**

To foster adequate psychosocial development of youth of all ethnic origins at a center where youth receive individual counseling or are referred to specialized services. 700 children and youth will benefit.

**Grant Award: US\$ 19,980**

## Democracy Building

### **Association for Democratic Prosperity (ZID) Podgorica, Montenegro**

To increase active engagement and employability of Montenegrin youth through provision of non-formal education and opportunities for involvement in the civil sector, while increasing public awareness about volunteerism. About 350 youth will benefit from the project.

**Grant Award: US\$ 17,640**

### **Association of Young Stage Artists (SHARS) Establishment of Street Theatre in High Schools**

#### ***Tirana, Albania***

To engage 80 youth in street theatre performances aimed at raising awareness of key social issues such as healthy lifestyles, multi-cultural cooperation, and gender equality. More than 6,000 youth are expected to develop increased awareness of such issues through attending performances.

**Grant Award: US\$ 15,020**

### **Balkan Youth Link – Kosovo Branch – Youth Link Leadership Institute 2003 Kosovo**

To support a 2-week training camp for young people working toward positive social change in the Balkans.

**Grant Award: EUR 8,280**



**Bona Fides – Communication toward Reconciliation and Tolerance**

***Bjelina, Bosnia and Herzegovina***

To strengthen cooperation and mutual understanding among youth from Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, and to help them gain knowledge in new technologies, human rights, and entrepreneurship through the production of six documentaries.

**Grant Award: US\$ 14,960**

**Children's Friends – For a Better Future**

***Vushtrri, Kosovo***

To raise awareness among children and parents of children's rights.

**Grant Award: EUR 3,000**

**Centre for Information and Documentation on Children's Rights,**

***Chisinau, Moldova***

To develop life skills of students at boarding schools in order to facilitate their social integration after graduation, and thereby decreasing their risk of unemployment and trafficking. 300 youth will participate.

**Grant Award: US\$ 21,500**

**Democracy Centre "Nove Nade" – SuperNova 3**

***Bihac, Bosnia and Herzegovina***

To promote young people's participation in civil life through engaging 500 youth in roundtable discussions, debates, and educational workshops.

**Grant Award: US\$ 16,400**



**Dragash Youth Center (DYC) – Conflict Resolution**

***Dragash, Kosovo***

To increase tolerance and mutual respect among young people of diverse multi-ethnic backgrounds through joint activities (e.g. media, art, and language courses).

**Grant Award: EUR 6,185**

**Film and Theatre House “AKT” Future**

***Prishtina, Kosovo***

To explore significant social and political issues impacting young people through the production of a play.

**Grant Award: EUR 1,500**

**Human Rights Club – International Summer School 2003 for Young Leaders**

***Gjilan, Kosovo***

To enable select youth to participate in human rights, communications, and project planning training at Atlantic College in Wales.

**Grant Award: EUR 1,928**

**“Just Do It” – Inter-Ethnic Dialogue Among Youth**

***Gracanica, Kosovo***

To further debate and develop recommendations for the role of youth in contributing to the growth of a democratic society in Kosovo.

**Grant Award: EUR 5,000**

**Kosovar Youth Council – Youth Advocacy Network**

***Gjakova, Kosovo***

To form a youth coalition aimed at identifying issues of political concern to youth, with the goal of enabling young people to have greater influence on decisions shaping their future.

**Grant Award: EUR 4,500**

**Kosovar Youth Council – A Better Place for a Better Life**

***Prishtina, Kosovo***

To promote youth activism through the production of a documentary film featuring programs carried out by youth-serving agencies.

**Grant Award: EUR 3,000**

**Multidisciplinary Centre for Management of Child Maltreatment**

***Tirana, Albania***

To build life skills and promote open communications among high school youth from several districts in Albania, helping them mature into independent, supportive, and responsible adults. A total of 1,500 students and 72 teachers will be trained.

**Grant Award: US\$ 14,666**

**Professional Multi-Ethnic Organization “Landsdowne” – Let Community Voices Be Heard**

***Gjilan, Kosovo***

To improve inter-ethnic relations among 50 young people of different ethnicities through the organization of a workshop on minority rights.

**Grant Award: EUR 2,500**

**Support of Youth Voluntary Organizations in the Balkans**

***Zagreb, Croatia***

To strengthen the capacity of youth voluntary organizations to organize youth volunteer projects, and thus promote the spirit of volunteerism. 30 Balkan youth leaders will be trained in international volunteerism, and will organize summer international work camps involving up to 400 new volunteers.

**Grant Award: US\$ 17,140**

**Suncokret – Center for Grassroots Relief Work**

**Zagreb, Croatia**

To prevent and provide early treatment for potential child behavioral disorders, to foster proper psychosocial child development, and to promote cooperation and non-violence among primary school children. The program will involve 450 children, 380 parents, and 50 teachers.

**Grant Award: US\$ 13,864**

**“Vision of the Future – New Talents Shtime, Kosovo**

To provide disadvantaged youngsters, with emphasis on those without parents, with access to recreational and cultural activities aimed at furthering their positive development.

**Grant Award: EUR 4,000**

**Women’s Initiative – Youth Group Monitoring**

**Gjakova, Kosovo**

To strengthen the capacity of the youth group monitoring local youth policy through training and visits to local government institutions in Tirana.

**Grant Award: EUR 4,500**





**Youth Center Kinderberg International –  
Developing Youth Education**

***Theranda, Kosovo***

To increase young people's knowledge of human rights and strengthen their teamwork, conflict resolution, and communication skills.

**Grant Award: EUR 5,900**

**Youth Center – Youth Leaders and Art Murals**

***Prishtina, Kosovo***

To foster youth leadership through the planning and development of murals in public spaces.

**Grant Award: EUR 5,000**

**Youth Organization "Duga" – Youth in Media**

***Priluzje, Kosovo***

To engage youth in debating critical social issues through cultural activities, course work, and media outreach.

**Grant Award: EUR 4,000**

**Youth Organization "Hareja" – Joint Activities between NGOs and Local Institutions**

***Vishtrri, Kosovo***

To increase cooperation between youth NGOs and local authorities.

**Grant Award: EUR 5,511**

Financial Statements  
for the year ended 31 December 2003  
Balkan Children and Youth Foundation



KPMG Macedonia

28, Dame Gruev Street, 4th floor  
Skopje 1000  
Republic of Macedonia

Telephone +389 (2) 31 35 220  
Fax +389 (2) 31 11 811  
E-mail: kpmg@kpmg.com.mk

**Independent Auditor' Report to Balkan Children and Youth Foundation**

We have audited the accompanying balance sheet of Balkan Children and Youth Foundation ("the Foundation") as of 31 December 2003, and the related statement of support, revenue and expenses for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Foundation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing. Those Standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

The Foundation's policy is to prepare the financial statements on the cash receipts and disbursements basis. On this basis assets and liabilities arise from cash transactions, revenue is recognized when received rather than when earned, and expenses are recognized when paid rather than when incurred.

In our opinion, the financial statements give a true and fair view of the assets and liabilities arising from cash transactions of the Foundation as of 31 December 2003, and its revenue collected and expenses paid during the year in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis as described in significant accounting policies (a).

21 April 2004  
Skopje

KPMG

KPMG



KPMG Macedonia Ltd, established under Macedonian law, is a member of KPMG International, a Swiss cooperative

Registered by  
Skopje Basic Court I  
No. 5772/97

Tax Number:  
4032996107850

# Financials 2003

## Balance sheet box and statement of support box

As at 31 December 2003

*In US Dollars*

	Note	2003	2002
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	1	71,160	91,320
<b>Total current assets</b>		71,160	91,320
Property, plant and equipment	2	28,762	11,865
<b>Total non current assets</b>		28,762	11,865
<b>Total assets</b>		99,922	103,185
<b>Liabilities and fund balance</b>			
Fund balance	3	99,922	103,185
<b>Total fund balance</b>		99,922	103,185
<b>Total liabilities and fund balance</b>		99,922	103,185

## Statement of support, revenue and expenses

For the year ended 31 December 2003 *In US Dollars*

<i>In US Dollars</i>	Note	2003	2002
Donations		1,028,552	470,914
In-kind contribution		8,000	-
<b>Donations income</b>		1,036,552	470,914
Grant making		546,778	203,108
Capacity building		173,376	28,436
Exchanges		21,179	
Personnel		106,061	81,583
Annual forum		41,729	-
Running costs		35,944	21,090
Depreciation		5,780	3,729
Consultants		19,110	18,865
Other		79,628	36,070
<b>Expenses</b>		1,029,585	392,881
<b>Excess of donations income over expenses before other income</b>		6,967	78,033
Foreign exchange (loss)/gain		(10,230)	834
<b>(Deficit)/surplus for the year</b>	3	(3,263)	78,867

# Financials 2003

## Significant accounting policies

The Balkan Children and Youth Foundation ("the Foundation") was established as a not for profit organization on 22 February 2001. The Foundation is a legal entity founded by International Youth Foundation, Baltimore and is incorporated in Skopje, Republic of Macedonia. The Foundation operates as non-governmental and non-profitable organization and performs its activities through the donations of the donors for children and youth programs.

### (a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements are presented in US Dollars.

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the cash receipts and disbursements basis. On this basis assets and liabilities arise from cash transactions, revenue is recognised when received rather than when earned, and expenses are recognised when paid rather than when incurred.

The accounting policies are consistent with those used in the previous years.

### (b) Foreign currency transactions

Transactions in foreign currencies are translated to US Dollars at the foreign exchange rate ruling at the date of the transaction. Monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies at the balance sheet date are translated to US Dollars at the foreign exchange rate ruling at that date. Foreign exchange differences arising on

translation are recognised in the statement of support, revenue and expenses. Non-monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currency are translated to US Dollars at the foreign exchange rate ruling at the date of transaction.

The foreign currencies deals of the Foundation are predominantly Euro (EUR) and the local currency, Macedonian Denars (MKD) based. The exchange rates used for translation at 31 December 2003 were as follows:

	EUR	MKD
1 USD as at 31 December 2003	0.80	49.05
1 USD as at 31 December 2002	0.96	58.59

### (c) Property, plant and equipment

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation.

Expenditure paid to replace a component of an item of property, plant and equipment that is accounted for separately, is capitalised. Other subsequent expenditures are capitalised only when they increase the future economic benefits embodied in the item of fixed assets. All other expenditures are recognised in the statement of support, revenue and expenses as an expense as paid.

Depreciation is charged to the statement of support, revenue and expenses on a straight-line basis over the estimated useful lives of items of property, plant and expenses.

Assets are not depreciated until they are brought into use. The estimated annual rates of depreciation are as follows:

Furniture and Equipment	16%
Software and computers	20%

**(d) Recognition of Donations Income**

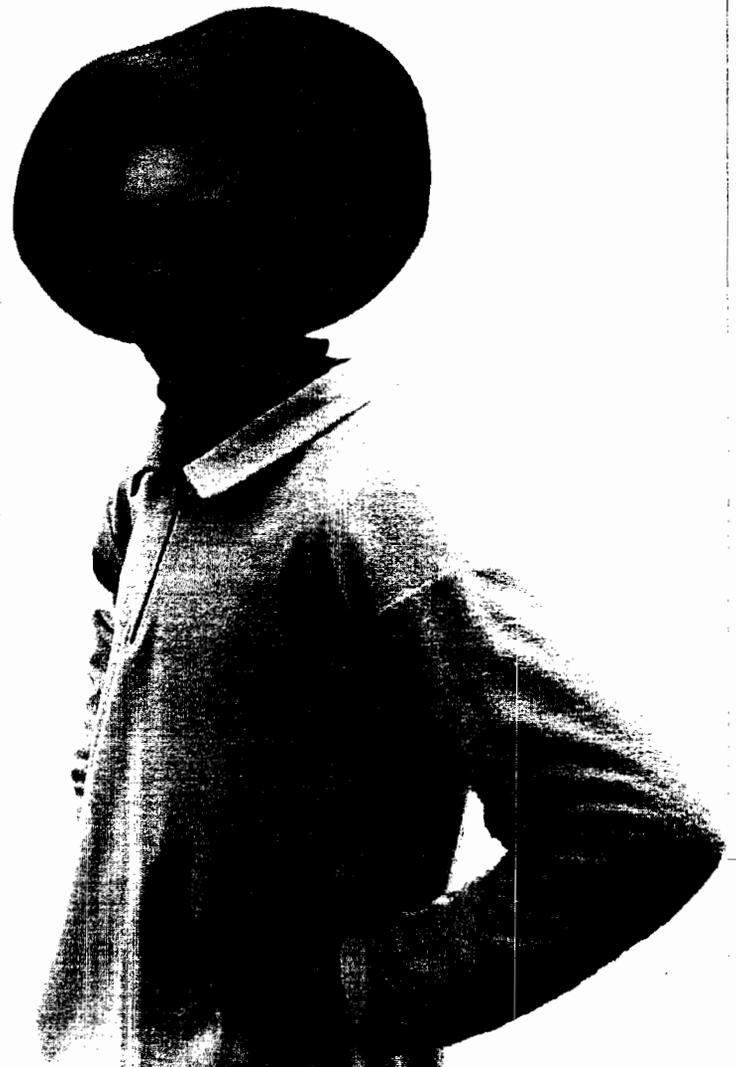
Income is recognized on cash basis, i.e. when received rather than when earned.

**(e) Expense recognition**

Expenses are recognized on a cash basis, i.e. when paid rather than when incurred.

**(f) Taxation issues**

The corporate tax is fixed for all taxpayers in amount of 15% on taxable income but as a not for profit organization the Foundation is not liable for corporate tax.



# Financials 2003

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 1. Cash and cash equivalents

*In US Dollars*

	2003	2002
Current accounts in domestic bank		
- in foreign currency	64,535	86,362
- in denars	4,433	4,300
Cash on hand		
- in foreign currency	1,279	418
- in denars	913	239
	71,160	91,320

### 2. Property, plant and equipment

*In US Dollars*

	Computers	Furniture and Equipment	Total
<b>Cost</b>			
At 1 January	6,981	10,761	17,742
Additions	12,532	10,371	22,903
At 31 December	19,513	21,132	40,645
<b>Depreciation</b>			
At 1 January	2,364	3,739	6,103
Charge for the year	2,817	2,963	5,780
At 31 December	5,181	6,702	11,883
<b>Carrying amount</b>			
As at 31 December 2002	4,617	7,022	11,639
As at 31 December 2003	14,332	14,430	28,762

## Notes to the Financial Statements

### 3. Fund balance

*In US Dollars*

	2003	2002
<b>Fund balance at 1 January</b>	103,185	22,798
(Deficit)/surplus for the year	(3,263)	78,867
Translation differences	-	1,520
<b>Fund balance at 31 December</b>	99,922	103,185

## **Contributing Donors**

BCYF gratefully acknowledges the support of the following funding partners:

International Youth Foundation

Kosova Foundation for Open Society

Peace and Stability Fund, Royal Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Stiftelsen Konung Gustaf V 90th Anniversary Fund

Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida)

United States Agency for International Development (USAID)

UPM-Kymmene

# BCYF Board of Directors

## **Martti Ahtisaari (Chair)**

Finland

Former President of Finland, and Chair of the International Crisis Group

## **Christiane Amanpour**

United Kingdom

CNN Chief International Correspondent

## **Stojan Cerovic**

Serbia and Montenegro

Co-founder and columnist, *Vreme* newspaper

## **Tatiana Stoyanova Kalkanova**

Bulgaria

Member of the Parliament

## **Bernard Kouchner**

France

Founder of Médecins sans Frontières

Former Head of United Nations Mission in Kosovo

## **Rick Little**

United States

CEO, ImagineNations Group

Founder and Former President,

International Youth Foundation

## **Vladimir Milcin**

Macedonia

Executive Director of Institute Open Society – Macedonia

## **Dimitry Panitza**

Bulgaria

Chair of the Free and Democratic Bulgaria Foundation

## **Rita Süßmuth**

Germany

Former President, German Parliament (Bundestag)

## **Erion Veliaj**

Albania

Executive Director of MJAFT! (ENOUGH! – an anti-corruption youth-lead movement)

# Staff

**Agon Demjaha**  
Executive Director

**Lorita Constantinescu**  
Programme Officer (Throughout 2003)

**Risto Karajkov**  
Programme Officer

**Aleksandra Vidanovic**  
Programme Officer for Capacity Building (As of 2004)

**Maja Askapova Angelova**  
Finance Officer

**Ljupka Nikolovska**  
Office Assistant

# In-Country Representatives

**Donika Godaj**  
Albania

**Jan Zlatan Kulenovic**  
Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Maria Petkova**  
Bulgaria

**Sanja Cesar**  
Croatia

**Nikica Kusinikova**  
Macedonia

**Ana Coretchi**  
Moldova

**Ajsa Hadzibegovic**  
Montenegro (Serbia and Montenegro)

**Mihai Florin Rosca**  
Romania

**Ljubisa Vrancev**  
Serbia (Serbia and Montenegro)

Photo Credits:  
Darko Bandic  
Andon Davcev  
Jerome Delay  
Andrej Ginovski  
Jean-Pierre Isbendjian  
Sheila Kinkace  
Santiago Lyon  
Cathryn L. Thorup



*Veljko Vlahovic 20/13*

*1000 Skopje*

*Republic of Macedonia*

*tel.: +389 2 3122704*

*fax: +389 2 3122705*

*e-mail: [bcyf@balkanyouth.org](mailto:bcyf@balkanyouth.org)*

*[www.balkanyouth.org](http://www.balkanyouth.org)*



**Balkan**  
**Children & Youth**  
FOUNDATION