

# Partnership for Children

Good mental health for children – for life



Registered Charity Number 1089810

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## Ten years of helping children



Four of our Lithuanian partners joined the celebration – (from left) Prof Ona Monkeviciene, Vida Gudauskiene, PFC Director Chris Bale, Aurelija Okunauskienė, Programme Director Caroline Egar, and Dr Pranas Gudynas



Supporters (from left) Glenda and Simon Weil, Tillie Sklair and Aphra Sklair

December 2011

Ten years ago we were a small charity with no achievements, and people questioned whether we could survive. Today, we're still a small charity, but we've helped more than half a million children. We're here to stay!

That was the message from director Chris Bale at a recent reception in London to mark the start of Partnership for Children's tenth anniversary year.

The charity's biggest achievement over the past decade has been the development and expansion of *Zippy's Friends*, the school-based programme that helps young children to develop coping and social skills. Ten years ago the programme was in just two countries, but by early 2012 it will be in twenty eight.

The reception at Lancaster House was a chance for supporters and partners not only to celebrate the past but also to hear about plans for the future.

'There is so much more to do,' said Chris. 'Each year, in the UK alone, more than one million children require

treatment for mental health problems. Thousands are admitted to hospital after deliberately harming themselves. The second most common cause of death among young men is suicide. Internationally, 120 million people suffer from depression. Every minute two people kill themselves. That's why our work is not only necessary but important.'

Targets for this anniversary year include:

- The 500,000th child completing *Zippy's Friends*
- Starting the programme in at least eight countries
- Developing new resources for children with learning difficulties and for slightly older children
- Hosting the Third *Zippy's Friends* International Workshop
- Conducting an international survey of young children's ideas

An anniversary appeal is being launched to pay for all this work. We hope to raise £250,000 over the next year, enabling us to help another 500,000 children over the next three years.

Among the guests at the reception was our first Chair of Trustees Paul Rubenstein. He said: 'Even at our first meeting we had big ambitions for Partnership for Children, but I don't think any of us dreamed that this small charity would travel so far so fast. It has been wonderful to watch.'

## Three more countries to start Zippy's Friends

**Z**ippy's Friends classes will start in three more countries in early 2012. The biggest launch will be in Trinidad and Tobago, managed by our local partner, the School Leadership Center. Thirty four teachers and head teachers have recently been trained to run the programme, and many were very enthusiastic about the course.



The training course for Karelia took place in Norway. (From left): Nina Grindheim of Voksne for Barn, Programme Director Caroline Egar, Ilona Kosheleva, Director of NGO Sodeistvie, and future trainers Irina Zabrodina and Elena Makarova, on a visit to Sande School.

'This is an extremely important milestone in my teaching career,' said one.

Funding from Norway's Health Department is supporting the new programme in Karelia, north-western Russia, and our Norwegian partner agency Voksne for Barn is helping with training and supporting teachers. Classes will start initially in five schools



Amanda Johnson of Maria Regina Grade School taking part in the teacher training course in Trinidad.

and kindergartens, but our Russian partner NGO Sodeistvie hopes that the programme will expand rapidly.

A small pilot is also about to start in Morocco. This will at first be confined to French-speaking schools in the capital, Rabat, but the plan is to translate the programme into Arabic and make it more widely available.



Programme Director Caroline Egar (right) presents a certificate to Rosita Aguilera-Roachford of St David's RC School, Trinidad.

## Annual Review

**O**ur latest Annual Review notes that in 2010 we spent £264,645 and 112,056 children were enrolled in Zippy's Friends. That's equivalent to just £2.36 per child.

The Review, which is being sent to supporters and partners and made available online, also contains quotes from children, teachers and parents around the world.

*'My child has become more friendly and helpful, and also appears more sociable with his classmates and interacts with them well. Most important, it has also helped his communication skills – they're a lot better.'* – Parent, England

You can download a pdf of the Annual Review at [www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk/about-us/about-us-2/annual-report.html](http://www.partnershipforchildren.org.uk/about-us/about-us-2/annual-report.html)



## Season's Greetings

**Thank you to everyone who has supported our work in 2011. All of us at Partnership for Children wish you health and happiness in 2012.**



Please contact us if you would like more information

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