

Dublin Central Rotary Club



Dublin Central raised €1000 doing the Women's mini marathon in June with some help from the Portadown club!!

Koko thriving after Rotary Club Campaign

Last Friday Mr. David Drum of Monaghan Rotary Club returned from Sofia in Bulgaria after organizing the second and final stage of a life saving heart operation on a seven year old Bulgarian Boy named Constantin Pedrov Dinkov, better known to his family and close friends as Koko.

Over three years ago Mr. Brendan Monaghan through his humanitarian contacts in Bulgaria was told of a very sad situation of a little boy who had a serious heart problem and would be sure to die if he did not receive a life saving heart operation.

The boy from the City of Rousse since six months old attended the National Paediatric Cardiac Hospital in Sofia. This Hospital has one of the best Cardiac teams in Europe but because of lack of facilities was unable to carry out this operation on Koko. Brendan Monaghan discussed the situation with Mr. David Drum who agreed action needed to happen fast. David secured the support of the Rotary club and Brendan who is an Honorary member of the club also got the support from both the Monaghan and Maghera friends of Bulgaria.

The only place that was able to carry out this operation was Great Ormond Street Hospital for sick children in London under the expertise of Prof. Martin Eliot one of the worlds leading Paediatric Cardiac and heart transplant Surgeons. The cost needed of €30,000.00stg. was raised by the friends of Bulgaria and Monaghan Rotary Club. Mr. David Drum took personal charge of the project and worked many hours with the Cardiac Team at G.O.S.H. and in the Hospital in Sofia to put all arrangements in place before making that unexpected call with his Bulgarian friend and interpreter Vasko to break the news to Koko's mother Irena that her son was to get his life saving heart operation in Sept.2005 at the age of six. Koko was brought to London and 75% of the operation needed was performed and the concluding part to take place within two years thereafter.

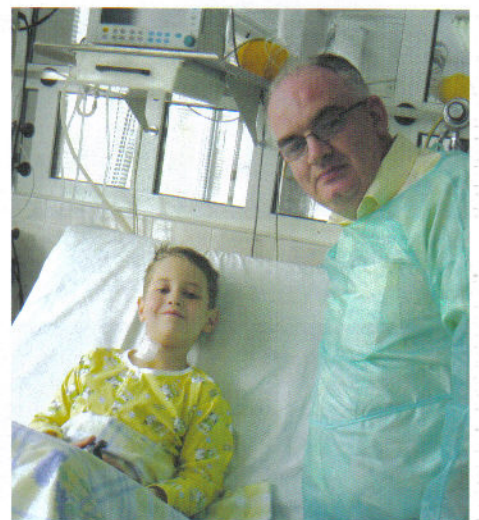
Over the last three months Mr. David Drum put all plans in place only this time Prof. Martin Eliot agreed with David that he would fly to the Cardiac Hospital in Sofia, Bulgaria to carry out the final stage with the expertise of the Team there. He also agreed with David that no professional fees would be requested in this special situation. While Mr. Drum and Prof. Eliot were there it was realized that another little boy had heart complications so as all expertise was in place and that boy also had



David Drum, Koko and mother Irena in Recovery Ward.



Mr. David Drum and Prof. Martin Eliott.



Koko and David Drum in Special Care.

his heart operation and got the chance of life. That little boys name was Bojidar when translated means "Gift from God". Koko is still in hospital and so is Bojidar and will be for a week or two but all is well and will be well. Mr. Drum on behalf of Monaghan Rotary Club has invited Martin Eliot to visit Monaghan and that visit should take place over the next few months. Mr. Drum has pledged

his support to provide some equipment to the hospital in Sofia on Koko's behalf to say thanks for all they have done to save his life. Mr. Drum is also planning to take Koko and his Family on holidays to Ireland next summer when he is fit and well. Koko's Family is deeply grateful to all involved in this project.