

A snapshot of the Bulgarian partners' engagement with elderly Bulgarians and the children of Roma communities.



Our Lithuanian partners in their project refer to older people as being in 'Life's Autumn'. During the project workshop in Sofia, November 2010, this photograph captured something of that concept.



However, the gentleness of the previous image is contrasted with the hard reality portrayed in this one. In the centre of Sofia an elderly lady goes about her business of collecting items from rubbish bins. While not typical, the image reflects something of the hardship many elderly face.



Recognising that many of the elderly live in difficult circumstances and often have little economic and social support the Bulgarian partners are 'hands on' when it comes to addressing the needs of the elderly in their community.



Providing meals and opportunities to socialize are an important element of demonstrating practical care and Christian compassion.



Acknowledging birthdays and special occasions matter when they are all too easily forgotten or overlooked. Here a member of the partner group demonstrates, by the giving of a flower, the crossing of boundaries of age and religion.



During the workshop members of the Partnership had the privilege of meeting Roma members of the project in their own communities and their own homes. Here members of the Lithuanian, Czech and Northern Ireland partners meet with a Roma family who had been part of the Bulgarian partner group to visit Belfast in May 2010.





Some of the living conditions were considerably worse than many of the visitors anticipated.





Many of the children the Bulgarian partners work with share the same appetite for fun and the same inquisitive capacity as children everywhere. They may often lack access to resources and have fewer opportunities within the social and economic life of the nation but they do not lack intelligence or the ability to respond when given some attention and respect.





Sometimes you wonder how you get into a situation like this – but good on you Stefko!

Mind you, that popcorn won't last long ....



