

## YMCA-PLOVDIV

is a part of the worldwide youth movement of YMCA.

### GOAL

The goal of YMCA Plovdiv is to give meaning to the young people's spare time, giving them the possibility to practice their skills and abilities in sports, culture, art and education.

### MISSION

The YMCA-Plovdiv believes that in today's society, our essential task is to give youths and adults the experiences that can help them develop a set of Christian values, moral and ethics.

The YMCA unites the efforts of its members for better physical education, improvement health and ecological culture, raising the spiritual and cultural level of young people, strengthening family, development of civil society and democracy.

### BRIEF HISTORY

Thanks to Simeon Iliev, who was a youth leader in YMCA before the communist time in Bulgaria, 30 people established YMCA Plovdiv in May 1991. Simeon Iliev was chosen to be the first Chairman of YMCA Plovdiv till 1997.

The first three years YMCA used the building of Youth Center of the Plovdiv Municipality. It was free for us but without possibility for development. Then we moved the YMCA to another place where we had to pay a rent. And till 2008 we have been using an office in the center of the town, paying rent to the owners. Since 2009 YMCA Plovdiv purchased own office at 14 "Leonardo da Vinci" Str. In the center of town.

### KEY PROGRAMS

Our key programs are in three fields: Social programs, Educational programs and Outdoor programs.

#### Social programs:

- Summer camps and programs for the spare time of the children from the Orphanage "Rada Kirkovich" in Plovdiv;
- Jungshar group for children, 7–11 years old;
- Educational program for children from the Romany minority;
- Training of children in the Plovdiv's schools for "Prevention from drugs".

#### Educational programs:

- English language courses + free conversational class;
- German language courses + free conversational class;
- Computer courses;
- Training for volunteers who work with children.

#### Outdoor programs:

- Summer camps in the Rodopes;
- Trekking tours in Pirin and Rila Mount;
- One or two-day trips in the Mounts;
- Cultural exchanges with our international partners (CVJM Wilferdingen, Germany; CEVI Region Bern, Switzerland; YMCA Romford England).

## MEMBERS

In 2009 YMCA Plovdiv has 140 members who are divided into three groups:

- Full members, who have rights to vote in the General Assembly and who can be elected for Board members;
- Participate members who take part in the programs and do not want to take responsibility for the ruling of the organization;
- Participate members under 18 years who take part in the youth and children programs.

## BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

At present we have 3 members only in the Board. Since 2007 the Chairman of YMCA Plovdiv has been Stefan Geshanov.

Usually the Board of YMCA Plovdiv has regular meetings each month, but sometimes they meet more often or more rarely, depending on the work.

## STAFF

Only two paid persons work in the office of YMCA Plovdiv – the Secretary and the Accountant. But in the program activities we have a lot of paid teachers and leaders according to the current needs and projects. For example in 2010 for YMCA Plovdiv 6 paid people worked in different programs.

## VOLUNTEERS

In 2009 25 volunteers worked in YMCA Plovdiv.

## STRENGTH

The motivated and active members of YMCA Plovdiv are the strongest power for development of our organization.

## FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

To establish a Youth Social Center in Plovdiv, where YMCA will develop more programs and activities:

- ▼ Working with orphans and helping them to survive;
- ▼ Educating children from Roma minority;
- ▼ Teaching young people to work with computer and learning them English and German languages;
- ▼ Training young people to find job and to be successful;
- ▼ Training the volunteers of YMCA to work with children;
- ▼ Developing sports and children's programs;
- ▼ Inspiring Christian values.

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