



GOOD SAMARITAN BEIUS SPRING NEWSLETTER 2007



The orphans' colony in the periphery of Braila

Dear friends,

After a short maternity leave I am back again, ready to continue, with even bigger motivation, the projects that have been started last year.

This year our team is focusing efforts on the newly came orphans and their professional training, as well as on more and better housing, increased medical and educational services.

Just recently I have come across an article on homeless orphans in a community on the south-east of Romania. It again reminded me of God's grace on our community and the existence of Good Samaritan. The capacity we have developed in Beius with the help of many of you prevented homelessness, hunger and sickness for many orphans in Beius. Fortunately they could find jobs, place to live and friends among you, something that took them out of the life of dirt and litter. Our partnership is really making a difference!

Nikolina Ciorna, Executive Director

“Seventeen young people, raised in orphanages, where they no longer have the right to live, because they already are 18 years old, have built 2 shacks on a field at the periphery of Braila. They have no jobs and don't receive social - security. Their only income comes from selling scrap.

They are aged between 18 and 30 years old, none is employed and they are living for over six months in their small colony, among masses of litter and dirt, where they have built two shacks on a field in Braila's periphery. With their limited skills, the orphans improvised houses from wood, stones, clothes, cardboard, blankets and mattresses.

Selling scrap to survive

In one of the shacks they have built a stove, where they boil water or prepare food, when they manage to earn some money. From the seventeen young people, we have found only 2, who were guarding the shacks, the others being occupied, searching for the scrap. They told us that before

settling in this area, they lived on a block of flats' staircases.” We could



Street orphaned child

not sleep there any longer, because the people closed the doors. Some of them have children, so they are afraid (of us) “, Jean Marinel told us. He is 30 years old and he never had a job. “We have been living here for six months. Four of us are living in one shack, thirteen in the other. This summer, the field is going to be skimmed”, he added.

Braila's mayor, Constantin Cibu, didn't know about this case, so he promised to make a social investigation...”

“Libertatea”, a Romanian national newspaper

Dwellings for orphans - transformed... by Elena Cornea

Dear friends, as you remember from the last issues of our newsletter, Good Samaritan has begun the **renovation** of some of its apartments, sheltering orphans with no other possibilities to rent in town. Today we are able to announce you that the first apartment is almost ready. And this is not all. Together with our partners— Esther Bloemendaal and the members of her church, we have managed to raise the needed funds for the renovation of the second apartment, too.



BEFORE



AFTER

From a simple room, having access only to cold water, without a bathroom and with a toilet commonly shared by 3 apartments we succeeded to trans-

form it into a dwelling that fits the normal living standards and meets the orphans' necessities. Meaning a hot water, bathroom and a decent kitchen.

For the third apartment we

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still need your support. It would be great for us to offer all youngsters better living conditions next winter. At the moment 9 youngsters and their children are accommodated at Good Samaritan apartments. For some of them 2007 brings better living conditions after the renovation done.

WE THANK

Esther Bloemendaall and all members of Hervormde Kerk Maarssen Church for the great collaboration and the offered financial support!

TO SPONSOR THE RENOVATION OF ONE APARTMENT:

- *construction materials—\$ 872 USD
- *construction labor—\$ 1316 USD
- *electrical fittings & electrician—\$ 117 USD
- *shower & plumber—\$ 1182 USD
- *furniture, window, door, flooring—\$ 1077 USD

NEWS FROM OUR PROGRAMS



Dear friends,
 We would like to thank you for being beside us, as well as God who was our help and support in the hard times.
 We have experienced the grace of God in showing us care and goodness during the year that has past. In the end of 2006 we could take two more orphans on a professional training as well as two qualified carpenters.
 I was happy to see the orphans' interest for the work they are doing in the carpentry shop.

At the moment we have 8 employees in the carpentry shop, the productivity of work has increased and more people in town and in the area are interested in our products. We had the chance to work for clients from other counties and countries after they have visited the workshop web page:

<http://bunulsamaritean.xhost.ro/>

This year we would like to make our products more popular on the internal market but not last to have more orphans joining us with the desire to learn our profession.

We ask you to keep supporting us in your prayers. May you have a blessed Easter.

Andrei Miklo, project manager

NOAH'S ARK PROGRAM

The last months were for Laura and Sonia an accommodation time. Helped by their supervisor they got used with the new rules and the protected environment we offer at Noah's Ark program.

Sonia has already feels comfortable doing the kitchen activities, where under the careful guidance of the supervisor Yulia, she cooks better and better dishes. Besides the tasty food she is preparing, she also enjoys the success of her work.

Unfortunately, we cannot say the same thing about Laura, who is under a permanent medical treatment because of her serious mental disability. She can't cook yet and cleaning her room and the kitchen is a great achievement for her.

During the winter, besides the daily housework activities, the girls have been doing different ac-

tivities as an occupational therapy. Daily, from Monday till Friday they work in the catholic nuns workshop, assembling cords to the hangers for mobile phones.

Starting January, the girls have assembled over **70,000 clamps, making the same number of knots.** As the spring comes, besides the clamps' assembling, they will also return to agricultural activities. The ecological agricultural products that we will crop will be used for the project's needs. They will also provide a part of the necessary vegetables for the Beius and Ioanis day centres of our partners—the catholic nuns, who function in Beius under the name Foundation of the Minimum Sisters, where about 60 children, coming from socially or financially disadvantaged families, find daily warm food.

The work the girls have



done in the garden or in the green house during the summer and in the nuns' workshop during the winter has had a healthy effect upon them. Being occupied and having a daily routine, the young orphans became more serene.

In the project we have also prepared a room to shelter for about 3 months in case of emergency those mothers with their children who are the victims of family violence, or young women having little children, abandoned by their family or husbands. There have also been 9 cases till this moment.

Zoltan Boldis, Project Manager

THE HANDICAP - THE ONLY INHERITANCE OF AN ORPHANED GIRL...

After a selection process of new youngsters, for the Good Samaritan's program "Noah's Ark", six months ago, we have met a teenager who drew our attention from the very beginning.

Laura, scared, with a sad blankly look, a young girl with a definite mental disability, a fact accentuated in the documentation from her file.



Laura at the selection process

Discussing with the orphanage's psychologist and social worker, we have found more information about her family and medical situation.

The 19 years old girl was abandoned at birth in the maternity by her mother, has been taken by the "Children's Centre", then transferred from one centre to another due to her severe retardation which has hindered her to meet the school requirements. After the handicap was proved, Laura started attending a school for children with special learning needs, and later a professional school, succeeding to obtain a horticultural qualification.

Laura has never been visited by her family, yet here at the orphanage for the first time she has met her brother Roland, who is 3 years older and also having a mental disability, but not as severe as Laura's.

They both lived in the centre for one year until Roland had had the great chance to be accepted into one of the centre's caretaker family. He had never met his relatives, yet he had found out that he has two more brothers, and the parents were thought to be dead. The relationship between the brother and the sister was pretty cold due to their disability and the fact they got to meet each

other so late in life.

Being aware of the fact that there are only a few social centres for people with mental disability in our country and the lack of vacant places, we have discussed with the centre's employees about Laura's future since the girl was already major. The answer was that they have made requests to other foundations to receive Laura, but these ones refused to accept her. On the other hand this young girl's reintegration into her natural family is impossible.

We knew from the beginning that she has a more severe disability, than the other girls who belong to Noah's Ark, (girls with mental disabilities who can be integrated) and we knew that the association's employees aren't totally qualified to work with such cases, yet we couldn't remain indifferent to her situation. So we decided to accept her.

There are 6 months now since Laura has been with us and during this time we have tried to discover the type of her disability and the best treatment for it. The problem we keep on facing is the lack of places in the specialised hospitals. Though we continue trying to find the best environment for Laura, her situation is quite unstable at the moment because she can do only very easy activities, adapted to her

abilities.

We managed to find her natural family consisted of her mother and grandmother, but they didn't seem too impressed by the fact that their daughter is in our association. They explained us that their financial situation and health do not allow them to help Laura.

It is very difficult for us to face the



The social worker and Laura

problems this case is bringing, but we are happy that at least we can offer Laura here better living conditions.

We desire and seek to provide a comfortable environment in which her mental disability will not become worse, at least until the situation of the social centres for people with mental disabilities will stabilize and we can find a better solution for Laura.

Alina Popa — social worker

WELCOME!

For years Good Samaritan has dreamt of fundraising in a more professional way, of increasing its resources in order to serve the growing need among the orphans community. We had always done it through volunteers or as one of the assignments of the Executive Director and relevant Staff.

Today I have the joy of introducing to you all **Cristina Grigorean**, our new Fundraising manager. Cristina moved to Beius last year following her husband's move with a new job of his. She has previously done both fundraising and project management in Cluj-Napoca. She worked previously for other non-profits for people with mental disabilities, youth and ethnic minorities and is experienced in grant writing and grant implementation management.

Please join me in welcoming Cristina in our team and pray that with a stronger team now we can both serve better orphans and communicate more often with you.

Adrian Cioma, Board President

OUR SUPPORTERS

An Easter of solidarity...

Lent and Easter time is an invitation to prayer, share and meditation.

Each one of us is invited to experience this period an active and generous turn toward the solidarity with the poor ones, with those striving the quotidian for a better world, more just and human.

Solidarity helps us entry a new mentality of justice, equity, partnership and fraternity. Solidarity means giving and receiving. The one who gives helps the other to live his life at a higher level of dignity and decency.

For an Easter of solidarity Good Samaritan invites everyone to pray, share and give:

- moments of prayer in communion with those who suffer
- actions of sharing the special mission of the Good Samaritan
- initiatives of giving in order to meet the needs of the poor ones

Iosif Tocoian, a notary from our community, believes the solidarity is meant to be experienced by everyone, as a cornerstone of our faith put in practice.

For Christmas and Easter he has put a smile on the faces of every youngster of Good Samaritan, offering them gifts to celebrate these precious holidays.

This Easter, may the loving God bring peace and hope in our hearts and help us be there for the ones in need!



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Help Good Samaritan with its general needs: In order to run the organization we need the skills of specialized Staff. It provides direct support to orphans, takes care of their needs as well as of important tasks like accounting, donor relations, reporting, etc. Without it Good Samaritan could not provide the necessary support to orphans!

Current needs

- ◆ Weekly sport activities/ excursions, picnics, etc.

Working closely with young orphans, we have realized that it is not enough to provide them with a shelter and a job. Outside of work, they do not have too many other constructive or positive activities. **To sponsor:**

- * a picnic—\$ 150 USD
- * an excursion— \$ 100 USD
- * sport activities with a professional coach per month— \$ 75 USD
- * Sport equipment—items prices between \$ 3 USD and \$ 18 USD
- ◆ Stove — \$ 218 USD, Needed 2.

- ◆ TV sets—needed 2, each of \$ 200 USD
- ◆ Wardrobes—needed 2, each of \$ 142 USD
- ◆ Birthday gifts— \$ 11 USD per person. Needed 20 gifts.
- ◆ Construction project - for the completion of the two one - bedroom apartments for orphaned youngsters.



Feri



Cocsis family



THANK YOU!

Anne D. Carroll, Esther Bloemendaal, Greg Fellers, Hervormde Kerk Maarssen Church, Iosif Tocoian, Incarnation UCC, James and Trudi McKamey, Karl and Linda Gettle, Leon and Ramona Frankamp, Robert and Virginia Heckert, Vincent and Rebeca Strawbridge

BECOME A GOOD SAMARITAN!

If you want to become a Good Samaritan, **organize your own fundraising project** in your own country, following the example of others. The goal and the project YOU choose.

CONTACT US!

BANKING INFO

Name of the bank:

BANCA COMERCIALA ROMANA, Agentia Beius (Romanian Commercial Bank, Beius Office)

Bank address:

Str. P-ta S. Vulcan 11
Beius, Bihor 415200, Romania,

Phone/fax: +40-259-321321

Swift code: RNCBROBU

Code for Int'l transfers (ID):

51510

CODE Iban:

For transfers in Euro:

RO56RNCB0034021802850002

For transfers in Dollars:

RO29RNCB0034021802850003

For transfers in Pounds:

RO02RNCB0034021802850004

FOR TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS MADE IN U.S.A., PLEASE SEND YOUR CHECK TO:

Incarnation United Church of Christ, P. O. Box 68, Newport, PA 17074 - for Good Samaritan Beius, Romania