

November 2013

24th Report on the work for abandoned children in Romania

The association „Samariteanul Milos“ (Good Samaritan) in Ghimbav / Weidenbach near Brasov / Kronstadt in Romania is home to almost twenty children in three groups. They either no longer have parents, or for various reasons can no longer live with their parents.

Dear Friends and Supporters of our work!

„What are your previous children doing now?“ – We are often asked this question. Our main daily concern is our current children, but we try to stay in touch with those who no longer live with us. So we meet every two months with those who are currently nearby for a meal together.

In September Emma und Dan, the foster parents of our first group, invited all their former “children” to their home. We sat in the yard with homemade cake and wallowed in memories. It was a nice, relaxed atmosphere, like in a real family. I am touched that the children even today go to Emma and Dan when they have problems. Two of them live in the separate apartment right next to Emma and Dan’s house: Roxana, who studies in Brasov, and Ionut, who works in a shoe factory. Two of the girls, Andrea and Mihaila, already have children of their own, Andrea lives in England. Luminita lives in a shelter in Alba Julia. She feels at

home there. Banu worked as a chef farther away

– for him a great achievement to stay with it so long. He learned a lot, but missed the warmth of our nest. He moved back to Ghimbav, and enjoys the casual connection with our home and we have reason to hope that he will find a new job in Brasov. Radu is the proud owner of a one-room apartment and has worked several years already for a construction company. We are moved and very happy! These children, who had such a poor and unfair start in life, have become young adults with both feet firmly planted on the ground, and have mastered their lives – even if they at times needed several tries and have fought many difficulties.



The first group, ca. 1996, back: Dan and Emma, front from left: Luminita, Roxana, Banu, Ionut, (the other children arrived later)



Emma and Dan's family today (from left: Ruben, Andrea and her child, Dan, Luminita, Emma, Radu, Marius, Roxana, Ionut, Mojca, Banu, Monika (employee), Timo.

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The Situation in Romania

In summer we all read the German newspaper from the Transylvanian Saxons, ADZ. As sad as it is, we still have to laugh at one excerpt, because it's so typically Romanian:



The first headline reports that the secret service (!) warns against corruption among secondary school leaving examinations – the director of a Bucharest high school was in custody awaiting trial for 29 days, they even found money notes in one of the teacher's underwear. Corruption is unfortunately still a major problem at the administrative, economical and political levels. That Romanians are online for extremely long periods of time (2nd headline) certainly has many reasons. Enough time due to high unemployment rates, its low cost as well as the need for information and to broaden one's horizons are presumably some of them. Finally, the parliament expert who repeatedly stole from her colleagues – this, too, is a mirror of a society in which much crime and few values exist.

Developments in our Organization – an Overview

Overall, the situation in our children's home and with our projects continues to be stabile – and that is very good.

We took in a new child, another will return to us after staying with a foster family.

Our project among the Roma in Dumbravita continues to go well, we now care for nine more families than last year.

Our aid for individual needy families still goes to about ten families to whom we are providing long-term support.

Among our employees there happily have been few changes: One co-worker, Rebecca, went to Germany, all others are still with us. Our volunteer service worker, Gerrit Hugendieck, whom the children lovingly call "Shaggy", ended his year with us in August. He won the children over with his cheerful and uncomplicated manner. His successor is Tim Scheytt – the last name is not a coincidence, he's Maja's grandson.

Our Children

The older group

Enikö, the oldest, unfortunately did not pass her secondary school final examinations, we are currently looking for employment opportunities.

Casandra had an accident in late summer with serious facial injuries.

She was unconscious for a time and had a near-death experience.

"It was so nice there, I didn't want to come back!" But we are so thankful to God for protecting her! Almost all of the children witnessed the accident and were also very shocked. But the event also bound them more strongly together and they prayed together for her. Casandra is almost back to her old self, but somewhat more pensive.

Otherwise the children in this group are doing well, with all the highs and lows of puberty. Joni, who has spent a good year with foster parents, will likely be coming back to us.



From left: Titel, Luiza, Vasile, Ildiko, Gabriel (front), Stefan, Reli, Caty (Director)



The middle group

This group has also developed positively. Stefan, who has been with us for 14 years, is a joy to us. He has good manners, is helpful, friendly, open and reliable – as are Vasile and the new Stefan, called Titel. They have a positive influence on the group, which helps everyone get along well together. Reli and Luiza are good students. Gabriel, on the other hand, thinks “his hands are made more for art than for math”. Together with Joana he receives qualified art lessons, and he very much enjoys them.

The group of little ones

The children are now in school, certainly with varying degrees of enthusiasm. The sisters Marcela and Crina find it difficult. The Romanian school system is not really child-oriented, several hours of homework are given every day. Calculating with decimal numbers and fractions are already introduced in grade school, here in Germany this starts in the fifth grade. This leads to much frustration.

(Little) Gabriel and Claudiu are in preschool and doing well. Joana and George continue to be very good students, but also very withdrawn. Their past of extreme domestic violence used to show itself in nightmares, nowadays “only” in total reticence or tantrums. We continue to hope that the children with the help of prayer and psychological care will someday be rid of this burden. We are trying to encourage Joana through an art school in Brasov, where her artistic capabilities have amazingly developed through private drawing lessons. We also hope that she might find a way to process her past through art.

From left: George, Gabi, Joana, Claudiu, Marcella, Crina, Simona



Assisted Living – a New Attempt

We want to make another attempt to start our second house in Ghimbav, the so-called Casa Noua (new house) for our older former children to use. They don't want to live in a protective family environment, rather wish to be independent and on their own and still enjoy some nest warmth. The Casa Noua is a house with a garden and the idea is that the young adults can live there for a small contribution, concentrate on their work or studies, but still receive a little of our guidance. Since the pay in Romania is low, we hope that they will have a positive experience standing on their own feet with this help, and learn to appreciate the sense and value of work. The last time they did not take good care of the house, did not take any responsibility and finally did not pursue their work, so that we ended the project. Let's hope it works this time. Banu from the first group (see title page) as well as Marta (see next page) and our Bufdi Tim now live there.



The Project in Dumbravița

Our project among the Roma in Dumbravița continues to go well and is stabile. Our daily help in the form of bread as well as monthly additional support with laundry detergent, clothing and other groceries are offered under the condition that the children from the families we support visit kindergarten or school. Again this year we could regularly help 76 families. Almost 20.000 loaves of bread were distributed.

Another success for us, which we hope to see more of in the future: our first Roma child completed her secondary school leaving exams and studies in Brasov!

We got to know the S. Family from near Bucharest several years ago. The father, a laical preacher in a Pentecostal church had died and was survived by his wife and seven children. The mother worked hard, the children diligently helped out at home – the whole family held together.

When we visited them, sometimes even unannounced, the little house was always in good shape and clean, the atmosphere and everyone's behavior was very good. For years they received help on a monthly basis, and additional material donations whenever necessary. Marta now lives with us at the Casa Noua in Ghimbav – in return she helps out at our children's home – and studies in Brasov. We are immensely overjoyed, because this is the goal of our work with the Roma people: through education, to break out of the downward spiral of poverty and helplessness. We hope many will follow Marta, who as adults can hold a well-ordered and adequately paid profession.



And finally...

Looking back on a year of many situations by which we often felt overwhelmed, we ask ourselves: What could we have done differently? I am not sure. A friend in a similar situation said: "Take the advice of John the Evangelist and plain and simply do what comes naturally in love." It's that simple. I can, we can, everyone of us can do this. You support us in so many ways, with practical help, concern, advice, prayer, finances or material donations. This is a great encouragement for us. With your commitment, you've contributed to many people in Romania experiencing God's love in very practical ways and to some degree have restored their dignity.

In the name of the members of the Scheytt Foundation and the children and employees in Romania we thank you.
God bless you!



Thise M. Scheytt

& J. Scheytt

Please note that bank transfers after February 2014 can only be made via an IBAN number, and no longer with an account number and bank code. Please enter your full address in the reference field on the bank transfer form (Germany only). Donation receipts will be sent at the start of the following calendar year. Should your address change, or if you no longer wish to receive our letters, please let us know.