



SPRING NEWSLETTER 2006

Life before and after leaving the orphanage...

by Elena Cornea

Dear friends,

With this new issue of our newsletter we would like to introduce you to some of the struggles we experience daily, while fighting for the change in the orphans' lives, struggles provoked by an artificial growing environment shaped by the state institutions.

Working with our clients we are often reminded about the limitations in our work to achieve quick and radical results. Being shaped by 18 years institutionalized life and some extra years of street life the results we all want to see need our tough love, patience and perseverance. Even though it is not easy to suddenly put an end to such a life style it is worth trying.

That is why I am also very happy and satisfied to make you with this issue a witness of some wonderful metamorphosis, happening in orphans lives. While providing long term social services to orphans who faced serious behavioral or mental difficulties for integration, we are also focusing on the new 35 orphans that are leaving the institutions in the end of this school year.

Nikolina Ciorna, ED

Mission

Good Samaritan is a Christian organization that operates in Northwestern Romania to assist disadvantaged young adults who grew up in orphanage and their families by:

- * Providing material help that allows them to live a safe life that meets their basic needs
- * Helping them to capitalize on their abilities to move towards self sufficiency
- * Working proactively in the community to break the cycle of child abandonment due to poverty, while introducing to them Christ's model for living.

One must be puzzled when imagining the routine life of a child who was raised without a home or protection. No matter coming from poor or a rich family, the place of an abandoned child was brutally replaced by a cold and devastated institution. An orphanage built by the communist state, away of the eyes of a society, meant to be 'ideal' but not knowing about its needy or just being powerless.

What is sadder is the fact that few people realized the actual drama. This little abandoned fellow has first of all to establish his scale of values. Without this any other efforts are useless.

I am trying to imagine the chaos that exists in adolescent mind, these thousands of questions without an answer and the sad resignation with which they kneel down in front of their destiny.

Life before... young orphans speak about their life in the orphanage:



Orphaned child after being beaten

"Like in a prison. I don't even want to remember it. The food was good but very little. We were more than 30 people sleeping in the same room. There were kids at different ages accommodated together. Everything that was given to us from the teachers or educators was later taken by the older orphans. They used to beat us a lot, for just about everything. Many times they would put me to wash their clothes or

would ask me to make them a massage. Even the teachers were afraid of them.

If I would have had good grades at school, the teacher would let me go in town and I was supposed to come back at a certain hour." - H.G.



A crowded orphanage bedroom

These orphans did not received paternal love and many times when they were hungry, or freezing, they healed their pains with tears and balancing in a small bed.

I used to think: 'Why me? What had I done?' said 27-year-old C.A, who grew up in a series of institutions.

"I wanted love and a stable identity. But I couldn't find it," he said. "On the outside I was strong, but on the inside I was crying."

But sadder than the orphan's drama is our attitude, our gesture of rejection. We are too deep into our daily problems, and we forget that we are called to give a shelter for those who do not have one, and a mother for those who never knew what this word really means, in fact the word we all first said as children.

At the age of 18, orphans are due to leave the institution having no place to go, where to sleep or what to eat. All these years they did not have something of their own, they did not have responsibilities, they do not know how to act when some one gives them love, their reaction is like they have been hit.

And after leaving the orphanage...

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TEARING DOWN BARRIERS IN THE BEIUS COMMUNITY

How many youngsters that have a family would manage to survive if at 18 years old their family do not offer them moral and financial support?

When the orphans are due to leave the institutions an important role for their integration is played by the society - their only parent. A society which is not always prepared to receive them...

But together with Good Samaritan some already took the challenge to do so:



**Sarb Cristian.-
policeman**

“It is a very good that NGO like Good Samaritan, appeared in Beius, because you help for social integration of the orphans. You are a great help for us, because the crimes made by orphans are less if they have a house and a job. This way the Municipality of

Beius has less problems in relation to the streets' youngsters.”

Marius Craciun-dentist

“I have a very good impression about Good Samaritan, the association made a good think helping orphans to resolve their dental problems”

Adina Vinter - GSB volunteer in summer 2005

“I have to admit that it was a summer which helped me to enlarge my perspectives. Good Samaritan offered me the opportunity to work in a field about which I knew little, the one where you try, and most of the time you succeed to help the people besides you, who need your attention and not to forget the fact that the Association gave me the opportunity to improve my English. Orphans should



LONG TERM SOCIAL SERVICES IS CHANGING LIVES ...

DORINA'S SUCCESS STORY

Dorina Calcis is one of the girls that formerly lived on the streets of Beius; used to live in extremely inadequate housing, she first lived in the foundation of an unfinished construction site and later on a landing in the stairway of the NEFA block.

After being at different programs of GSB and not really showing desire to change her life style, in 2005 she was given last chance - either to change or to drop again on the streets, going back to her previous habits of stealing and prostitution.

With the guidance and counseling of the social worker and the warm acceptance of her current boss, Dorina is currently employed at a Confectionary factory.

Mrs. Eva Fenesi, Dorina's direct job supervisor says about her: “She is a good worker - comes on time, works

after hours when we need her .We had before other orphans in the factory. I do not mind working with orphans and teaching them a profession because I have always felt pity for them, for what they have missed in life. Sometimes I give Dorina my own lunch when the other employees have lunch break but I see she doesn't have anything. *I know how to speak the orphans' language and consider that by respecting them one can have a very good collaboration.*“



Dorina working with GSB social worker

be helped in order to receive at least a part of the affection which they did not received in the difficult periods of their struggled life. They are not guilty for their situation. I think that “Good Samaritan” does a great job trying to offer these youngsters financial support and affection.”

Good Samaritan will continue to break down barriers as it strives to help orphans' integration in the community. **We thank Cristian, Marius and Adina for their courage!**

NEWS FROM ...

NOAH'S ARK HOUSE

Five of the six girls accommodated in the program in Finis could find a job in Beius. Currently they are living in one of the houses built by GSB.

CARPENTRY SHOP

Aranka and Mandrut have decided to leave the Carpentry shop after **finding jobs in town**, better suiting their personalities. Aranka is working now in a food store and Mandrut has just started working as singer in a local Catholic Church. We wish them success on their new jobs!

HOUSING PROJECT

While **Rozalia Virag** has moved in her new home this past December, we are still looking forward toward sheltering two other youngsters — Feri and Nicu with his family, till the end of the summer .

DENTAL CARE PROJECT

3 dentists are working with **11 youngsters** for their nicer and healthier smiles. The youngsters have passed through the **first stage of the dental care services.**

MEDICAL PROJECT

The project currently helps **2 orphans** with their medical problems, providing financial help for medicines, hospital treatment, as well as medical assistance for the post operation treatment period.

OUR SUPPORTERS

Sweating for Romanian orphans



"Today I competed in a running competition over 10 kilometres. I ran the 10 kilometres in 56 minutes and 11 seconds. A little bit disappointed I was, because I had hoped to finish in 55 minutes flat. I can hear you think now: **"What does this have to do with Good Samaritan Beius?"**

Well, let me try to explain it to you:

In the year 2004 I was a member of a trip with Landrovers around half the world. We travelled from the Chinese city Beijing back to the Netherlands. Me myself started this journey at the border of Syria and Turkey. On the way back to the Netherlands we visited over 40 projects in over 10 countries. All of these projects were child related. We supported for example the building of several schools in India, a SOS Children's Village in Turkey and Nepal. And we supported the Good Samaritan Beius also. And in some way this project appealed to me the most. Helping orphans, get them a roof over their heads, giving them hot meals, making it possible to let them build their own houses, etc. I was impressed. To be honest I wasn't in to helping people at all. Yeah, right!

My family and friends when I was not to busy, but helping people in this way I had never done before. Who or what made me think different? Rozi and her friends, building her house. Rozi and her friends where laughing, making fun of each other and the visitors (my friends and I) but the joy, the sparkling spirit in her eyes impressed me! When I had seen the wood workshop, the restaurant, the other youngsters, I was thinking that I would do something for these youngsters and Good Samaritan Beius.

It is May 2005. I'm 37 years old. I'm weighing 115 kilo's and when I'm trying to knot my shoelaces, I can not make it with just one deep breath! Time for a big change. I signed up for a running project from an internet provider and a website. They want to see if people can start running with just the help of websites. I got chosen. I started with running and when this project goes on I started thinking: "The only one who profits from my running project is just me." Hmmmmmmmm! And when I was looking through my pictures of my visit to Beius it suddenly hit me: Why not let people sponsor my kilometres which I will run in the closing race of the running project???? And then simply sent the money to Good Samaritan Beius!?

February 2006. I have lost 20 kilograms already and can run for 1 1/2

hours now. I will be a competitor in the half **ING Bank Enschede Marathon** in my home town at the 23rd of April. This is a race over 21.1 kilometres. And everybody can sponsor me for every kilometre I will run in this race. It is all a little bit spontaneously. But so what! It is for the Good Samaritans Beius. I have been chosen for a so called Blitzkrieg strategy. In a short time a lot of exposure, trying to raise as much money as I can, as well as a lot of media attention in a short time. I hope that in the end of February a website is running and I will make a newsletter to inform people and try to get them to sponsor me. I really hope I will raise a lot of money to help Good Samaritan Beius. How much I will raise?? Only God knows! But I think that making the work of Good Samaritan Beius known to more people is a good thing on itself. And every euro will be welcome I think.

If you think you can do something for Good Samaritan too, don't think too much. I didn't either! Just do it!

Like I said before: They can use your help and every euro you can raise or share!

I hope this sponsor project will be an inspiration to you and will tear down your barriers to start your own project for the Good Samaritan Beius.

Best wishes to all of you!"

Arjan de Koning - The Netherlands

Thank you!

Aid for Romania Children, American Protestant Church of Hague, Anne D Carroll, A.O. & Suzanne McGill, Beth Shafer, Betty & Garvin Jabusch, HFH Bambury, Incarnation United Church of Christ, International Community Church, Jim & Trudi McKamey, John Williams & Raymond Clare, Kathryn Ross, Kerknraad VDGH, Ken Williams Linda & Gloria Guido, Leon & Ramona Frankemp, Milana & Dough Mclead Daulghren, Peter Little, Robert & Virginia Heckert, Robert & Mary Graunt, Round Table Foundation, Sjaak Kanbier, The Sahan Daywi Foundation, Van Zundert.

Become a Good Samaritan!

In the Bible parable for the Good Samaritan, the real Good Samaritan described is the one who paid for the expenses of the sick man. We as organization are just the innkeeper.

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

CONTACT US!

"I stayed on the streets 5 years, I slept under a bridge, in those days I wasn't interested what my life would be like in the future. Winter caught me on the streets and because I did not want to sleep in cold I was staying in a bar. But in order to stay there I had to clean it up and to help when the supplies would come. I did not receive anything I could just stay there during night. One day I was very ill and I had to go to hospital. After I came back they did not receive me in the bar any more."- says S. G.

In fact, youngsters from institutions are now leading all kind of lives from sleeping on the streets, being involved in dangerous gangs and thus being an easy and cheap target, working for food, or having a family and children of their own.

Good Samaritan helped and helps orphans in this situation. G.H. is one of them:

"One day I and a group of other teenagers were asked to all leave the orphanage on the next day. When we left, we didn't have anything - neither clothes nor even a mattress to sleep on. The teachers didn't offer us any advise on what we were suppose to do. It was very hard. I stayed on the streets about 2 months. I started working but didn't have where to sleep. We were more people living on the streets, staying together. This continued till I met Ladislav, an orphan like me. He told me then: "Do you know Ciorna's family? Let me bring you to Mrs.Ciorna." When we went there I received some money and could buy some food. On the second day after talking to Adrian I got accommodated in their house. Later Mother Maria taught me how to cook. I could stay there 2 years and could find a job."

Good Samaritan *thanks you* for your past support. Because of 'Good Samaritans' like you 60 youngsters so far have received a better life.

Donate now ➡

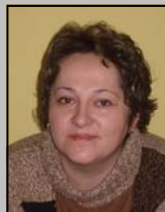
The school year ends this June and 35 youngsters will leave the institutions without anywhere to go! We are reminding you of how much we need your support. Because of this we ask at this critical time for orphans to donate now. It will help us continue helping orphans.

WELCOME!

I am happy to welcome two more ladies in our team, on two very vital positions for our organization. Both of them will be fighting daily for the change in the orphans' lives. I wish them success and God's love, wisdom and grace in this difficult task.

Nikolina Ciorna, ED

ALINA POPA
social worker



"I joined Good Samaritan team with particular goal to use all my professional experience but also willing to change something in these youngsters attitude, who have paid and will pay for their parents' mistakes. Because of the fact that my greatest

passion is to study human psyche I started this adventure with great hope for good results with these youngsters."

DANIELA BACOS
medical assistant



"I have a lot of experience with the orphans, knowing in general many of their medical problems, because I worked as a volunteer with most of them on the HFH Beius construction site since 1999 until now. This is not an easy task to work with them, knowing the environment they come from. But I am trying to understand the situation of each one of them in order to have good results in the future. "

HOW CAN YOU HELP:

◆ The new selection for Noah's Ark house starts. **Sponsorships for 6 girls** are needed - sponsorship per year per person is **\$2040 USD** .

◆ **Medical sponsorships** for 2 people for 6 months period— each of \$905 USD

◆ **Sponsorships for the emergency program** (per person per 2 months):

- food— \$100 USD

- rent— \$96 USD

- psychologist— \$64 USD

Please choose as many emergency sponsorships as you can afford to support!

◆ \$14,000 USD to finish the **two one-bedroom apartments** for orphaned youngsters

◆ **Kindergarten** per child (child of orphans) - \$30 USD

For more info see the web site!

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

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