



GOOD SAMARITAN BEIUS

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2006

Better health for orphans in the community of Beius

54 orphans living in the town of Beius will benefit from the new medical program, Good Samaritan has started. It will address some very important medical needs of the orphaned population which remained in town after leaving the local state orphanage.

Dear friends,

In the beginning of the fall we have the pleasure to share with you many good news:

6 new youngsters have left the Oradea orphanage and became part of GSB vocational programs, 6 children of orphans were accepted in the kindergarten, 27 kids have been helped with school supplies, new medical program has started to address the health needs of orphans, the construction of the houses of Feri and Cocsis family has advanced, renovation of the NEFA apartments has started, a picnic has been organized for orphans... All this we could do through the support of many of you. One more time Good Samaritan could rely on your heartfelt support. Thank you!

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.

Living in the state orphanages of Romania, under the conditions of limited financial subsidy, many youngsters' medical needs were neglected. After leaving the orphanages, not having a job and a place to live, they were exposed to the rough conditions of the streets. Some of them were lucky to find a bar to accommodate them but others had to hide for the night under bridges or just sleeping in devastated, unfinished buildings, staircases of block of flats. This exposed them to the freezing temperatures of the Romanian winters, causing diseases like pneumonia, internal inflammations, chronic lung and kidney diseases, even tuberculosis.

Their life-style, on the other hand, many times puts them at a high risk of sexually transmitted diseases, such as A.I.D.S., syphilis, hepatitis B, etc. In addition most of them have had a poor nutrition and hygiene that lead to anemia, high risk of diabetes, lack of certain vitamins and important elements in the organism, etc.

Not having permanent jobs, working seasonally or earning too little for a developing country like Romania, many are facing the impossibility to ever do a **full check-up of their health** by using the services of well equipped laboratories and qualified specialists. Additional obstacles are the very expensive medicines and medical services, the lack of capacity to understand the doctors' explanations and follow by themselves the needed treatment.

The **goals of the program** are to detect certain diseases, to provide treatment for the discovered contagious, chronic and acute ones and later on to maintain their health condition through tests and periodical consultations.

The program is coordinated by Dana Bacos, the GSB medical assistant who has 4-5 years of experience in the field, knowing well the

medical system in Romania, as well as the orphans' medical problems, living conditions and life-style. Whenever an orphan would have emotions or fears doing a certain test, she would accompany him, as well as would talk to the needed medical specialists and client's general practitioner.



Dana with a GSB client during blood test

Presenting Good Samaritan and the project to the local and regional medical community, Dana was nicely surprised by the received reactions. Medical doctors, specialists and assistants were impressed to hear about the new medical project. After learning more about the organization some doctors did costly consultations for free, others have promised that in the future every time when there is an emergency, X-rays will be done for free!

"The idea for this program is unheard of!" - said Dr. Calniceanu, director of the Beius hospital, with whom GSB has signed a collaboration contract so orphans can be examined by different specialists.

"It is a good program and the orphans cooperate very well with us" - shared with us the laboratory medical assistants.

So far **30 orphans** have done the laboratory tests and 25 of them have started the needed medical treatment. After the tests were done, detected were cases of hepatitis B, urinary infections, hypocalcaemia, throat infections (streptococcus and staphylococcus), anemia, gastritis, etc.

The first results of our work have proved its importance and we are encouraged to continue ...

ORPHANS BUILD THEIR OWN HOMES OVERCOMING THE PAST...



GSB has discovered the 'lack of the homeownership' threat to social and professional integration of orphan's population. As such our organization started a construction of 4 simple, small and healthy dwelling places for orphaned young adults in Beius.

Continuing the construction project, this year **Cocsis family (Nicu, Maria, Maria junior) and Feri Salamon** are the next beneficiaries of the second duplex. The two boys have been raised in the Beius orphanage and are graduates of Good Samaritan's construction vocational program (partnership with HFH Beius). They have proved to be very serious workers and responsible people, thus becoming eligible for the housing program. Both of them have put some 500 hours of volunteer labor on the construction of their own future homes. Completing their volunteer hours, they have been hired by Good Samaritan as professional builders, thus entrusted with the responsibility to continue building their homes,

managing the construction process, supplying the site with the needed materials and supervising construction workers.



Maria and Nicu are from all points of view an admirable young couple. She is hard working and always punctual. He is responsible and caring husband and father. Both of them have a very strong sense of initiative and higher than average money management skills. Some of the most important proofs for their seriousness is their stable marriage and 2 years old daughter that both love and take care of.

Nicu has been involved in two special construction projects: **Jimmy Carter Habitat Work Project** (quick build of hundreds of houses) in South Korea and the **Risen project**. For the second project he lead a

team, formed of orphans only, building a family type orphanage. Thus he had to prove not only his construction but also his people management skills.

Nicu is also a very talented singer, using his skills in the local church his family attends. At the Habitat houses dedication, after the speeches of Millard Fuller and J. Carter he could sing in front of 4000 people. It was there when Jimmy Carter told about him: **"I have never heard someone sing so beautifully!"**

INTERVIEW with Nicu



Soon your house will be ready. How do you feel? *I feel wonderful because it is my work. I know how the work has been done. Here is much quieter not like in the place where I am living now.*

How is it to work on your own house? *It is interesting but at the same time is hard because the majority of the work I had to organize alone. It was my interest to finish the work quick so I can move in soon with my family.*

Where did you learn these skills? *At Good Samaritan. I've worked in the partnership with HFH Beius and have watched my colleagues how they worked. Later I was sent by GSB to attend a construction training in Timisoara in order to improve my construction skills. Now I can work everything from foundation to the roof.*

What do you think about GSB housing program? *I think it is a good project. Nowadays it is hard to build a house. For us orphans it is impossible to obtain a bank credit and purchase a house.*

What plans do you have for the future? *To finish the house, to find a permanent job and to be able to offer a better place and living for my family. This house is a real realization for me, a house that God gave us! I want to thank those who helped me and Good Samaritan to do this project.*

THANKS to Peter Little, A.O.McGill's Habitat team, HFH Beius **FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROJECT.**

NEW PEOPLE IN THE GSB VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS

Reality or fairy-tales are the life stories Good Samaritan is sharing on its newsletter pages?

My answer would be: both! The orphans' lives are marked by the institutionalized life when they come into our programs. Still, many times, we are true witnesses of their lives' transformation. Then we share with you their stories and they sound pretty much like the fairy-tale of Cinderella, becoming a princess after a hard life, losing her mother. Or even better, like the "fairy-tales" of Nicu and Feri, who have found God in their lives and succeeded to find their place in the society. A fruit of lots of investment by different sponsors, people's love and acceptance, GSB staff care, patience

and hard work.

After several months long selection process, Good Samaritan is ready to offer the same chance to another 6 youngsters that have been chosen for its vocational programs—2 for the carpentry shop, 2 for the Habitat construction site and 2 for the Noah's Arc agricultural program.

For the next almost two years GSB will work to teach them a profession and help them to be accepted and find friends in the local community.



Ianos - first day at work in the carpentry shop

OUR SUPPORTERS

"Everybody can make a difference if he really wants to..."
by Esther Brussaard

GSB owns three apartments located in the Nefa complex of Beius, providing shelter for orphans who are unable to rent apartments in town due to both financial limitations and unwillingness of local owners to rent to people coming from orphanage.

In 2004 my husband and I organised an expedition with Land Rovers from China back to Holland. The principle was that all teams that wanted to join in had to raise at least € 9000 for child related projects. The organisation of the tour was done for free. Linking a 'once in a lifetime' journey to sponsoring projects turned out to be an excellent idea.

In May 2004 twelve teams started their world journey in Beijing. In six months time we drove in our own Land Rovers through China, Tibet, Nepal, India, the entire Arab continent, the Middle East and Eastern Europe back to Holland. In most of these countries we were able to sponsor and visit various projects for children. We supported a foundation of schools for underprivileged children, housing and education for disabled children, SOS Children's Villages and similar programs for orphans.

In October 2004 the teams arrived in Beius. Here we met Adrian Ciorna. He showed us the projects of Good Samaritan, one of the last projects we visited during the world tour. We were impressed by all the things he had initiated and the dedication of the workers of Good Samaritan.

The things we have seen and done and the people we have met during this six months expedition made us realise a true value: You can make a difference, if you really want to. When we started the preparations of the world tour in 2001 we would never have dreamt that so many people would join us. Neither could we ever imagine that all teams would raise almost € 400.000, enabling

us to support 43 child related projects!

At the end of 2005 our church members asked us whether we knew a good project to donate money to in 2006. I immediately thought of Good



Esther with her family and church pastor

Samaritan. I contacted Elena Cornea by mail and asked her which project needed the money most. She gave me a few options. Reconstruction of three apartments in the NEFA building was one of them. It appealed to me as this project was all about basic things like feeling secure, having a place to live and seek shelter from the cold. When Elena told me about the poor situation at NEFA I knew that we had a big challenge ahead of us: **are we able to raise enough money to renovate these apartments?**

In December 2005 the church agreed to support the NEFA project of Good Samaritan. In January 2006 I had the pleasure to inform all our church members. They were determined to help. And so they did.

In July the church had raised enough money to renovate the first apartment. The year is not over yet. My goal is to raise enough money to support the renovation of the second apartment as well. For the third apartment I need your personal support. **If every sponsor that reads this newsletter recruits one extra sponsor that is willing to give these young people a decent place to live, the third apartment can be renovated too! It would be nice if all youngsters that live in these**

apartments could benefit this winter from a decent kitchen, a warm shower and a good heating system.

I learned that everybody can make a difference if he or she really wants to. **Do you?**

TO SPONSOR:

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



Orphans slept in the past in the staircase of the Nefa block of flats



The renovation has started

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 others. The goal and the project YOU choose.

CONTACT US!

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

THANK YOU!

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 GS could not provide the necessary support to orphans!

Donate now ↓

CURRENT NEEDS

♦ **Sponsorships for the Noah's Arc program.** Help an orphan with mental disability to have food, shelter and chance to learn professional and life skills. **Needed are 2 sponsorships** for 2 new girls:



Laura



Sonia

A sponsorship per year per person is **\$2040 USD.**

♦ **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.



Feri



Cocsis family



♦ **Construction project** - for the completion of the **two one - bedroom apartments** for orphaned youngsters.

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

Aid for Romanian Children Foundation, Arjan de Koning, Daniel Vieru, Desirée Blom, Esther Bloemendall & Hervormde Kerk Maarssen Church, Eben Haezer Fund, Jim and Anne D. Carroll, J.C.Van Zundert, Ken Williams, Susan Cernik, Sigrid and Guy Gibson.

SCHOOLS SUPPLIES & KINDERGARTEN SUPPORT



This year Good Samaritan could provide 27 kids with school and kindergarten supplies and cover the annual expenses for 2 other kids to go to kindergarten, thus providing them with equal access to education.

Special thanks to EBEN HAEZER FUND, Sahandaywi Foundation & John and Helen Williams for their support!



Thanks to **John Williams and Raymond Clare** for the lovely picnic they helped us to realize by sponsoring it.