



Dear friends,

The summer is coming and while all of us are thinking of vacation and more relaxation, the orphans we serve to, have rare occasions to spend time out of town. This summer though we are happy we could provide for their need. Besides this we prepare for the new school year as well as head toward a dedication of some two more homes for orphans in the end of the fall. Medical and dental care programs continue addressing important health issues.

The youngsters that have joined us in 2006 are enjoying now good results at work and new friendships in the community. Many thanks to all of you who have contributed so some dreams can come true.

**Nikolina Ciorna,**  
Executive Director

### 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.

## A reward for the youngsters with good results...

Friday, June 10th, 14 orphaned young people, together with us, the Staff of Good Samaritan, headed to the near by Gârda hut in the Apusen mountains. A long expected excursion for all of us.

This initiative was inspired by a number of GSB youngsters who for already several years have proved their gradual progress toward social and professional integration - managing to keep their jobs, being self-sustainable in a great extend and having good relationships in the community they live in.

Even though the working youngsters benefit of paid vacation, rarely they would have high salaries to afford such a trip. So as soon as we announced the trip, the news quickly spread out. Almost all youngsters who collaborate with Good Samaritan wanted to participate, but the conditions were clear: stable job or a pension for people with handicap, no debt with the association, nice behaviour and age under 30.

Thus 14 youngsters, 3 supervisors: me, Alina Popa, social worker, Zoltan Boldis-Noah's Ark manager and Daniela Bacos-medical assistant, as well as several volunteers, were ready for a wonderful experience in the Romanian mountains...



*Hiking toward Scarisoara ice cave*

As we all got in the bus, the youngsters received instructions and were informed on the activities during the trip.

After this we all started singing together songs whose purpose was to unite the group. Not only this but it succeeded to create warm atmosphere and produced a lot of joy among them. They became curious and excited as we were getting closer to the mountain hut, where we were going to stay.

When we arrived there, all the youngsters were impressed by the good conditions offered in the hut; they kept on thanking for having bathrooms with hot water and TV's in each room.

*"I can't believe we have rooms like the ones from Bucharest's hotels", was Dorina repeating, a young woman who lives in a modest Nefa flat.*

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In October 2006 we have taken in our vocational programs 6 new youngsters - two in the Carpentry shop (Remus and Ianos), two in construction (Roman and Daniel) and 2 others in the Noah's Ark, all six coming from Popesti Placement center.

The first few weeks the youngsters have faced many difficulties from an emotional point of view. Living in a society which discriminates and has prejudices against the orphans are just two of the difficulties on the top of the list with obstacles. Beginning with their new neighbors who offended the youngsters many times and used to accuse them for every problem that happened in the block of flats, sending the police to the GSB office with all kind of false accusations. These were part of the things that led them to many frustrations and even altercations.

Knowing the difficulties the orphans are facing after leaving the orphanage and how different is the environment they came from, compared to the "real" life, we gave them lessons in transition from orphanage life to life of responsibilities (keeping a job, household management, house keeping) and a social behavior.

After leaving the orphanage, they all dream of freedom and it is very difficult to make a young person to become aware of the fact freedom has responsibilities, both at the working place and in the society.

In February, Ianos decided to leave the Good Samaritan program. He couldn't integrate neither into society nor at the working place, because of his difficult character, and behavioral disorders, being totally uninterested by his job and frequently getting into conflicts with his colleagues.

As for the other youngsters - Remus, Roman and Daniel, they have gradually succeeded to settle into the working place. The 3 boys are doing their best and are eager to learn a profession, have integrated pretty well, even though sometimes they get frustrated and there are moments when it is more difficult to collaborate with them. These are specific moments from the lives of all youngsters who had the un-fortunate occasion to spend a big part of their lives in orphanage.

As for their social integration they participate in different artistic, sport and religious activities and have gained the respect of the community in which they work especially because of their nice behavior.

Being trained in money management, they succeeded to save some money and buy useful things for their apartment or for themselves. They can cook for themselves and keep cleanliness in the apartment where they live. Being proud of their progress we try each month to motivate them in different ways: money incentives, all sorts of non-material things like: going to circus, dining out or even a short excursion in the mountains. The people from the society we live in would rather judge and discriminate this social category without taking into consideration the fact that for these youngsters it is very difficult to adapt to a normal life-style. Lacking the family protection, they didn't have life models to follow. Now, in the youngsters' mind, we represent not only the association where they have got a job, but the "family" they never had, knowing that they can find with us the necessary material help and especially the moral support they need in order to overcome the specific problems they are fighting with...

## PROFILES



Daniel  
21 years old

He is in charge with the house shopping, he makes well organized shopping lists. He Likes to write, create short poems, despite the fact that he has a small mental disability. He is a very good dancer. Dreams that one day he will own a little country house with vegetable garden and where he can also raise many animals.



Remus  
21 years old

The house's cook, he prepares complicated and delicious dishes. He enjoys walking, but especially riding a bicycle with other teenagers. He has a relationship with a girl also coming from an orphanage and for the future he wishes to have a family and to buy his own house.



Roman  
19 years old

He's in charge with the house cleaning...he forgets at the time to clean the kitchen, but he takes great care of the rest of the house.

He gladly participates in musical, sportive and religious activities. He saves money for the time when he will graduate the Good Samaritan vocational program.



# A reward for the youngsters with good results...



By the time we were getting in our rooms and unpacking, everybody was starving. We were served a copious dinner, which made the entire group to rejoice, especially because, as Ventel said, *"We haven't ate anything since yesterday, I was thinking I'll come here and get full"*.

After the dinner, we have made them another surprise: we took a special musical equipment to organise a disco. We all gathered outside and created a true dance floor, where some of the youngsters danced on a different musical rhythms until late in the night.

## DAY 2 - Saturday

After breakfast, we hiked toward Scarisoara ice cave on a very difficult path, about 14 km of climbing up the mountain. Anyway, it was extremely pleasant, like a strength competition for the youngsters, because none of them wanted to be the last. They were fascinated after they had visited

the ice cave, saying it was worthy to climb up the mountain, and even if it started to rain on the way back, they refused to hitchhike, saying it is much fun to climb down together.

Being the last day of our trip, we decided to have a festal evening on the terrace with music, barbeque, songs and jokes. One of the youngsters, Ventel, has had a recital, getting a prize for his talent, a prize consisting of two ice creams.

## DAY 3 - Sunday

On Sunday morning, the group visited a mill which was more than 300 years old and the Ionele Gate, another cave from the area. A picnic followed for which all the youngsters helped. It was an extremely nice atmosphere and we played many funny games.

When we returned to the hut everybody turned sad: we were going to pack and go home...

An extraordinary farewell lunch was served to us by the owner of the hut, who wanted to thank for the youngsters behavior: *"I'm very impressed by the youngsters you help to and you have brought here. They acted very nice. There are others raised in normal families who are worse...."*

All of the youngsters were asking us if we could stay more, they wanted us to take pictures with each other and in the rooms in which they have slept.

On the way to Beius, they were nostalgic, saying how nice it was, how they enjoyed, that they wanted us to organize another trip, promising they would be behaving as nice as then and would even

save money for a future trip.

They didn't miss their homes from Beius, *"nobody waits us at home...you are our family"* said Elena, while Lacrimioara told us she felt like crying because she was to separate from us.

Excited by the trip and being emotional on the way to Beius, they asked us to stop at Nucet, a place where years ago, camps were being organised for the children from orphanages. They all went to see the camp again, sharing memories from the time they were in the orphanage, remembering about the orphanage life and how glad they used to be when they were allowed to go to the children's camp. Most of them haven't had similar trips since then.

Taking good-bye was a moment in which all the youngsters gathered to express their feelings of joy and thanks for the successful organization of this short trip and for the fact they were selected to take part in it.

Going back in my memories I indeed feel that this holiday had been a success, and its purpose was fulfilled: managing to offer the youngsters better conditions and a totally different environment from the one in which they live daily. All this being a reward for those who are doing their best to integrate socially and professionally, who try to overcome the "handicap" of being raised in an orphanage.

*Alina Popa, social worker*

**Special thanks to Frank Higginson and Mervyn Dougherty for the lovely trip they helped us to realize by sponsoring it.**



*The orphans with the staff members are dancing...*

*...GSB youngsters having a copious breakfast*




# How can you help?

I love going to Kindergarten and playing with other children. Last year I've made a lot of new friends. I hope to continue going this year as well. I know my mom would be happy too...



Please join our efforts to continue to make a difference for the children of orphans. Give them the opportunity to say:

*I'm going to Kindergarten!*

 An amount of **723 USD** is needed to support a **child** through Kindergarten for one year. The monthly costs are **60 USD**.

By supporting a child you give him/ her the chance to have better access to education and appropriate nutrition, provide him/ her with interaction with local kids and exposure to different models of living. Helping the children through Kindergarten you also help the families of orphans in their effort to maintain the jobs they get.

*Please help us reach this goal and share this message with additional friends, family or Church members.*

## Other needs you may support

- Dental treatment, to bring a healthy smile on the faces of orphans - 860 USD/ pers. -treatment needed for approximately 14 persons
- Birthday gifts for orphans, to strengthen the feelings of belonging to a community - 15 USD/ person - 20 gifts needed
- Vocational program, to provide the orphans with the skills to acquire a profession - 361 USD/ person/ month
- Other projects of your choice

Please consider that **every amount is important for us**, no matter how small it may seem to be.  
**We are always grateful for any support!**

**Thank you**

A supporting action is a sign of solidarity with the ones in need.

Young orphans and their children are more than happy to thank the persons who, through their support, made a difference in their lives: Anne Meaney, Donna Starkey, Edwin Bautista, Frank Higginson, Gary Hackman, Gloria G Guido, Jackie Backwell, Lawton Warzala, Mervyn Dougherty, Rose and Patricia Dring, Zamfir Todor

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P.O. Box 68, Newport,  
PA 17074

- for The Good Samaritan Romania

**CONTACT US**

 **Postal address:**

Str. Gheorghe Pitut nr.3,  
Bl.Z3, ap.2  
Beius 415200, Bihor  
Romania

 **Phone/Fax:**

+40-259-323138

 **Website:**

[www.goodsamaritan.ro](http://www.goodsamaritan.ro)

 **E-mail:**

[info@bsbeius.ro](mailto:info@bsbeius.ro)

**Name of the bank:**

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

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

Phone/fax: +40-259-321321

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