

FOUNTAIN OF HOPE



OFFERING A BETTER FUTURE TO DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN THROUGH HOMEWORK SUPPORT, HOT MEALS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO PREVENT SCHOOL DROPOUT

Local youth volunteer to decorate the center

As 2011 was declared the European Year of the Volunteer – at the Fountain of Hope, we also made special efforts to promote volunteer spirit.

We had two international volunteers this schoolyear. Fernando, an artist from Mexico involved the children in painting and drawing activities and guided them to make a mural on one of the walls of the center. Roxana, a very dynamic and spirited volunteer from

Scotland did English sessions with the children and shared her culture with them.

However, we wanted to promote volunteerism on the local level as well, activating young people to take on empowering roles in their own community. At Christmas time, young people from the Patirlagele highschool were thrilled to be involved in collecting toys for Santa to give to the

children. We also introduced a program called “Club TIP” (which in Romanian stands for Talented Kids of Panatau Club). Teenagers from the local community were invited to participate in the summer renovations, by conceiving and executing a large mural on the walls of the center. The results are beautiful and inspiring – both for the children of Izvorul, as well as for the teenagers who were proud of their own work and contribution.



FERNANDO AND ARTISTS IN FRONT OF THEIR CREATION



IN 2010-11 23 CHILDREN WERE ENROLLED



A DONATION OF TOYS FROM FAMILY NECHITA BROUGHT JOY

INTRODUCTION TO THE FOUNTAIN OF HOPE

In September 2007, in partnership with the Local Community Council of Panatau and Cooperating Netherlands Foundation (CNF), Asociatia de Ajutor AMURTEL opened the "Fountain of Hope", an after-school center for the village elementary school children.

The center offers a hot meal, homework support and a creative variety of recreational extra-curricular activities for students of the Panatau Elementary school that come from socio-economically disadvantaged families.

The goal of this project is to reduce the number of primary school drop

outs in the community. The rural communities in Romania have high rates of children who do not even complete primary school, due to financial strains and parents who are unable to effectively support their children if they themselves often did not complete their formal education.

The project plays an important role in offering a better future to these children by motivating them to continue their studies, awakening a love of learning and discovering hidden talents, thus breaking the cycle of poverty.

ACTIVITIES FROM THE 2010-11 SCHOOLYEAR

EDUCATION:

Assisting the children in their homework is one of the center's priorities. Close communication with the teachers helped to create a variety of strategies in order to improve the children's scholastic performance. As a direct result of this work, all of the children enrolled in the center were successfully promoted to the next grade level and there were no school drop-outs.

Household and practical life activities were also successfully

organized. All of the children now know how to wash dishes, to serve meals and to clean up and organize the play area. This was accomplished by creating a duties chart so that each child had an opportunity to be included in household activities.

In addition, children had many extracurricular activities, developing their creative skills in painting, drawing, and crafts, as well as participating in many interactive games.

SOCIAL SERVICES:

The beneficiaries were carefully selected from amongst a large number of applicants. The community social worker conducted case studies of each family in order to establish fair criteria for selecting those most in need.

In addition, discussions were set up with the parents of the beneficiaries. As it is a rural area, children are often pressured to leave school in order to

help out on the farm or with animals. Through parent meetings we offered information regarding the importance of education for their children's future opportunities. This increased parent cooperation, and as a result the children were allowed to remain longer in the center, rather than leaving immediately after eating to go home and help with the farm chores.

ACTIVITIES



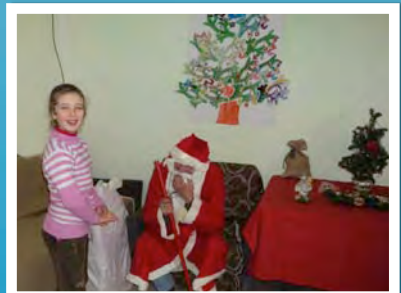
HOMEWORK ASSISTANCE



NUTRITIOUS HOT MEALS



ORGANIC GROWING IN OUR NEW GREENHOUSE



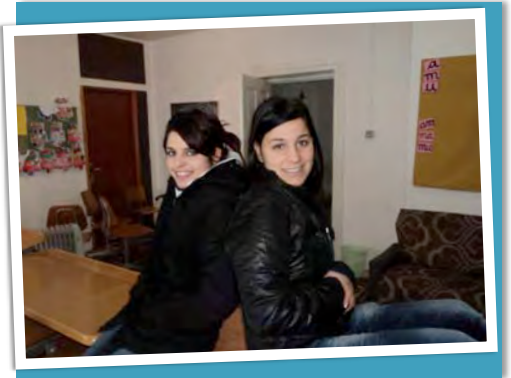
SANTA CAME WITH GIFTS DONATED BY PARENTS OF BUCHAREST KGS

A FIRST WORK EXPERIENCE FOR VISTARA YOUTH

SOCIAL INSERTION PROGRAM

Another social service program offered at the center was a social insertion program for two of the young adults from AMURTEL's Vistara social integration program. The Vistara program aims to prepare those leaving Familia AMURTEL children's home for independent living. The young adults were offered work in the center, in exchange for a salary

and free room and board at the "Bucur Obor" Vistara house. As this was their first work experience, the project director Larisa, provided them with support and guidance so that they will be able to more easily integrate into other professional working environments. They were very helpful and supported the staff with cleaning, gardening, assisting with lessons and offering opportunities for creative experiences such as singing,



WORKING TOWARDS SUSTAINABILITY

The project staff was very involved in increasing the funds available for various extra unbudgeted activities through income generating activities, offering the space at the center to host community events such as birthday parties and baptisms. There were four such events organized in the year. In addition, a group of Swiss students came and received a special feast at the center. They offered a donation of which was used towards renovations.

In addition, a new greenhouse was constructed to increase food production for the center, thanks to the generous contribution of a sponsor from Switzerland.

BUILDING COMMUNITY RELATIONS

In order to increase the visibility of the center and promote community awareness of its importance, Fountain of Hope organized three "Open Day" events. The teachers and students from the primary school in Panatau were invited to the center one morning, to see the center, and watch a video that was made together with the children. The children from the Fountain of Hope were very proud to see themselves on the screen, and it generated enthusiasm and excitement in all of the students. While in the first years of the center, some children felt stigmatized by their peers because they attend the center, now amongst the students, it is considered a sought-after opportunity.

In addition, a separate event was organized for the local authorities. Eighteen (?) members of the local council of Panatau, the mayor, the social assistant, and other officials participated. Videos of the Fountain of Hope, both from this year as well as the previous year, and videos from other projects of AMURTEL were screened, much to the delight of the authorities. They were proud of the results of the partnership with AMURTEL and many expressed their wish to see the Center promoted on a wider level. They were also served a vegetarian meal, which they enjoyed very much. At both events, leaflets about the center, and about the benefits of the vegetarian menu were passed out. Fountain of Hope also now has its own Facebook page: www.facebook.com/izvorul.

ONGOING STAFF DEVELOPMENT

In order to offer the best possible social service the center's staff is involved in a continual process of ongoing development. In the spring, Larisa, the director of the center, and Timea, one of the "Vistara" project assistants participated in a training in non-formal educational methods in Bucharest, held by "Creativity Association". They learned many cooperative games and exercises to apply in the center.

At the center, Didi organized several training meetings regarding conflict resolution and how to encourage positive communication between children and adults. In the summer, AMURTEL also organized an intensive three day seminar for all Panatau staff, which included personal development as well as specialized training on meeting the needs of children with challenging behaviors. Another important accomplishment was that Larisa successfully completed her university degree in Social Work this June.

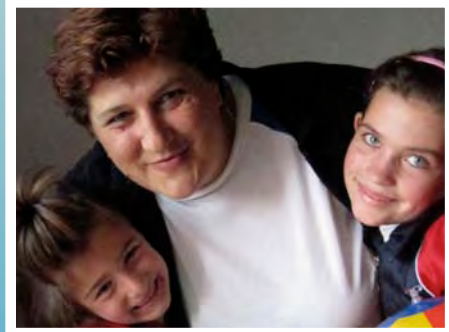


FINANCE REPORT

Sept 2010 - Aug 2011

| INCOME | EUROS |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| AMURTEL | 4956,84 |
| Panatau local government | 4057,14 |
| Income generation | 677,26 |
| TOTAL | 9691,25 |

| EXPENSES | EUROS |
|------------------|----------------|
| Food | 2528,84 |
| Consumables | 663,88 |
| Cooking gas | 106,62 |
| Maintenance | 317,38 |
| Wages + wage tax | 6011,82 |
| TOTAL | 9691,25 |



THANK YOU FOR THE SUPPORT OF OUR SPONSORS

PROJECT TEAM

PANATAU:

LARISA BRATUCU - PROJECT DIRECTOR, VOLUNTEER MANAGEMENT

DORINA PASCU - COOK

TIMEA LINGURAR - ASSISTANT

ELVIRA LEPEDAT - ASSISTANT

BUCHAREST:

DIDI A. DEVAPRIYA - FUNDRAISING, PR, SUPERVISION

DIIPANI - TRAINING, ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

We wish to extend our gratitude to all of our sponsors whose continued dedication and support makes this project possible. We hope that you will come to visit the project! We welcome guests at the AMURTEL Poieni vacation home: www.amurテル.ro/poieni and we also encourage sponsors to come and volunteer time if possible, to have the chance to see first hand how the project is making a difference in the lives of these children.

Special thanks also to in-kind donations from Familia Nechita, gifts for the children from the parents of our Sunrise Kindergartens in Bucharest. Thank you also to our partners, the Panatau local community for donations of wood

and for covering the utilities expenses.

A warm thanks to our international sponsors:

Ananda Prama, WWD-F (500), Divyamurti Quale (OR), Jacqueline Smith, Kamelshvara Franchescini, Ananda Marga Salorno, Subodh Inayatullah, Suzanne Dionne, Caetanya Bon, Ananda Marga Trento, Dina Heisler, Pranav Reich, James Cornish, Raghuram Oldham, Manisha Makhija, Anisha Watkin, Susan Vandegriek, Norbert Wolff, Aukje, Ramesh Bjonnes, Chandra Shekhar, Manuel Vincente, Susan O'Rourke, Marzari Reto, Lisa Dwyer, Chandra Gupta, Christine Visconti, Mr. and Mrs. Pioli, Barbara Chartier, Gopi, Mandakini, AMURTEL USA