



hope and homes
for children

ANNUAL REPORT
2016

www.hopeandhomes.ro

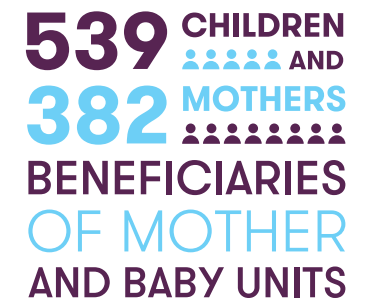
1998 - 2016
RESULTS

WE HAVE IMPROVED THE LIVES OF

45,570
CHILDREN



1998 - 2016 RESULTS



2016 RESULTS

INSTITUTION
CLOSED DOWN



2,429

CHILDREN WERE HELPED
TO STAY WITH
THEIR FAMILIES

CHILDREN
LEFT OLD-TYPE
INSTITUTIONS
(CLOSED INSTITUTIONS +
INSTITUTIONS IN THE PROCESS OF CLOSING +
INSTITUTIONS WHERE WE HAVE AN IMPACT)

891

CHILDREN
REINTEGRATED
INTO THEIR FAMILIES

84

YOUNG PEOPLE
SUPPORTED TO BEGIN
INDEPENDENT LIVES
(SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL
INTEGRATION)



BENEFICIARIES
OF EMERGENCY
RECEPTION
CENTRES



34 CHILDREN
AND
19 MOTHERS

BENEFICIARIES
OF MOTHER
AND BABY UNITS

BENEFICIARIES OF
DAY CENTRES



43

PROFESSIONALS FROM
CHILD-PROTECTION AUTHORITIES
TOOK PART IN TRAINING PROGRAMMES

833



”

Dina is 21 and she is studying Pedagogy at the University. She wants to become an educator and help children who are in the same situation as she was. At the age of two, she was admitted in an institution together with her younger sister.

«I do not remember too much from this period, I only have in mind the image of us lined up in a long and dark corridor, so many of us. It was the only moment we could see each other, because we used to spend most of our time in cots. I was so eager to be hugged by anyone near me, I was begging for attention – and it was a manifestation of my loneliness.»

At the age of three, she was moved into a small-group home opened by us. Her life changed and became better ever since, she says.

There are so many stories like Dina's. We keep on collecting and seeing thousands of such stories every year! Each one of them is a destiny and refers to a child's soul.

Thank you for giving us the power to do this.

Ștefan Dărăbuș
Regional Director, Central and Eastern Europe

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”

When Hope and Homes for Children took it upon itself to reform the child protection system in Romania, I knew it wasn't going to be easy. It is a titanic work, many times an exhausting one and many times an unconceivable one. Yet, it is a crucial work.

All the institutions closed during this time, the small-group family homes opened, the children reunited with families, the changes in the legal system and the training of the professionals working in the state system – all are great things we achieved. They are completed by the thousands of children who have remained with their families, by the young adults we helped in transitioning to independent living and the families supported to have a better life.

I am so proud to have been part of this exceptional team for 19 years and I thank them for the miracles they accomplish every day. I have nothing but respect for the results they have.

”



Marina Sturdza
Honorary President

”



In the beginning, our programmes were mainly supported by funds collected outside Romania. Fortunately, this began to change during the last years. An increasing part of our budget now comes from companies that are active in Romania or personal donations made by generous Romanians.

We are still far from our goal – to be able to support ourselves 100% from internal sources, but we are on the right track, and this is very good news. The civilization of a nation is not measured only by its infrastructure, but by the way they pull together their resources to help the most vulnerable citizens.

”

Dragoș Bucurenci
Director of Development

OUR VISION

**A WORLD IN WHICH
CHILDREN NO LONGER SUFFER
INSTITUTIONAL CARE.**

OUR PURPOSE

**TO CLOSE DOWN ALL
OLD-TYPE INSTITUTIONS
FOR CHILD PROTECTION
IN ROMANIA
BY 2022.**

Our programmes aim to replace the institutional child-protection system with one based on the family concept, by family reintegration, foster care or small-group family homes.



”

Ever since I am a mother, and take care of my baby, and sing to her before she falls asleep, I learned the meaning of every sound and every smile, I carry her in my arms and I see her need to be with me every minute.

The children in orphanages, how do they receive this love in the 85,400 minutes of a day? I have been together with Hope and Homes for Children Romania for seven years and I believe that by providing love to the children in institutions, we can save the world a bit.

”

Amalia Enache
Hope and Homes for Children Ambassador

OUR VALUES

**WE BELIEVE THAT
ATTACHMENT,
INDIVIDUAL ATTENTION,
LOVE AND NURTURING
ARE ESSENTIAL FOR
EVERY CHILD.**

”



My cooperation with Hope and Homes for Children Romania started in 2012. Back then, most of the projects were only in the planning stages, some were just beautiful ideas. Over time, I had the satisfaction to see that I was not wrong in joining Hope and Homes for Children and that the people who promised, also delivered on those promises, that they continued to work very hard, even harder, and today the apparently unattainable goals of Hope and Homes for Children are almost completed.

We are close to an ideal situation and not many people know it: Romania can be a model in how we end the institutionalisation of children for other countries who face the same issue.

To be an ambassador for Hope and Homes for Children means to make my most precious skills – the music I love so much – available for a noble cause. This is how I can contribute to saving, literally, the lives of so many wonderful children.

Alexandru Tomescu
Hope and Homes for Children Ambassador

”

OUR OBJECTIVES

- To demonstrate that the care of children based on family and community support can successfully replace institutional care.
- To increase the number of professionals responsible for the well-being and protection of children, in order to prevent the children's separation from their families and to provide quality care.
- To influence government policies and those of local authorities with the goal of ensuring that all children can be cared for in a family environment.
- To create strategic alliances with other organisations so that the eradication of institutional care becomes a priority.
- To develop the network of professionals and volunteers in the field of child-protection through improving their competencies and knowledge.
- To raise public awareness on the challenging situation of children, families and communities who suffer because of an outdated child-protection system.



In its 19 years of activity, Hope and Homes for Children has saved the lives of tens of thousands of children and young people who were less fortunate than most of us.

I feel honoured to be part of the Hope and Homes for Children family and, through what I do, to contribute to the happiness of children who need it the most, to give them the chance to spend their childhood with their families or in an environment that is as close to a family as possible. After all, being an actor is about giving happiness and this is what I know how to do best.

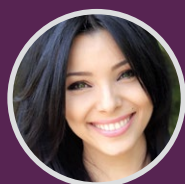


MARIUS MANOLE
Hope and Homes for Children Ambassador

OUR FRIENDS



DAN BITTMAN



CORINA CARAGEA



ADA CONDEESCU



GIANINA CORONDAN



MAGOR CSIBI



VLADIMIR DRĂGHIA



FELI



CORI GRĂNESCU



CHEF ADI HĂDEAN



OMID GHANNADI



ANDREEA RĂDUCAN



PAULA SELING



ZOLI TOTH



CLOSING DOWN OLD-TYPE INSTITUTIONS

CLOSING DOWN OLD-TYPE INSTITUTIONS

Almost 100,000 children were living in old-type institutions (orphanages) in 2000. In 2016, there were still approximately 8,000 children in institutions.

Traumas and the devastating consequences of institutionalization on children are among the harshest forms of abuse and violence. Children growing up in institutions display delays in physical, cognitive and social development. Young adults leaving institutions face difficulties in becoming independent and are exposed to abuse, exploitation, trafficking or antisocial behaviour.

The alternative is the closure of the orphanages and finding the most appropriate solutions – as close as possible to the family environment – for the children in them. Some children can be reunited with their birth families, if they provide the right conditions. Others can be placed with foster-care parents or can be adopted. The children who need specialised care (for whom neither family reintegration, nor

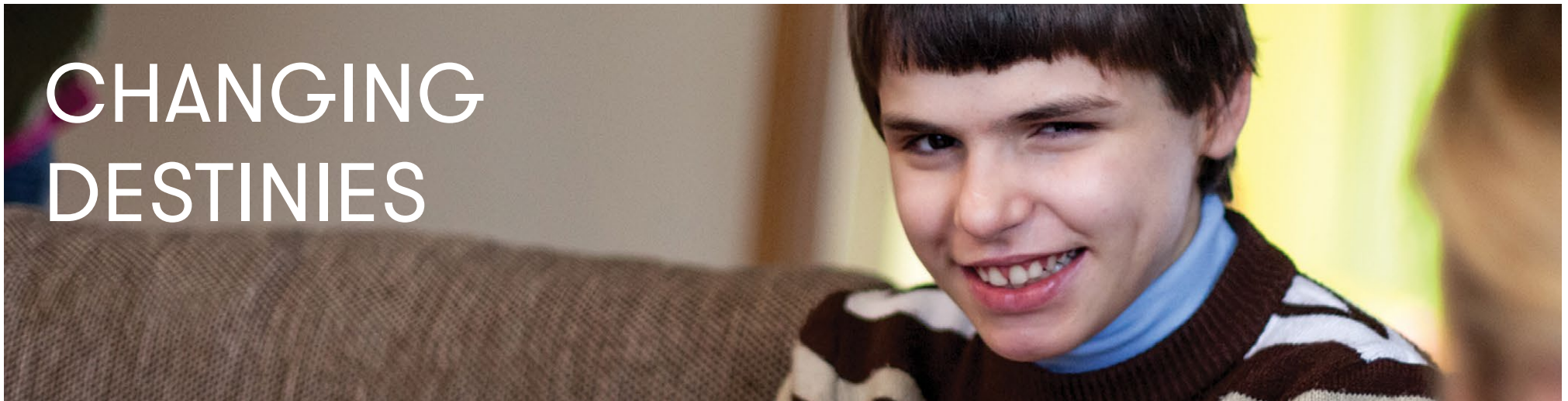
foster care work) are placed in small-group family homes.

Family reintegration is a process supported by a catalogue of care measures supporting children and families. To date, Hope and Homes for Children has helped 798 children in reuniting with their families.

SMALL-GROUP FAMILY HOMES

A small-group family home is a service that provides children and young adults an environment that is close to the family environment. There are 10-12 children living in a house and they receive education, care, emotional support and counselling for independent living. Hope and Homes for Children has opened 99 small-group family homes in Romania by the end of 2016.

Hope and Homes for Children's mission is to close down all orphanages in Romania by 2022.



CHANGING DESTINIES

THE LAST ORPHANAGE IN OLT COUNTY WAS PERMANENTLY CLOSED

“Floare de Colț” Institution, the last orphanage in Olt County, was closed down through the partnership between the Child Protection Department Olt and Hope and Homes for Children.

The partnership started in 2013, when there were 41 children and young adults in the institution, aged between 5 and 26, with mild, medium and severe special needs.

Hope and Homes for Children specialists helped in identifying the best transfer options for these children: social and professional integration, family reintegration, transfer to small-group family

homes, or relocation to apartments and centres for adults with special needs.

The Hope and Homes for Children team assessed the children and carried out the social investigations for those who were reintegrated with their families; they visited the services where the children and young adults were transferred; they participated in individual cases management meetings with the team from the County Child Protection Department and collaborated with the institution’s social worker and psychologist, as well as with other staff members.



Once this institution was closed, Olt County joined Maramureș, Hunedoara, Alba counties and District 6 of Bucharest, in which no longer function any old-type institutions.









The programme for closing down orphanages in 2016 and 2017

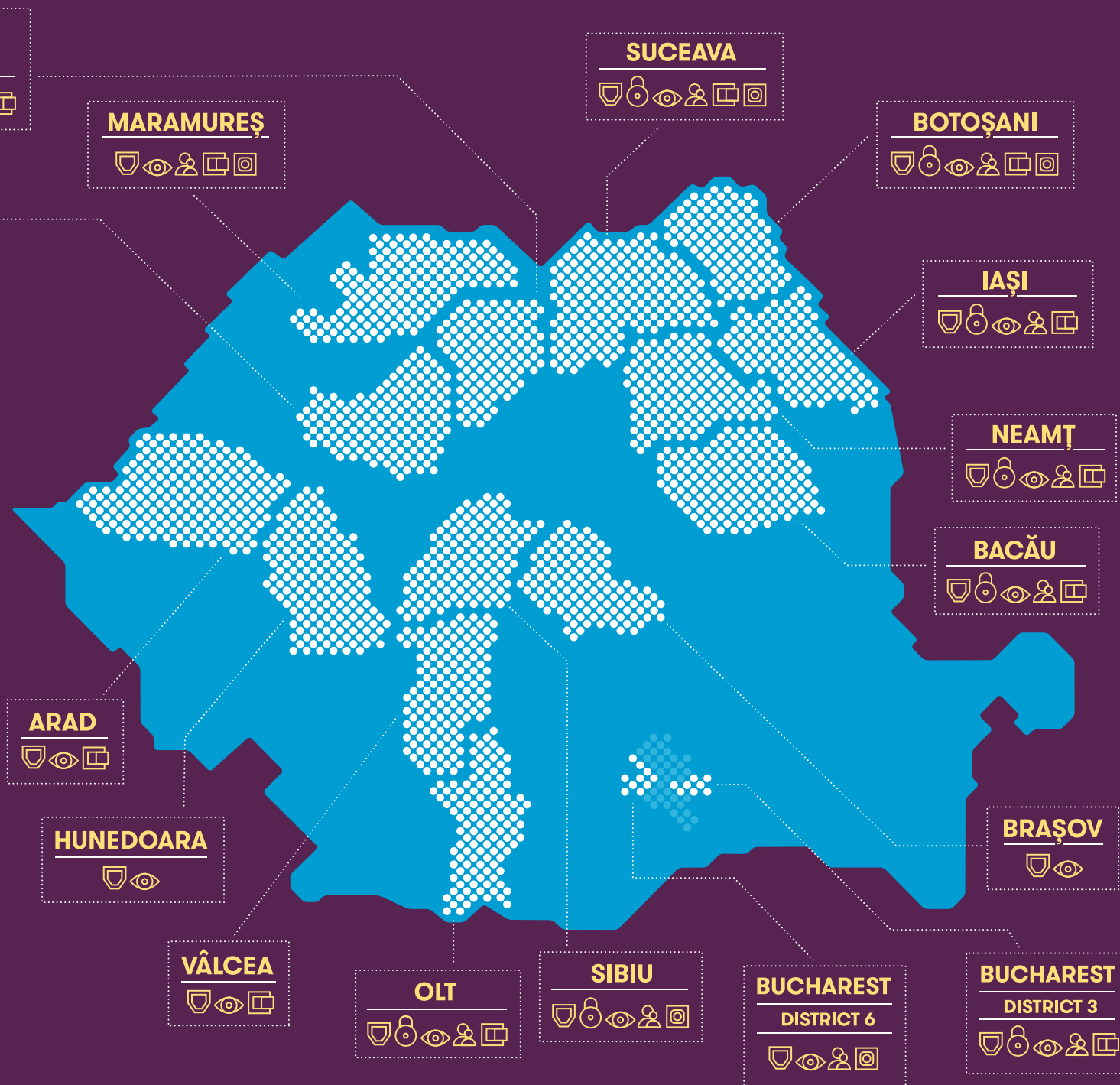
Closed in 2016

1. "Floare de Colț" Institution, Balș (Olt County)

In process of closing

2. "Târgu Frumos" Institution, Iași
3. "Ion Holban" Institution, Iași
4. "Veniamin Costache" Institution, Iași
5. "Henri Coandă" Institution, Bacău
6. "Crinul Alb" Institution, Bucharest, District 3
7. "Pinocchio" Institution, Bucharest, District 3
8. "Năsăud" Institution, Bistrița-Năsăud
9. "Elena Doamna" Institution, Târgu Neamț
10. "Sf. Nicolae" Institution, Trușești, (Botoșani County)
11. "Mediaș" Institution, Mediaș, (Sibiu County)

-  Technical assistance to reform the child protection system in Romania
-  Closure of institutions
-  Preventing the separation of children from their families
-  Family reintegration
-  Social and professional integration
-  Professional development





PREVENTING THE SEPARATION OF CHILDREN FROM THEIR FAMILIES

PREVENTING THE SEPARATION OF CHILDREN FROM THEIR FAMILIES

39% of the children in Romania live in poverty, according to the National Strategy on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction. They do not have clothes and shoes, they do not attend school or kindergarten and, some days, they do not even have food. This is what usually makes parents abandon them in state care, in orphanages, where they have food, but where they lack affection.

Hope and Homes for Children believes that the family is the top priority when it comes to the best interest of the child and we support keeping the children with their parents through various forms of assistance. The action plan is personalized and specialists, based on particular criteria and indicators, decide to the best interest of the child.

Between 2001 and 2016, our organisation worked with 3,067 families in 19 counties and

Bucharest, in the programme dedicated to preventing the separation of children from their families. 8,771 children received direct help to remain with their families, while for 17,727 other children our organisation contributed with technical and financial assistance to prevent their separation from families.

The programme dedicated to preventing the separation of children from their families is complementary to the process of closing down orphanages. On the one hand, it is critical that other children do not end up in institutions and, on the other, the programme helps to reduce or even stop the placement of children in state care.

Since 2001, a total of 25,787 children remained with their families due to the interventions carried out by Hope and Homes for Children and its partners.



Hope and Homes for Children believes that the family is the top priority when it comes to the best interest of the child and we support keeping the children with their parents through various forms of assistance.

Whether it's counselling or material support, the intervention is focused on the individual needs of the family and a team of specialists decides what kind of intervention is needed in order to prevent the separation of children from their families.



THE FOURTH EDITION, THE LOVE EDITION

The fourth edition of the Hope Concert, the gala organized by Hope and Homes for Children to support vulnerable children in Romania, took place on April 10th, at the Romanian Athenaeum.

Both classical and pop songs were re-orchestrated and adapted to be played by Violoncellissimo, a cello ensemble.

More than 800 guests attended the gala, among which were the Romanian Prime Minister, Dacian Cioloș, princess Marina Sturdza, patron of Hope and Homes for Children, ministers, ambassadors, representatives of central and local authorities, representatives

of partner companies, supporters, journalists, and celebrities. Corina Caragea and Simona Pope from PRO TV, Vladimir Drăghia, Andreea Răducan, Corina Ungureanu, Malvina Cservenschi, actors Dorian Boguță and Ada Condeescu have shown this way their support for the most vulnerable children in Romania.

Sponsor: Kaufland Romania
Strategic partners: Arval,
BRD – Groupe Société Générale
Main media partner: PRO TV

”

I am sure that the issue of institutionalised children is a test that God has given us in order to find, alongside the love we feel for our loved ones, the love we need to take our children home.

Dacian Cioloș
Prime Minister (2015-2016)

”



Some of the most important Romanian artists performed at the event: violinist Alexandru Tomescu, Hope and Homes for Children ambassador; the soprano Irina Iordăchescu; the pianist Andrei Licareț; the actor Marius Manole, also a Hope and Homes for Children ambassador; Dan Bittman; Paula Seling; Feli; and the Violoncellissimo Ensemble, directed by master conductor Marin Cazacu.



Amalia Enache, PRO TV journalist and Hope and Homes for Children ambassador, together with Dragoș Bucurenci, presented the show. Amalia wore a dress created by Doru and Dana, two young adults who live in a small-group family home built by Hope and Homes for Children in Baia Mare.



OMV PETROM BUCHAREST HALF-MARATHON

For the third consecutive year, Hope and Homes for Children was one of the causes that the runners registered at the Bucharest OMV Half-Marathon could support. The runners raised funds on the Galantom.ro platform or directed part of the entry fee to the organisation, to the programme dedicated to preventing the separation of children from their families. In total, the 400 runners who supported Hope and Homes for Children raised 17,185 lei.

Joining Team Hope were, among others, Chef Adi Hădean, who ran for the fifth time for Hope and Homes for Children,

Dragoş Bucurenci, and the athlete Cristian Vorovenci, national track and field champion, who won second place in the relay race together with Andrei Ştefana and Ionuţ Drăguşin, and dedicated his prize to the cause of vulnerable children in Romania.

Partners: Bucharest Running Club, Tent Event, World Class, Radisson Blu, Aqua Queen, Oracle, Medical Gym, Bălaşa Percussion, Verdini the Magician, Biluţă's Team

”

We all want to live in a world in which the children have families and are surrounded by love. But life should be more about doing and less about wanting things to be different. That is why I greatly admire the work of the Hope and Homes for Children team and I am always delighted to join their efforts in building a better world.

Chef Adrian Hădean

”



ADVENTURES IN BĂNEASA FOREST

40 children from the “Pinocchio” Institution (District 3) and from the programme dedicated to preventing the separation of children from their families carried out by Hope and Homes for Children in District 6, as well as 10 children of the Prista Oil Romania employees, had an adventurous day in Băneasa Forest, as a 1st of June present.

The instructors from Academia 1,61 transformed Băneasa Forest into a fairytale land, with witches, swamps and enchanted fences. Divided into 8 teams, children and adults embarked on a real adventure to discover the forest, while imagining

they are in the haunted forest of Oz. The challenge was to win the good grace of three witches, who tested their field orientation skills, challenging them to create strategies and get organized.

The children learnt useful things about understanding each other, about imagination and teamwork, but they also had fun. In the end, all teams were declared winners and received awards.

Partner: Prista Oil Romania
Supporter: Academia 1,61

”

During the day, there were several heart-warming moments: the answer given by a little girl from “Pinocchio” Institution to the question “How we develop our knowledge?”. This got us all thinking, young and old, but the little girl answered “By reading”. Marius, another child from “Pinocchio” Institution, was the head of my team and proved to be the perfect leader, energetic and of real support to Costi – a boy with special needs whom he continuously helped during the course. Meeting these children made me feel full of hope and joy.

Manuela Mureşan
Marketing Specialist Prista Oil Romania

”



ZOLI TOTTH DONATED BICYCLES TO BENEFICIARIES OF HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN PROGRAMMES

The “Pedal and donate with l’Velo” campaign organised by Green Revolution Association, during which the kilometres rode with bicycles in Bucharest and recorded in the l’Velo application transformed into bicycles to be donated, was the means through which the musician Zoli Toth gifted bicycles to beneficiaries supported by Hope and Homes for Children.

Adriana (21 years old, Baia Mare), student at the Post-Secondary Sanitary School and the Faculty of Mineral Resources and Environment, received one of the bicycles. Adriana no longer has parents, she lives in social housing and she is supported by our organisation to fulfil her dream to become a doctor.

The second bicycle reached Marius (17 years old, Baia Mare),

who lives in a small-group family home built by our organisation. Although he is close to his parents and three siblings, Marius prefers to live in the small group-family home and does not want to be reintegrated, because of the poor living conditions of his family. He is a 9th grade student at a vocational school and works at a car wash.

The third bicycle was given to a family with 8 children in Alba County. Initially, all the children were institutionalised because of poverty, but their mother stayed in touch with them and visited them often. With support from the Foundation, the parents managed to bring their children back with the family and to create the proper living conditions to keep them together.

”

I wanted a bicycle so badly! With it, I will get to school faster, I will save money on transportation and, most importantly, I will work out. I can say that it is part of my family now. It has made my life so much easier.

Adriana

”



SUMMER KINDERGARTEN

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR THE CHILDREN FROM A DISADVANTAGED COMMUNITY

During the summer holiday, in the “Pirită” disadvantaged community in Baia Mare, took place the educational support programme “Summer Kindergarten” for the children living in this community. The programme was initiated by Claudia Costea (Maramureş Child Protection Department), as a partnership between state institutions and NGOs, and consisted in recreational and educational activities aimed at preparing 60 children, aged between 3 and 16, to enrol, or re-enrol, in school or kindergarten.

The children who participated in these activities live in a community of improvised huts, without electricity, with a single water source, consisting in a pipe connected directly to the public water system. Among garbage, rats and dogs, the children are either left unsupervised during the day or work with their parents gathering scraps of iron in town or in the neighbouring communities. The children, who speak only Romani at home, do not attend school or kindergarten and they miss out on the natural socializing experiences, as well as the exercise of intellectual effort.



The activities were organised according to age groups, 3-10 years and 11-18 years, and began with simple things, such as rules for personal hygiene, and then continued with more complex topics, like guidance for group integration. With help from volunteers, the children learned to eat and wash themselves properly, and to talk politely to those around them. The younger children learnt to hold a pencil, to colour and to recognize letters and numbers.

The children also enjoyed recreational activities: watching cartoons and playing in the kindergarten and in the courtyard. Every day, they received breakfast (a bun, fruits) and, at lunch, a warm meal provided by our organisation. As the activities took place, it was noticeable how the children's interest was growing, along with their will to participate in the programme every day.

Apart from the activities carried out with the children, the Hope and Homes for Children specialists held counselling sessions for parents to motivate them to enrol their children in a form of education. The social workers from Baia Mare Local Social Services carried out the social assessments of the families and the nurses registered the children with a family doctor. The parents were encouraged to see what their children were doing during the programme, and activities involving both children and parents were organised.

Partners: Maramureş Child Protection Department, Baia Mare Local Social Services, Maramureş County Education Inspectorate, Somaschi Foundation for Volunteers



At the end of the summer holiday, with support from the School Orientation Commission, 24 children were enrolled in kindergarten, 20 children in the “Second Chance” form of education and another 30 were integrated into different grades at a school in the neighbourhood. The children's lives have dramatically changed for the better, not just from an educational point of view, but also from the way in which they perceive the world, from being able to trust others and give back.





SWIMATHON

15 SWIMMERS “MADE WAVES” FOR HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN

15 swimmers chose to support the cause of Hope and Homes for Children by participating in the Bucharest Swimathon and raised more than 12,000 lei. Their goal: to support 30 children in staying home, with their families. Among the swimmers was also the musician Zoli Toth.

The swimmers were organised into three teams – Team Hope 1, Team Hope 2 and UPC Romania for Hope – and had a single purpose: to swim as many pool lengths as possible and raise the amount they set for

themselves. The money was used to assess the situation of every child and to create specialised intervention plans for each child and family, as well as to provide the children and parents with the necessary material support and counselling, so that they can overcome the situation they were in or to facilitate their access to social benefits, as needed.

Partner: UPC Romania
Supporter: Bucharest
Community Foundation

”

I love my children dearly and I want to see them happy, close to me, and on top of that, I love sports. This brought me close to the other children who need us in order to have better lives with their families, where the love and warmth can be felt stronger than anywhere else.

Claudiu Hațegan
Swimmer and supporter of Hope and Homes for Children

”



RAIFFEISEN BANK BUCHAREST MARATHON

Team Hope, Hope and Homes for Children's team of runners, participated for the third time in the Bucharest Marathon.

A total of 400 runners chose to support Hope and Homes for Children and the cause of vulnerable children. 50 volunteers, among which was the musician Zoli Toth, supported the runners both at the Team Hope tent and on the route, at the water points.

Deutsche Bank and RSM Romania had their own teams of runners who supported Team Hope's cause.

Ciprian Bălănescu, duathlon, triathlon and aquathlon national champion, ranked 11th in the overall ranking. Raised in the child- protection system, Ciprian wants to prove, with his actions, that "nothing is impossible, you just need to want it bad enough".

Partners: World Class, Radisson Blu, Deutsche Bank, RSM Romania, TentEvent, Elevate, Aqua Queen, Oracle, Accenture



The Team Hope runners collected 40,000 RON, thus supporting one of Hope and Homes for Children's programme: helping poor families to raise their children instead of abandoning them in orphanages.





Among the Team Hope runners were Vladimir Drăghia; Dragoș Bucurenci; Dragoș Doroș, president of the National Agency for Fiscal Administration (ANAF); Paul Gheorghiu, head of the Prime Minister's Office; Claudiu Vrînceanu, Secretary of State in the Ministry of Economy, Commerce and Business Environment; Mihai Lisețchi, Secretary of State in the Ministry for Public Consultation and Civic Dialogue; and Cristian Botan, counsellor in the Prime Minister's Office.

Team Hope Performer, which included Cristian Vorovenci, Andrei Ștefana, Nicolae Soare and Sergiu Ciobanu, ranked 1st in the men's relay race and dedicated their award to the children we support to remain with their families and enjoy happy childhoods.

FASTING ALSO MEANS DOING GOOD DEEDS

During the Nativity Fast (November 15th – December 24th), Hope and Homes for Children organised the campaign “The Meaning of Fasting”, which aimed to give another purpose to the days of fasting. “The Meaning of Fasting” challenged people to fast for one day and donate the value of that day’s meals to the children who live with less than 5 lei/day.

Those who wanted to support the campaign accessed rostulpostului.ro and chose the food and drinks they would have consumed in one day and then donated online the amount of money they were worth. Therefore, more than 1,500 dishes and drinks were donated, raising a total of 32,000 lei.

During the 40 days of campaign, more than 500 public figures,

journalists and ordinary people gave up food, some virtually, others for real, in order to help the children who live in poverty. The start of the campaign was given by Amalia Enache (PRO TV), Dragoș Bucurenci, Ștefan Dărăbuș and Magor Csibi (WWF Romania). They were joined by the actress Oana Pellea, Corina Caragea (PRO TV presenter), Vladimir Drăghia, musician Zoli Toth, actor Marius Manole, fitness trainer Cori Grănescu, photographer Alex Gâlmeanu, Raluca Arvat (TVR 2), Alin “Coiotu” Dincă (lead singer of the Band Trooper and DJ at Rock FM), Laura Cosoi, Andreea Ibacka, who have challenged others to support this initiative, too.

Partners: Cohn & Jansen JWT, Atelieru, Vali Petridean



”

I fast every once in a while, for my physical and mental health. During my most recent fasting period, after four days of not eating, I thought that there are many people who simply do not have anything to eat. Together with Hope and Homes for Children, we realised we could do something in order to make fasting a more purposeful endeavour. When we fast, we save money we can then donate to the children who have nothing to eat.

Magor Csibi
Programme Director WWF Romania

”

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

FOR 600 CHILDREN IN 10 COUNTIES

Dragă Moș Crăciun
Mă numesc Adi, am 8 ani și sunt
în clasa I. Sunt un băiat cuminte și harnic.
Eu ajut pe mama la îngrijit căii și
văcutele. Moșule îți mulțumesc pentru
bomboanele de anul trecut. Anul
acesta te rog să-mi aduci o mașină
de poliție și telecomandă.

Mulțumesc

Adi.



600 children from the programme dedicated to preventing the separation of children from their families wrote to Santa Claus at the beginning of December. Most of the children in this nationwide programme never had the chance to enjoy the winter holidays and presents, like most other children had.

The letters of the children reached the employees of BRD – Groupe Société Générale, who mobilized for the second year in a row to make the children's wishes come true. Each letter was read carefully and then the presents the children asked for were bought and wrapped. The nicely wrapped packages were then sent to Child Protection Departments in 10 counties.

Some of the children asked for an orange – they had never received

a present before – or health for them and their family. The more courageous ones wrote what they wanted to receive, but they did not forget to ask for something for their siblings. The social workers from Hope and Homes for Children and 10 Child Protection Departments were Santa's messengers and gave out the presents to the 600 children. It was a great surprise for them, and the happiness of getting the very things they had asked for was even greater. Therefore, Christmas became a fairytale holiday, just like every child should experience.

Partner: BRD – Groupe Société Générale and employees of the company, through the "Super Humans for Super Chances" programme



**SOCIAL AND
PROFESSIONAL
INTEGRATION OF
YOUNGSTERS
LEAVING THE CHILD
PROTECTION SYSTEM**

SOCIAL AND PROFESSIONAL INTEGRATION OF YOUNGSTERS LEAVING THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

Every year, around 3,000 youngsters, aged between 18 and 27, leave the child protection system without being prepared for independent life or, in some of the more fortunate cases, with limited preparation, while the staff interacting with these young people are rarely trained to help them.

Thrust in a situation where they will have to manage on their own, after a lifetime in an institution, youngsters are not able to cope with daily tasks. They have poorly developed communication skills, low self-esteem, behaviour and attitude issues, they find it hard to establish meaningful relationships, they are vulnerable and risk exploitation. All these make them feel alone, isolated in a foreign world. Sometimes, young people remain in state care for the rest of their lives, because they are incorrectly diagnosed with special needs that do not allow them to live independently or they

are not provided with the necessary support to have a semi-independent life.

The social and professional integration of these youngsters with support from Hope and Homes for Children means improving their independent living skills (through counselling and material support), creating the prerequisites for integrating them on the labour market (through counselling, mediation, recommendations), and providing them with a place to live, with the involvement of local authorities.

Hope and Homes for Children began the programmes to assist and support vulnerable young people leaving state care in 2002. Until now, 862 youngsters were supported to become successfully integrated into society.



WINTER GAMES FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Starting in 2002, Hope and Homes for Children has been organising the Special Winter Games, a sports event aiming to socially integrate children and young people with special needs through spare time activities and winter-specific sports events.

140 children with special needs from the state child-protection services in Maramureş County, and from ASSOC and Esperando Association, participated in the 14th edition of the games. Corina Caragea, PRO TV Sports News presenter, and Dragoş Bucurenci joined the children for this event.

Organised into 12 teams, the children took turns in participating

in all the events: football and hopscotch on snow, tug-of-war and relay race with egg and spoon, sleighing, throwing snowballs at the target and building snowmen. The fun on the slope ended with excitement, as each participant received diplomas, medals and presents from Corina and Dragoş. They were all very happy about this day and about the activities they participated in, considering it “an unforgettable day”.

Partners:
BRD – Groupe Société Générale,
Bridges for New Beginnings

”

Snowball fights, throwing snowballs at targets, racing with the sleighs – these are all part of a normal childhood. They were also part of mine, as was the hopscotch, the snowmen and the football in the schoolyard. I joined this event to show the importance of such joys, which need to also be normal and present in the lives of children with special needs. I relived my childhood games, I teamed up with these children and I handed them medals, diplomas and awards, reminding them that they are all champions.

Corina Caragea
Presenter of the PRO TV Sports News

”



A WEEK FULL OF ADVENTURES FOR THE CHILDREN IN HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN'S PROGRAMMES

In July, the children from “Dealul Florilor” and “Mogoșești” small-group family homes had the adventure of a lifetime: climbing and zip-lining, archery, creative workshops, first-aid class and survival lessons, as part of the Survival Camp Șuior (Maramureș County). Divided into teams, they built shelters made of wood, branches, cardboard boxes or egg cartons, based on the information they got during the creative workshops. They also received information from the mountain police on how to survive in nature and to make use of what the environment provides.

The camp ended with a big campfire, to which all children contributed: they gathered wood from the forest and put into practice the skills gained in the “How to build a fire under proper and safe circumstances” course. For their courage, team spirit and discipline, much needed in such a camp, each participant was rewarded with a “Survivor” diploma.

Partner: TuSport Association

”

It was great! I loved it when we built the shelter in the woods with the scraps of wood and branches we had gathered. I also loved the zip-line. I didn't think I would have the courage to go on it, but I did.

Daria (12 years old)

”

”

I loved the zip-line the most, but also the climbing. I carried wood from the forest and built a huge fire. I am glad I received a diploma with my picture on it.

Andrei (9 years old)

”

SOLIDARITY AND ART



THE ART AND SOLIDARITY CAMP, 12TH EDITION

The Art and Solidarity Camp in Desești (Maramureș County) started from the idea of priest Ioan Ardelean and has become a true art school that promotes a mentoring relationship between valuable contemporary artists and children and young artists from the child protection system. For the latter, the camp provides the opportunity to develop their imagination, aesthetic sense, their skills or even to discover their artistic inclination in an oasis of joy and peace.

The theme of the 2016 edition was “Tradition in the rural world”. Fifty children and young adults from small group family homes developed by Hope and Homes for Children and from foster care and prevention programmes that we have developed in Iași, Neamț, Botoșani, Bistrița, Cluj and

Maramureș counties participated in the camp and were guided by famous artists. The young artists unleashed their imagination and created paintings of the village world, rendering the beauty of Maramureș in the most wonderful images and colours.

The list of activities also included a trip to the Merry Cemetery in Săpânța, a campfire, music and folk dance recitals, poetry reading and workshops for survival techniques and information on juvenile delinquency, in collaboration with the Romanian Gendarmerie.

Partner: BRD – Groupe Société Générale and employees of the company through the “Super Humans for Super Chances” programme

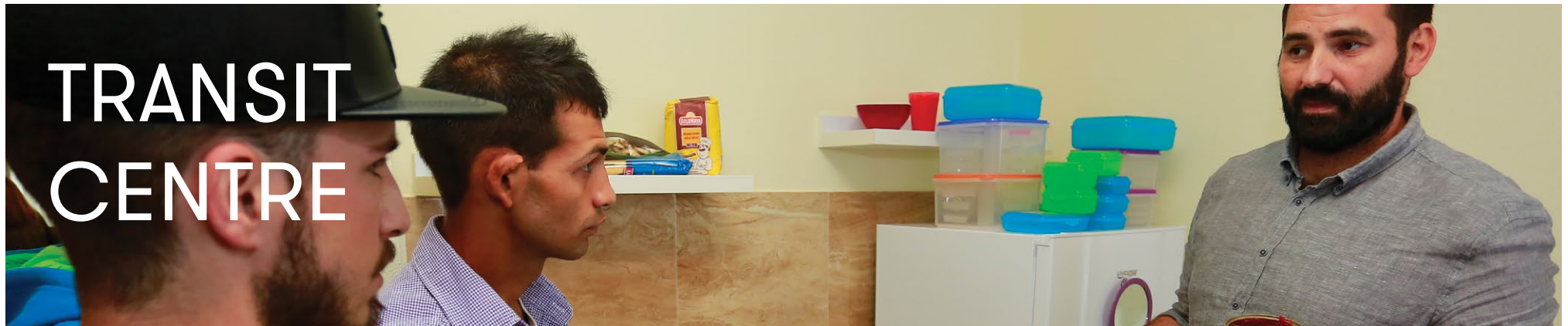
”

For me, the art camp was a big opportunity. Here I discovered what makes me happy, what makes me dream. Without the guidance from the mentors that help us here every year, I would have never been able to discover my passion for design.

Doru Bogar (19 years old)*

”

* A beneficiary of the Hope and Homes for Children programmes, Doru participated in this camp for the first time when he was 11 years old. A certified designer by a specialised art school in Baia Mare, he has three personal clothing collections launched up to this point.



FOR YOUNG PEOPLE LEAVING THE CHILD-PROTECTION SYSTEM

The initiative of building the Centre for Transit, Assistance and Counselling for young people who leave the child protection system in Baia Mare (Transit Centre) started from a severe lack of support from the state for these young people and from the specialists in the system, who lack a tradition of efficient planning and managing the young people's transition towards independent life.

The building of the Centre began in November 2015, with financial support from Kaufland Romania, on a piece of land offered by the Baia Mare Town Hall.

The Centre consists of 19 studio apartments and provides young

people leaving the child protection system, or those who have left the system years ago, with accommodation over a period of 6 to 24 months, as well as with support from a social worker, a psychologist and a nurse. The Centre was donated to the Local Social Services in Baia Mare and will continue to function under the monitoring of Hope and Homes for Children. Our organisation also trained the specialists from the Baia Mare Local Social Services whose task is to administer this project.

Partner: Kaufland Romania
Supporters: Baia Mare Town Hall, Baia Mare Local Social Services

”

For too long, social work has been considered to be charity, an act of mercy. This is not about charity; it is about taking on the social and economic development of the country. Romania of the year 2020 and onwards is one in which we prevent the occurrence of marginalization, in which we migrate towards a system where the destinies of these vulnerable individuals are our responsibility.

Dragoş Pîslaru
Minister of Labour, Family, Social Protection and the Elderly (2015-2016)

”



Among the participants at the inauguration ceremony for the Transit Centre were Dragoș Pîslaru, Minister of Labour, Family Social Protection and the Elderly; Marco Höbl, CEO of Kaufland Romania, the exclusive sponsor of this project; Maria Gheorghiu, State Counsellor, the Prime-Minister's Office; Bogdan Gavra, Director of the Local Social Services, the Baia Mare Town Hall; Dragoș Bucurenci; and other representatives from central authorities and local partners.



Chef Adi Hădean spent time with the young people, accompanied them shopping and gave them advice on how to organise their shopping and food so that they minimize waste.

OUR CHRISTMAS TREE

EDUCATIONAL PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ROMANIAN NATIONAL ART MUSEUM

In December, the Romanian National Art Museum (MNAC) initiated an educational partnership with Hope and Homes for Children, through which the children and young people in the organisation's programmes could discover new and old artwork housed in the galleries of the museum. They could participate in guided tours and creative workshops in order to develop creative skills and critical thinking.

The first activity of this partnership was to create ornaments for the Christmas tree at the museum, and for the children in the "Pinocchio" Institution (Bucharest) to decorate it, together with children from our prevention programme set up in District 3, in partnership with the Child Protection Department.

Călin Stegorean, general manager of the MNAC, violinist Alexandru Tomescu, Vladimir Drăghia, Omid Ghannadi, architect in the "Extreme Makeover – Home Edition" show broadcasted on PRO TV, Otniela Sandu and Andrei Zamfir, competitors in the "Survivor" show on PRO TV and Marius Panu (Digi 24), representatives from the museum and the authorities, celebrities, sponsors, journalists and supporters of our organisation were there with the children and helped them decorate the tree. Together, they enjoyed aromatic teas, ginger bread, took snapshots and the children received presents from UPC Romania.

**Partners: UPC Romania,
Romanian National Museum of Art,
Gitana Winery, Infinita Teahouse,
IWA Christmas Bazaar 2016,
Bunătare**





THE REFORM OF THE CHILD PROTECTION SYSTEM

THE REFORM OF THE CHILD-PROTECTION SYSTEM

Hope and Homes for Children contributes to the process of reforming the child-protection system through strategic partnerships with the Romanian Government, the Ministry of Labour and Social Justice and UNICEF, as well as through collaborations with County Child Protection Departments (CPDs).

Hope and Homes for Children is an organisation specialised in training professionals, able to provide training programmes for all staff, from direct care specialists in institutions to managers of child protection services.

In its 19 years of activity, our organisation developed its own educational platform and a training centre in Baia Mare. The curriculum includes inception courses for the staff working in institutions and preparing for transition towards family-type alternative services, consultancy provided to authorities

in Romania and international technical assistance, as well as the development of programmes based on the specific needs identified in each context. Our organisation provided technical assistance to public services specialised in child protection in Bosnia, Belarus, Ukraine, the Republic of Moldova, Kosovo, Albania, Rwanda, Sudan, Azerbaijan and Georgia, as well as to countries in Latin America (Argentina, Uruguay and Mexico).

Up to this point, 8,125 staff members in the child protection system in Romania and in 10 other countries in Europe and Africa have been trained. In 2016, our organisation collaborated with 15 County Child Protection Departments, supporting them in their efforts to reform the child protection system at county level.



PARTNERSHIP WITH ARK

14 YEARS OF REFORM OF THE CHILD-PROTECTION SYSTEM IN ROMANIA

At the end of 2016, our partnership with Absolute Return for Kids (ARK) – one of the most important international organisations in the field of child protection, came to an end.

The partnership, started in 2002, was aimed to support the authorities in reforming the child protection system and resulted in 15,141 children supported to remain with their families, 38 institutions closed or in the process of closure and 2,555 children leaving institutions for family type environments, 66 small group

homes or apartments developed or renovated, 4,202 young adults supported to leave the childcare system and 6,333 professionals in the field of child protection trained.

The end of the partnership was celebrated by an event organised at the residence of the UK Ambassador in Bucharest, His Excellency Mr. Paul Brummel. The special guest of the evening was the pianist Sergiu Tuhuțiu, who held a piano recital.

Partner: Absolute Return for Kids (Ark)

”

In a recent visit to Baia Mare, I was part of the results of this partnership, including during a meeting with a single mother who, with a small support from Hope and Homes for Children, managed to keep her family together. Congratulations to all who made these things possible.

His Excellency Mr. Paul Brummel
UK Ambassador

”



SUPPORT FOR REFORM

MODERNIZING THE CHILD-PROTECTION SYSTEM

Hope and Homes for Children aims to improve or gain the skills necessary for child-care professionals and specialists to work with children in state care, in programmes to prevent the separation of children from their families or with young people leaving care.

Therefore, our organisation participated or organised, in 2016, several activities, among which the most important are:

- training 120 specialists from the Maramureş Child Protection Department and from educational centres through the project entitled “Social Inclusion of Children Through Access to Education”, in partnership with the Local Social Services in Baia Mare;
- participating in elaborating the National Strategy on Social Inclusion and Poverty Reduction developed by the Romanian Government;
- “IMPACT – Working with children with special needs and challenging behaviour: challenges and solutions” training sessions, together with Autism Services Inc. (SUA), attended by psychologists, social workers, speech therapists, physiotherapists, coordinators of services for children with special needs and educators in seven counties;
- a meeting with 40 directors of Local Social Services in several counties in order to discuss means to develop integrated projects at community level and to provide a development model for different types of social services, based on the model of those implemented in Baia Mare through the Strategy for Social Protection and Action Plan for Child Protection;
- involvement in the “Opening Doors” campaign, organised at the EU level, regarding the allocation of grant funds for de-institutionalisation and preventing the separation of children from their families.
- participating in the workshop “De-institutionalisation of children in Romania today” organised by the World Bank;
- organising, in partnership with Bacău CPD, the seminar “Preventing the separation of children from their families in the context of the reform process and the opportunities regarding structural funds”, targeting CPD representatives, mayors and social workers from Bacău, Botoşani, Neamţ, Iaşi, Suceava and Vaslui counties;

AWARDS



League of American Communications Professionals

2016 SPOTLIGHT AWARDS

GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION

Hope and Homes for Children Romania Foundation

is presented with the

Gold Award

for excellence within its Competition Class on the development of

2015 Annual Report for Hope and Homes for Children Romania

Christine Kennedy
Christine Kennedy
COMPETITION DIRECTOR



Tyson Heyn
Tyson Heyn
PRINCIPAL



12282a



BINELE DIN ROMANIA SE CONSTRUIESTE IN FIECARE ZI

Și se premiază într-o singură seară.

PREMIUL III

Secțiunea Incluziune socială
Hope and Homes for Children România
pentru proiectul
**INIȚIATIVA HOPE AND HOMES
FOR CHILDREN / ARK PENTRU ROMÂNIA**



Un proiect: **FUNDATIA GALA SOCIETATE CIVILE**
Ediția a XIV-a, 6 Iunie 2016

Andrei Gavrilă-Izidor
Președinte - Fundația Gala Societății Civile



BINELE DIN ROMANIA SE CONSTRUIESTE IN FIECARE ZI

Și se premiază într-o singură seară.

PREMIUL III

Secțiunea Incluziune socială
Hope and Homes for Children România
pentru proiectul
**REINTEGRAREA SOCIO-PROFESIONALĂ
A TINERILOR CARE PĂRĂSESC SISTEMUL
DE PROTECȚIE A COPILULUI DIN ROMÂNIA**



Un proiect: **FUNDATIA GALA SOCIETATE CIVILE**
Ediția a XIV-a, 6 Iunie 2016

Andrei Gavrilă-Izidor
Președinte - Fundația Gala Societății Civile

IN THE MEDIA


MORE THAN **700**
MENTIONS ON
WEBSITES


1,062
MENTIONS ON
FACEBOOK


70
MENTIONS
ON BLOGS


370
MENTIONS ON
AGGREGATORS

MORE THAN **200** }
MENTIONS }
INSTAGRAM
TWITTER
YOUTUBE
GOOGLE+

A TOTAL OF **2,320** }
MENTIONS } AND }
ON ALL MONITORED }
CHANNELS } MORE THAN
4,745,000

VIEWS*

* According to Zelist.ro, through ZeMonitor, a service that monitors and analyses over 70,000 sources from Romanian online media (websites, blogs, Facebook, Twitter etc.).

25,846

FANS*
ON FACEBOOK

200 }
MORE THAN }
ARTICLES IN  LOCAL AND
CENTRAL PRINT MEDIA

MORE THAN **400** }
TV APPEARANCES }
{ NEWS, INTERVIEWS,
HOPE CONCERT AND

20% CAMPAIGN TV SPOTS

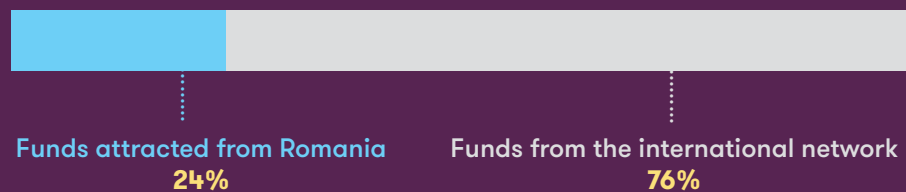
MORE THAN **200** }
RADIO MATERIALS }
{ NEWS, INTERVIEWS,
HOPE CONCERT SPOTS


* According to Facebrands.ro, on December 31st 2016, the Hope and Homes for Children page ranked 36 in the non-profit category (out of 650 entities) and 4,785 in the overall standings (out of 40,250 monitored pages).

FINANCE

INCOME SOURCES

Funds from the international network	€ 2,154,052
Funds attracted from Romania	€ 690,640
Sponsorships from private companies	€ 595,836
Donations in kind	€ 12,800
Other donations	€ 44,270
Events/campaigns	€ 37,375
Other financial sources (non-donations)	€ 359
TOTAL	€ 2,844,692



Programme-related expenses	€ 2,618,333
Development and creation of family-type residential services	€ 733,043
Training and technical assistance	€ 251,166
Preventing the separation of children from their families	€ 322,928
Projects implemented for the development of social services	€ 380,675
Social and professional integration of young people leaving the child protection system	€ 179,404
Family reintegration, support for children in communities	€ 179,404
Increase the quality of life of children in foster care, small group family homes etc.	€ 571,713
Administrative expenses	€ 175,708
TOTAL EXPENSES	€ 2,794,041



OUR TEAM

Chief Executive Officer
Mark Waddington

Director of Programmes
and Global Advocacy
Delia Pop

Regional Director,
Central and Southern Europe
Ştefan Dărăbuş

Head of Learning and Engagement
Otto Sestak

Director of Development
Dragoş Bucurenci

**Training and Programmes
Implementation Department**

Department Manager &
Deputy National Director
Bianca Stegeran

Database Administrators
Adrian Oros
Mihaela Kobicica

ME&R Expert
Ioana Herţeg

Programmes Officer
Andrea Cârç

Trainers
Jutka Kristian

Training Programmes Administrator
Cecilia Repede

PR and HR Manager
Reka Filip

**Fundraising and
Communications Department**

Department Manager
Robert Ion

**Individual Donors and
Volunteers Coordinator**
Alina Cruceru (until November 30th)
Gabriela Ciripială

Communication Manager
Anamaria Bogdan

Corporate Donors Coordinators
Dana Părvulescu
Daniel Mihalache

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Department**

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Anca Sturz

Economists
Delia Oros
Gabriela Tohăţan

Construction engineer
Teodor Ciceo

Administrators
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Mihai Pop

Cleaning
Voichi Bencze

Quality Assurance Department

Department Manager
Anamaria Vid-Pop

Psychologists
Claudia Bude
Oana Naşcu
Gabriela Ghiorlţean

Educators
Terezia Silaghi
Sorina Moldovan

Teacher
Teodora Dărăbuş

Teacher-translator
Gabriela Rosuş

Operations Department

Department Manager
Radu Tohăţan

Social Workers
Cosmina Fratu
Carmen Rus
Camelia Arba
Florina Creţar
Ileana Cirt

A SUMMER IN KINDERGARTEN

For most of us, summer is the season of holidays, a time we choose to spend with our loved ones, in nature, in the mountains or at the seaside, relaxing and having a great time. Not all of us see summer and holidays the same, though: for children in poor communities, most of them of Roma ethnicity, summer is the season of the kindergarten.

Summer kindergartens are a way in which these children are drawn towards school, helped to be educationally integrated and to fill in the gaps caused by lack of pre-school education.

They lack the necessary skills, a behaviour adapted to school regulations, they don't know how to relate to other children, to the teachers and so, without any support, they are marginalized and give up attending school altogether. In the summer of 2016, such a Summer Kindergarten Programme took place in Baia Mare, in the Pirită area.

For two months, a team from Hope and Homes for Children took part in activities aimed to educate and develop these children to



be accepted and integrated in the society. Anamaria Vid-Pop, Gabriela Ghiroltean, Oana Nașcu and Claudia Bude (psychologists), Sorina Moldovan and Terezia Silaghi (educators), apart from their office work, spent a lot of time with the children and parents. Many of them had never had a piece of paper for colouring in their hands and they discovered, with fascination, how many things they can do with it. They didn't even know how to eat or wash their hands, let alone say "hello" or when their birthdays were, how old they were, or what their full names were.

Therefore, every day we got to see that the childhood joys are very different.

Children were amazed by, and delighted with, bathroom sinks, water and soap, toothbrush and toothpaste – things they didn't know how to use – or the toilets in the kindergarten. They were happy we taught them how to hold a pencil, that we helped them succeed, to discover, to colour, to write and learn letters and numbers, colours, days of the week; to communicate, to express themselves, to be polite; to sing, to learn poems, to patiently watch cartoons, to call each other by their real names, not nicknames; to appreciate themselves, to discover their qualities.

I felt how important it was for everyone (children and young people, and their parents) the fact that we listened and paid attention to them, and that we played games together. We were happy to see them smile every time we told them how beautiful they were or when we gave them a warm hug. The parents were also invited to counselling and parental guidance sessions organised by psychologists and educators from Hope and Homes for Children. In this way, they had the opportunity to talk about children's health issues and about the prejudice that follows them everywhere – at school, at the doctor's, in the shops.

Summer went by in a blur. We only felt the intensity of every moment, our every experience. Although we work with children, we sensed the time spent at the Summer Kindergarten in a different way.

The children and young people in this community, as well as their parents, are now much happier. The Summer Kindergarten gave them confidence. They truly wish to continue to learn. Many of them have made tremendous progress.

For us, the Hope and Homes for Children team, what matters the most is having been part of such change, having spent a summer to give them a better life.



Sorina Moldovan
Educator

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Alina Bratu
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Aqua Queen
Asociația Bucharest Running Club
Atelieru

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Bogdan Bibicu
Bogdan Gavra
Bogdan Tudor
Borsec
Bunătărie

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Corina Caragea
Cornelia Pițigo
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Cristina Rusu
Cristina Stănculescu

Dacia
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Delia Robescu
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ES Paolo Brassioli, Ambasadorul
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Răzvan Popovici
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Servicul Public de Asistență Socială
Baia Mare
Sergiu Tuțuțiu
Smaranda Rădoi
SoNoRo
Sweet Damage Crew

Tent Event
Trupa lui Biluță

UPC România

Valeria van Groningen
Vali Petridean
Venu Kannan
Vișinel Bălan
Vladimir Drăghia
Voila Bistro

YouthPlay

Zebra Catering
Zoli Toth

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Ghiță Porumb (pg. 58, 71-72, 73-74)
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KLAUS IOHANNIS
President of Romania

”

By what you are doing and especially by who you are, you managed not only to make these children have a “home”, but you also gave them hope. You saw suffering and despair, but did not go on indifferently. You listened and showed that you care.

”

”

I am part of a generation of Romanians who has been haunted by the images of abandoned children and the abominable conditions they were living in, in the state institutions, 25 years ago.

Today, I am happy to say that Romania has achieved considerable progress since then and I am grateful to Hope and Homes for Children and other such organisations who worked hard and relentlessly to turn these institutions into a memory of the past.



CORINA CREȚU
European Commissioner
for Regional Policy

”



DACIAN CIOLOȘ
Prime Minister (2015-2016)

”

We need to show that we are capable to do this all the way to the end and to find a solution through ourselves and not upon the pressure of others. Congratulations, Hope and Homes for Children, for what you achieved and for those who helped in this endeavour.

”