

NEWSLETTER

Dear Sponsors!

Lars Gustavsson hands over the role as president!

Through their visits to Romania in the beginning of the 90s, Lars and his family initiated the aid work among abandoned children in the area in and around Marghita. They started to make a difference for children who were in poor conditions in state run institutions and they hand-picked Romanian staff to be able to do a better job among the children. During this journey, many volunteers from different countries have come to help.

FCE (Fundatia Creștina Elim) was founded and during all these years Lars has devotedly been leading the work. On January 1st 2014, in an undramatic way, he switched his leader role with Valentina Ferche, who has been working for FCE for 15 years and has been director since 2007.



Valentina with one of the children who lives in one of the family homes



Lars and little Emanuel

With enthusiasm she says:

"We have great dreams that the ones we help will succeed. We know they have an immense value in the eyes of God and we are thankful for his mercy during all these years. It is an honour to be a part of this great work saving those who were born with little chances in life. For many years we have been fighting to find the best strategies to help people in difficulties to get them out of their situations of crisis. We wish to stand close to them even this year and we want to offer them continued support. We know that every person has a potential and we wish that those who are "ours" will discover and appreciate their possibilities, that they will have faith in their own abilities to fight for quality



life and that they will manage to change their mentality and live a responsible life. We thank all of you who stand with us in this important work. You are worth gold!"

FCE

FCE today has approximately 50 employees. Approximately 70 children and youth live in the different homes that FCE has i.e. the family homes, foster homes, the home for children with special needs and the half-way house.

Many other children and young people also receive help from FCE through the special needs school, the day centre, as well as the different projects that support poor families and the young people who have moved out from the family homes and the half-way house.

Thank you for the Christmas gifts!

Everyone here thanks you for everything you have given for Christmas. Thank you for all the sacrifices you made and all the love you have shown by sending Christmas presents. They have been a great joy to many!

Many have rejoiced over the nice Christmas presents. The adults also enjoy a Christmas present and the nicely wrapped hygiene packages were especially appreciated. They are things you need but are expensive to buy. Here the salaries are low and the prices are high, thus many are having a difficult time.

Thank you to all of you who bought "The Christmas Gift" instead of giving Christmas presents to your near ones and friends and gave the money to FCE's work in Romania. There are already inquiries about similar

cards for other occasions that you could celebrate during the year. Many give money to FCE instead of flowers for birthdays, funerals etc and it's a fantastic opportunity!

Now in the beginning of the year there are opportunities to apply for funds from second-hand shops, clubs, shops etc. Write to us and give us ideas! We are also searching for companies willing to sponsor with a sum every month. The best you can do as an individual is to become a sponsor and recruit other sponsors. Write to us!

The Christmas and New-Year celebrations in FCE's projects were wonderful! The FCE family means so so much to those who don't have any other family and the bonds are strengthened when you feel loved.



Andrea och Maria

At the half-way home, Brăndușa, those who live there celebrated together with many of those who have moved out from the house. Andrea is one of those living at Brăndușa. She is deaf and with sorrow she tells us that this was the reason she was abandoned as a little girl. Since she is outgoing she finds ways to communicate. When there is a meeting in the youth club she won't miss it and she enjoys going to church.

Even though she is both intelligent and will-

ing to work, she cannot find a job in the society because of her disability. When she moved to Brândușa, she started at FCE's Day Centre where she is good at making candles and greeting cards. She was responsible and helped the other youth at the Day Centre. Recently she was employed by FCE to work at the Day Centre and her self-confidence has grown.

About a dozen young people, who have grown up in the orphanages, work in the different projects run by FCE. Maria was employed in 2009 and started with cleaning the office. Later she started to clean at the special needs school and there she also helps the pupils. She serves them breakfast and lunch and she gives extra care to those with more difficult disabilities.

Maria was also abandoned as a child and was moved from orphanage to orphanage. Most of her school years she spent in Popești where she met employees and staff from FCE. After the girl school/orphanage in Oradea, a difficult period followed when she was trying to manage on her own. When the half-way home, Brândușa opened, she was quick to apply for a room there. Now she feels at home and safe. Today Maria lives in her own apartment and appreciates being part of the big FCE-family.

Volunteers needed!

During the Spring, many teams from Sweden come and do practical work for a few weeks. Are you interested in helping out or perhaps you have skills and abilities in another area? Please read the volunteer announcement (sent with this newsletter) to find out what the needs are.

To be a volunteer at FCE in Romania means giving a period of your life to take part in the daily work. You pay all your own expenses (travel, food, accommodation etc). We are looking for people who can stay for a longer period of time. Contact us at elim@fce.ro if you think this might be for you and you want to know more!

Please forward this announcement to any people or groups you think might be interested in volunteering. Print it and put it up in your church, bible school, university CU etc.



A big thank you from everybody here that are given help and hope, thanks to the work that FCE does in Romania!

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Jesus, Matt 25:40

Contact people

For any information concerning the work of FCE or becoming a supporter please contact the following:

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Mercy Ministries

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Email: dewpt@msn.com
Web: www.mercy-ministries.com

Elim Fellowship International

Pia & Niklas Österholm – Sweden
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Gifts

Banca Comerciala Romana
Sucursala Marghita
Cod: SWIFT: RNCBROBU

Account number: GBP - RO58RNCB0035022151630003
(IBAN) USD - RO85RNCB0035022151630002
EUR - RO31RNCB0035022151630004

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