

Dear Supporters,

Welcome to those of you who are new to our work and receive this newsletter for the first time! Please be assured that the commitment you have to help people in need in Romania is very meaningful!

Thank you for everything you gave this Christmas; money, Christmas presents and all other kinds of gifts! Your love and care touches both us who give out the gifts and those who receive them.



Poor families receive help for Christmas

We believe that those who make sacrifices and give, will also feel joy. It is exciting that so many people in different ages are involved in organising and sending Christmas presents!

By following this link, you can see a small glimpse of FCE's big Christmas party held just before Christmas: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7MV11Kq44a0>

On Christmas Day and Boxing Day the young people living at 'Brandușa', the halfway home, and those living in their own apartments joined together for fellowship with good food and a great family feeling. This is something that means a lot when you don't have any other relatives!

In FCE's family homes there are 23 children altogether (if you don't count the

birth children the employed family home parents have). In Casa Silvia, the home for disabled children and young people, there are a total of 7. All of these children and teenagers have appreciated the Christmas holiday relaxing and socialising. Everyday life is consumed a lot with school work and it can be tiring. As we have mentioned before, there are high expectations on the school children and they are expected to do a lot of the school work at home.

FCE has employed teachers who provide qualified and individual help with homework for our children in the family homes during the afternoons. We think it is very important to provide them with this opportunity.



Children from difficult circumstances, who receive a family and the care they need are saved from a miserable life and have the chance to fulfil their dreams in life. Thank you for being a part of making this possible!

Manu is one of the boys in our family home in Marghita. He tells us this:

"I will be 14 this year and I'm in seventh grade. I like it in school and we are some boys who hang out together.

I like subjects such as History, Maths and Romanian. Every afternoon I receive help with my homework; one hour of maths and one hour of Romanian. My grades have gone up a lot because before I came here to FCE, I hadn't learnt anything. I went to school sometimes when I felt like it and I didn't learn how to read and write then. Sometimes I think about the other children in the village I came from. They don't learn anything. The only thing I learnt was how to steal.

A couple of evenings a week I play football. We are a group of young people from church who play and dad plays too. Then I go to the Club twice a week and there I enjoy sports and games. The sermon is good too if it isn't boring! I would like to become a professional football player or a car mechanic, or both. I would like to learn from FCE's car mechanic who works in the garage here under my room and then maybe I could work there.

I was 10 when I came here and it will be four years this summer. Before that, I had been in an institution for a year in Oradea where you can stay until you are 18 but you are locked in there. I had run away from home and once I was on a train to Cluj together with three other boys but since we didn't have any tickets, we were kicked off. Then we jumped onto a goods wagon train but it was hard to hold on to the outside because it was going

so fast. We made a lot of noise and were discovered. Soon we were taken by the police who interrogated us and sent us to the institution in Oradea.

My parents visited me there but they couldn't take me out. We had a contact person at the institution and when mine said that I could come to a family at a foundation in Marghita, I wanted to do that. I think about my parents and my siblings and I want to see them."



Manu

During some intense weeks in December, many Christmas presents, clothes, toys and food were distributed to those in need. During Christmas another contribution was made to bring joy to the poorest. Two women from Stockholm, who came to Marghita for Christmas, will tell you about that and some other things:

"A different Christmas

We went to Marghita in Romania to visit Karin's father, who works as a volunteer there, and we spent Christmas together. The first impression of Romania was that many things in the country are neglected. During the time we were there, we were able to go together with Arne to the ongoing activities. At the office some of young people, some of

whom had grown up in state run institutions, were helping to prepare "sarmale", a kind of stuffed cabbage rolls, that we were going to give out the following day. It was amazing to see their joy, trust and willingness in their hard work during that whole day (and part of the night). To give both their time and their effort to help others seemed to be something self-evident.

On Christmas Eve, we were able to take part in giving out this food to families in some of the poorer parts of town. It was a wonderful feeling to contribute with just a little bit of what they really need.

You could clearly see the vulnerability and exclusion of the Roma people. We began to understand a little of the living conditions those who are begging in Sweden have. If you have nothing you will do anything to have some money in your hand. Of course this situation is complex and one could see a frustration among some of the workers that the work to change the situation for these people is going so slowly.

In the middle of this tough situation, it has been fantastic to see the work of the foundation which has changed so many peoples' lives. All the leaders we have met have really given their hearts and lives to these children and young people. Many have given up their own comfort to help children grow up in a loving environment and have a better future.

The children who receive help with their homework in the After School project, have been given the opportunity to move on and have a new future. The children who have come to a family home have been taken care of and embraced by loving parents.

We are extremely grateful that we have

been able to participate in this wonderful work and we feel enriched in many ways. We can warmly recommend both supporting the work financially and making a shorter or longer visit to Marghita. "

Karin Holmsten and Karin Lindberg



**Thank you for your prayers!
May God bless all of you!**

FCE



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

Jesus, Matt 25:40

Contact people

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Gifts

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(IBAN) USD - RO85RNCB0035022151630002
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