

NEWSLETTER

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Dear Supporters!

Here is the last newsletter from FCE this year! Thank you for your involvement during the year! Remember that it is a big thing to be a part of the work and make a difference!

25 years have passed since Swedish people came to Marghita for the first time to try to alleviate suffering, mainly among children living in extremely hard circumstances in institutions. People from different areas who were touched and wanted to do something, united in what became FCE.

To mark the occasion of the 25th anniversary, a team from FCE in Marghita travelled to Sweden to meet, thank and encourage people who support the work in different ways. It is amazing to meet people who have been sponsors since the beginning! After almost 20 presentations in churches, schools and second-hand stores in the south of Sweden, we hope that even more people have decided to support the continuing work in Marghita. The tour was a great success!

The highlight of the tour, on 7th November in Linköping, became a day of looking back, seeing the present and looking at the challenges and possibilities for the future to continue to save lives. The FCE-team showed results from Romania which have been achieved thanks to the efforts being made there. Representatives from a multi-disciplinary team in Stockholm presented the big risks with prostitution and trafficking. Everyone agreed that the efforts that FCE and others are making, prevents and provides vulnerable people with an option other to a humiliating life in Europe.

<http://www.efifadder.se/en/2015/11/29/25th-anniversary/>

“Visit to Marghita



Questions about relief work, fundraising, receiving refugees and begging have not been as relevant or involved so many people since the Second World War. How do you help in the best way and does the help get to where it is needed? These questions have intrigued me too and it was out of curiosity and interest that I accepted to join a volunteer trip to Marghita. When I was asked if I wanted to sum up my impressions and thoughts, I promised to try and here is my answer:

I had recently seen a Russian doll, one of those that comes in many layers which you can take apart into many dolls and then put back together again. I thought about that doll when I tried to make a structure for myself and create an understanding of everything I had experienced in Marghita.

The first and largest layer, “the outside-doll”, was all the impressions from the outside; meeting employees, volunteers, children and young people and the visits to the different projects. I think about the Roma children in a neighbourhood on the outskirts of town who received a big swing that many could sit on at the same time. With a great hullabaloo with music, balloons, hot dogs and bananas for everyone it was inaugurated. Maybe they had never had a party like that. There were no limits to their joy.

One morning, I was able to visit the pre-school for the children with special needs and talk to the teachers there. I have a great respect for their work!



FCE

Fundația Creștină Elim

In the afternoon, a group of children came to the After-school project at Brandușa after they had finished their day at school. Here they received a meal, help with their homework and had the opportunity to maintain their personal hygiene. Despite difficult home situations, this support enables the children to keep up in school.

The visit to a state run home for adults with disabilities touched me deeply. FCE is not directly involved in the work there but they visit the home once a week for a short time of prayer and worship, spend time with those living there and serve coffee or a cold drink. You could not miss seeing how much the residents appreciated that. It is good knowing that such a small thing could mean so much!

One day, while I was there, it came to FCE's knowledge that eight Roma siblings, one of them with a disability, were without parents and thus didn't have anyone to provide for them. With an obvious commitment, the situation was taken care of immediately! As for me, I cannot stop thinking about those children, and at the same time I know that many more live in similar circumstances.

In spite of all the hard things and all the problems I came in contact with, maybe it is still the memory of joy, care and warmth and a desire to always see opportunities that made the largest impression.

... Then I remember with pride the volunteer task to paint ceilings and walls. It was fun to take part in the work together with others and it turned out looking really good! (I still have white dots of paint on the inside of my glasses!)

When I try to sum up all my impressions, it feels like I experienced a relief work that follows all the way through and functions and I ask myself how it all works. I find an answer in the next "doll", the one that is inside, which is the foundation we got to see. Competent and engaged people are employed and form an executive committee. During some opportunities to meet with them, we were able to hear about the work, about successes, problems and plans. Their long-term planning impress me.

Thinking about financing, I find another "doll" and

then I think about the network that runs contacts and economy for the entire work. I understand that it is extensive and that it has branches into the streets of Marghita and into Swedish churches and chapels and also into the business world, not least into construction industry. The work with sponsors also plays a big part here.

So, is all of this enough to make a ministry like FCE work? No, we need more "dolls". Everything rests on common values, an assurance of all people's equal values and a will to take care of your brother. You cannot be mistaken by the obvious commitment that runs through the entire work.

And then we have come to the inner "doll" that binds it all together. The essence is the faith which unites all those who work in and for FCE. While I put together my imagined doll, I understand that it is all about the whole picture, that all parts are important and must fit together.

As an outside volunteer I bow down and say thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the work in Marghita. RESPECT, HUMBLENESS AND THANKFULNESS summarise my thoughts and feelings while I travel home."

Margareta Karlsson



*One of the October construction teams
Margareta is on the front row on the left*

SOCIAL WORKER IN FCE

Cosmina Mârze finished her education to become a social worker at the University in Oradea and a friend told her there was a job opportunity at FCE Marghita, where she was employed in 2008.

There were many things to learn and still are many things to keep up-to-date with and read about concerning everything that happens when it

comes to social services in the society. There is a pressure from the EU that all laws and rules should be the same as in the rest of Europe.

There is a lot of paperwork and each child/young person in FCE's care has their own file with all necessary documents. Everything that concerns the child must be carefully registered and detailed reports need to be sent to "Child Protection", who is the head of all the social work that FCE runs. "I always want to be correct and I have noticed that it impresses the authorities", says Cosmina.

FCE has four family homes, one home for children and young people with disabilities and a "halfway home" for people who need a place to live where they can receive help and support. All of these children and young people (approx. 50) must have their own file.

Cosmina tells us that there are still children who are being abandoned by their parents and the main reason is poverty. They cannot fulfil the needs of the child and see it as a solution to give their child away. The risk of thinking like this is bigger for those who were abandoned themselves as small children.

In some cases Child Protection receives reports that a child or siblings are being maltreated. An investigation is made and then FCE might be asked if there is room in any of the family homes. Sometimes a court decision is needed.

Cosmina is the person who needs to learn about the situation for that child and after the placement, she takes care of the transfer to the new school, new family doctor and other such things. Sometimes a new birth certificate or ID-documents needs to be made as they are missing.

Cosmina is also responsible for the files for the children and young people with disabilities. They could refer to helping place them in a vocational school, about school bursaries etc. She is often frustrated when she helps them obtain the money which is their right to have. She thinks it is outrageous that the adults with disabilities only receive 39 RON a month (approx. £6/9€) and you need to fight for this money with a lot of paper-

work, fawning and being silent even if you are being treated in a bad way. "It should be in the interest of the society that these people get their rights", she says.

Cosmina likes her job and would rather not take more than two weeks annual leave at a time because if she is free for a longer time than that, she misses her work. "If I didn't like what I'm doing, I would go crazy from all the bureaucracy and I would feel overwhelmed by the needs the young people have", she says.

Those young people who can manage in their own apartment have received Cosmina's help to apply for the town's subsidised apartments. She doesn't have official therapy sessions with the young people but many of them come to her. "They have the need to talk to adults in confidence. I don't have an education in psychology, but I have often used what I have learnt in the courses arranged for FCE employees", says Cosmina.

Two months ago Cosmina was a bride and now she lives in Chiribis where her husband comes from. He saw her when she visited FCE's family home in the village and found out who she was. He worked as a mechanic at the motorway construction site that is now closed down but now he has started his own business. Mugurel and Cosmina started dating and today they are married.

In FCE there are many young employees who work with knowledge and experience and do it with their hearts.



Cosmina together with Csilla, one of FCE's young people

*Thank you for a good year!
We wish you all a very
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!*

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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