

Dear Supporters,

This is the last newsletter this year and we want to thank you for all your support that you have given us this past year. You are all truly amazing and all that you do means so much to us! We know that many of you are engaged in finding more monthly sponsors and that is exactly what needs to be done. FCE needs more faithful monthly donors!

BE A MONTHLY SPONSOR and DARE TO RECRUIT others! There is no amount of money that is too small and none that is too big!

Integration of the Roma people

There are many things that make our hearts joyful but nothing compares to being in a place and actually seeing lives change! Life is a gift to be grateful for but when the right to live a worthy life and other human rights are taken from you, then the question arises; is life a nice gift or a heavy burden? It is hard when the first thought of the day and the last one before you fall asleep is about how to get out of your poverty. The feeling of inability and hopelessness makes you forget how it feels to be happy.

This is the state of mind in which we meet many of those we support and work with. The first thing that is important to do is to help them trust us and to have faith in themselves. After a long period of support and building them up, only then can the hope return and a small light appear in the darkness. Then they can start to have a goal and purpose and life takes on a new meaning.



It has been an uphill battle helping the Roma people. Many people around us have been negative about this. But now we can tell you about the joy that we have experienced because we see how valuable these people are. They need the chance to show that they are trustworthy.

In the last Newsletter I wrote about the project where we employed people from the Roma community. Now, a few months later, we can see that it has worked better than we expected. This has convinced us that fighting for their integration is worth it.

Thank you dear supporters for all your support! Thanks to you we can help people change their lives! Hopefully you will continue to support us and work with us.

Valentina Ferche



Elim Second Hand

Before the month of September ended, FCE Second Hand shop finally opened. It is located in the building where the car and carpet wash used to be. A new entrance has been built and the building renovated both inside and out, due to the damage from all the water over the years. The location of the shop is very good. It is on a busy street and close to the centre of the town.

The goods come from Sweden and furniture is especially appreciated. There are many second hand shops in Marghita which sell clothes but good secondhand furniture is difficult to find. The employees take care of the goods, price it and prepare it for the shop. The days when the second hand shop is open, the employees are kept busy taking care of customers and selling goods.



The newly opened Second Hand shop

Hygiene Centre

Eriks Development Partner is supporting the project in which the Second Hand shop is also included. The same project is now building a Hygiene Centre. It is being built in the Roma community and will include six showers, seven toilets and two washing mashines. This will benefit all the people who live in the area where they don't have running water in their homes.

This is a step in the right direction to improve quality of life and a bigger possibility to help these marginalised people intergrate into society.



Building the Hygiene Centre

More projects

Adriana Crişan has been employed by FCE since 2009. Previously, she was a fosterparent in FCE. She explains that she used to visit the orphanage in Popesti. The children always came running to hug her and she thought that she would like to work there and take care of them. That didn't happen, but when her sister Neli started working at the Special Needs school in Marghita, she often went there to visit. When FCE opened the halfway home 'Brânduşă', she was employed there.

"I worked only weekends for the first five years at Brânduşă and I loved it from the very first day! There were thirty six young adults from the beginning. I was wondering how it would all work out when many of them were of a similar age to me. However, we got along very well and I enjoyed our conversations.

During the first years, the young adults only lived at Brânduşă for a relatively short period of time (2 years) before they were then considered ready to move out. Today they can live there for an unlimited time. It is very nice to meet those who now have a place of their own and are doing well. I hope all those who are able to can achieve this.

They liked it when we cooked together and I was able to teach them how to make pancakes, doughnuts and preserves for the winter. During the last six months, I was studying and also started to work at FCE Day Centre and in 2015, I started to work full-time at the Day Centre."

Adriana talks passionately about how much the project at Brândușă and the Day Centre have meant and mean for the young adults with special needs. For the ones attending FCE Day Centre, it is their only chance to have a social life and purposeful days.

"The parents of the young people with severe disabilities are extremely thankful. They do not get any support from anywhere else and they cannot leave their child alone for even five minutes so it feels good for us that we can provide this for them.

One of the boys cannot participate in many activities but he comes for a few hours every day and enjoys being together with the other young people. We make cards and candles but mix that with other activities that are included in the specific guidelines. This can be discussions about current subjects or mathematics and writing which we do regularly. We eat breakfast and lunch together at the Day Centre and they take turns helping to set the table and wash up. Once a month we celebrate birthdays. When we have break time, they like to be on the swings!"

One part of Adriana's work is to write documentation, reports and other paperwork. Since March this year, she is also responsible for the FCE catering kitchen where five women are employed. They make food (soup and main course) for the family homes, Brândușă, special needs school and After School.

During the Autumn, FCE employees have given a huge amount of cabbage, potatoes, carrots and tomatoes to the FCE catering kitchen. The

kitchen staff have pickled the cabbage for the winter. To further reduce costs, we have started baking bread in the catering kitchen. The children in the Special Needs School and After School project receives a loaf of bread every weekday to take home which is a good help for these families.

The FCE employees are remarkable everyday heroes who fight for vulnerable people to be noticed and given tools in order to have a better life!



Adriana with two young adults at the Day Centre

Maybe this year for Christmas you would like to give a gift with a special value?

When you visit your family and friends at Christmas time this year, tell them about FCE's work in Romania and that you have chosen to give a monetary gift to FCE instead of buying them a present. This way both you and they help to:

- ...provide a family for children who have been abandoned
- ...support young people who were abandoned and forced to grow up without parents
- ...provide a centre with purposeful activities for those with special needs
- ...provide the possibility for poor parents to send their children to school.

You find bank account numbers on next page! Thank you!

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

Jesus, Matt 25:40

Contact Organisations

Blythswood Care

James Campbell or Finlay Mackenzie
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Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year!
Warm greetings, FCE

Gifts

Banca Comerciala Romana
Sucursala Marghita
Cod: SWIFT: RNCBROBU

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

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