



together  
for  
others

împreună  
pentru  
alții



## THE FRIENDSHIP FOUNDATION (UK – ROMANIA)

WITH FUNDAȚIA PRO PRIETENIA ARAD

### AUGUST 2010

#### ARAD YOUTH ON INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE

**From 4<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup> July, ten young people 'with fewer opportunities' from Romania met with others from Ireland, Italy and the Netherlands at Hoek van Holland.** The Romanian



contingent was led by Ramona and Criss from the Romanian charity. The Romanian young people were at first intimidated by the behaviour and lifestyle of their peers from other countries. At the end of the week, however, there was an emotional departure with many tears. 'A great impact on their mentality and personality,' says Criss. There was need for many decisions to be made amongst the international leadership and this was, in Criss' words, 'A great experience from which I

learned a lot.'

We were disappointed not to be able to hold the five-way international exchange that we'd planned for this year because of lack of funds from the EU. However the charity in Arad is making a renewed application for funding for the exchange to take place in Arad next summer.

## **PLACE OF HER OWN**

**After a life-time of living rough on the streets or in various temporary places, the charity in Romania has been able to secure a 'place of her own' for a homeless young woman.**

After providing the necessary assistance for dealing with the local authorities the charity was able to go further with help in furnishing the young woman's new apartment and providing essentials. We wish her well in building a new life from the security of her new home and assure her of our continued support.



## **EBERLE SEBASTIAN**

**Sebastian is 6 years old and severely handicapped: spastic tetra paresis, severe psychomotor retardation, symptomatic convulsions, hydrocephaly and congenital cataract on both eyes.**

Pro Prietenia has been involved in his case since 12th May 2009. We have provided publicity for the case in order to attract financial support



After a two month period of using the orthotics (devices which support or correct the function of a limb or torso) and five months of homeopathic medication, the boy is starting to move. At the moment he is too weak to have the necessary eye

operation. The charity continues to support him with homeopathic medication, doctor's consultation, orthotics, baby milk, pampers and cleansing products.

---

## MINISTRY OF WORK, FAMILIES and SOCIAL PROTECTION PUBLISHES STATISTICS FOR JULY



▶ Gross Minimum Wage in Romania £118.77/month

▶ Unemployment Rate in Romania 7.44%

▶ Pensions:

5.5M pensioners receive an average of £135 per month

2.1M pensioners receive an average of £186 per month

*Included in these figures are pensioned farmers who receive less than 50% of the average.*

*(Values based on exchange rate of 5.5RON to the pound)*

---

## 'ARAD CITIZENS FOR ARAD CITIZENS CAMPAIGN'



'Campania Arădieni Pentru Arădieni' started last Spring for the purpose of supporting poor people and people affected by the economic crisis. The campaign involves ordinary citizens in collecting food, clothing, footwear, furniture, medication, school

supplies, money, etc, for distribution. Pro Prietenia is on the committee. One of our workers, Ana, is involved most of the time with young people from Arad sorting out clothing etc. The youth receive diplomas from the local authority for their efforts.



## **VICTIM SUPPORT**

**The recent casebook which the charity is supporting includes two victims of human trafficking, three victims of domestic violence, two victims of family conflict, and victim of work place accident.**

The charity is providing psychological counselling for the victims of human trafficking and both young women are part of our 'Development through Mentoring' initiative.

In cases of Domestic Violence the charity is able to mediate with the police, and provide legal advice through the charity's lawyer, as well as financial loans to cover legal costs of divorce and/or child custody, as well as psychological counselling.

Where victims live in poverty the charity is able to provide such things as medication and personal hygiene products.

A day conference that we had hoped could have been held in Arad in October on Victim Support will not take place for a while in order to allow the charity time to define the needs of Romania society and the charity's best way of responding.

## **DEVELOPMENT THROUGH MENTORING PROJECT**

**The youth mentoring scheme is going from strength to strength.** Following the recruitment of 25 volunteers to act as mentors to young people there are two groups of young people meeting weekly.

In the last two months the team of volunteers has received training in:

- Inter personal life skills
- Emotional management abilities
- Life management skills

Clara, who with Bianca, set up the scheme in Arad following their training in South Wales in February, is currently applying to Soros Foundation Romania for further funding to enable the project to continue.

We remain grateful to **The Bridge Mentoring Plus Scheme** for the training they provided in the first instance. The Bridge is a small local **Registered Charity – number 1091536** founded in February 2002. The aim of the Bridge MPS is to break down the barriers of social exclusion that prevent disadvantaged young people aged between 10 – 25 throughout the Borough of Bridgend build bridges to a more positive future.

**[www.thefriendshipfoundation.co.uk](http://www.thefriendshipfoundation.co.uk) Reg. Charity no. 1130205**