

PRO PRIETENIA ARAD FOUNDATION

A Romanian Charity run for Romanians by Romanians
with the help of donations from Great Britain

As a modern-minded Romanian charity, we are involved in major issues affecting our country –

victims of crime, domestic violence, abuse, and human trafficking; youth mentoring; young people with fewer opportunities; disability

- but, we never forget the needs of the individuals around whom our vision was formed



With their permission, we'd like to tell you about just a few of the people we're helping at the moment ►



A is a sixty-year old grandmother of five. Her elder daughter passed away two years ago and her younger daughter lives in Italy and does not help her. **A** lives in Arad in a rented apartment for which she pays £85 per month. She takes care of three of her granddaughters who live with her, one of them, the six year old, suffers a severe disability. Her other two granddaughters are aged 8 and 17. They are both well and attending school.

The grandmother came to the Foundation asking for financial help to raise her grandchildren. Her income is not enough to cover their basic needs. The household income is 660 lei (£130) per month, 160 lei is the children's allocation and 500 lei her pension.

The Foundation has so far been able to help **A** with hygiene and sanitary products for the children and herself, and send her younger granddaughter to a camp for a week, all costs being covered by the Foundation. The family needs £100 financial support per month.



M is a 43-year-old mother of two children aged 5 and one. Her nightmare began in March 2009, when her husband, during an argument, started beating her up, sprayed her with irritating spray, forced her to drink some liquid, burned and cut her with a knife on the breast and legs. At the time she was pregnant with her younger child. The beating and burning lasted for three days after which he brought her to a cousin of his, where he held her under constant threat. Two days later neighbours heard the cries for help and called an ambulance which took her into intensive care. **M's** family came and took her child whilst M herself remained for two months Arad hospital. Meanwhile her husband was arrested and charged with extreme aggressive behaviour and attempted murder. He was sentenced to seven years imprisonment.

Last August **M** came to the foundation asking for help because, after leaving the shelter for victims of domestic violence, she had nowhere for her and her two children to live. At present she lives with her children in a rented one-room apartment with no proper facilities and is unable to pay the rent. The family needs £100 financial support per month.



Two years ago, after being evacuated from her home for not paying the rent, **V** and her husband ended up on the streets along with their children. They started living as homeless people in an improvised shelter for two weeks, causing sickness to their youngest twins.

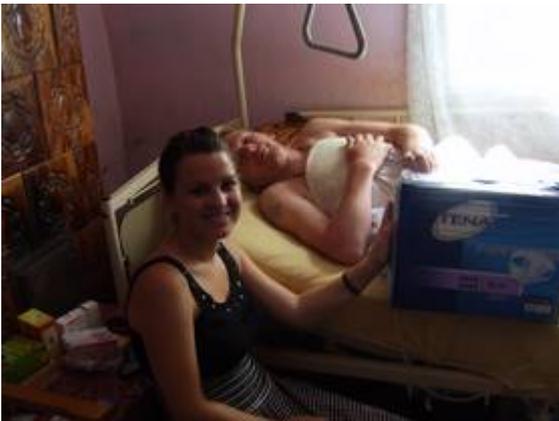
Following a strange chain of events, involving television and several people who wanted to help their case, they were accepted to live in a house in a small village not far from Arad. Through a group of people from a Baptist church in the city their case was brought to the Foundation's attention.

The support provided by the Foundation consisted of hygiene products and school supplies for five of their nine children enabling them to properly attend school. The case is very complex because of the number of children in the family and their difficult financial situation.

Because of the special medical needs of two of the children, they have been given up to two separate families who have offered to raise them, and cover the costs of their treatment, up the age of 18. The family are desperate for financial help.



V is a 42-year-old man who has suffered a terrible misfortune. Whilst working in the construction industry he was involved in a works accident which left him paralysed from the waist down. He is now able to move only his head and arms.



His paralysis is permanent and he is unlikely to regain any mobility through therapy, medical intervention or surgery.

Clearly, **V** is unable to take care of himself but does have a girlfriend who is dedicated to care of him.

So far, the Foundation has managed to provide **V** with a wheelchair, corset, adult diapers and hygiene products. We intend to help him pay for the therapy he has to attend to as post-traumatic procedure. We also provide him with psychological counselling in order to get over the trauma and get used to his new condition as a disabled person. His employers were not operating legally and bear no financial obligation. The couple needs £100 per month.

M (2)

Three years ago, after they saw no solution to their financial situation, **M's** husband began drinking to cope with stress and shortcomings. He afterwards began to act aggressively, badly beating her. They have two children aged 17 and 23 living with them, who witnessed these beatings.

M came to our Foundation asking legal advice for divorce. We helped her throughout the divorce process covering the legal costs and counselling her both psychologically and legally. Further problems occurred following the divorce since financially they were forced to share the same premises and, as expected, her ex-husband has continued the beatings.

We helped her obtain a permanent restraining order against her husband. She cannot find a job due to her age (45) and lack of education. At present, the only income consists in the older son's salary, which is not enough to pay for the rent and taxes. **M** needs £50 as financial support per month.

B

B comes from a slit-up family. After her parents' divorce, she remained with her mother, a very strict and mean person. At 19 years of age she is caught up in a somewhat strange and, at the same time, embarrassing situation: her mother beats her because she doesn't like her boyfriend.

She first came to the Foundation after having been beaten and fleeing from home. We helped her obtain forensic medical evidence of her ill-treatment. She wanted to sue her mother but we helped her to understand that suing her own mother wasn't the best solution to the problem. We persuaded her not to act against her mother legally, but to

try to find a solution in a lighter, more civil way. We are still providing her psychological counselling.



J is a Baptist pastor. He is married with three children aged 16,14 and 12. His wife is unemployed. The church community is small and cannot cover all the financial needs of the pastor. Three years ago he was forced to take a second job working for a charity in a nearby city. Last June **J** lost his job and, because of the economic downturn, neither he nor his wife have yet found work. The Foundation helped them with cleaning and personal hygiene products and paid for their three children to attend camp. They need £200 financial support per month.



M is a nine-year old (see front cover) who suffers from spastic quadriplegia and severe psych-motor retardation.

At present **M** undergoes a prolonged period of treatment, rehabilitation and recuperation. The Foundation provides personal hygiene products and diapers. She needs £100 financial support per month.



Aged 19, **D** is studying car mechanics. He is a capable boy, very smart, loves to cook. He was a keen swimmer for a few years but, due to material hardship, he was forced to give it up.

D's parents divorced when he was three. A few years later his mother remarried and, with his adoptive father accepting him, he lived together with his two stepbrothers. However, in the past five years the parents have had problems in their marriage. The stepfather became verbally aggressive, arguing with the entire family. Eventually the mother was forced to send **D** away from home. Because his real father never cared for him he went to live with his grandmother.

Sadly, she passed away last year and **D** remained all-alone. His mother secretly helps him because her husband does not allow her to see him.

D's father supports him financially with very little money and certainly not nearly enough to cover daily expenses.

The Foundation helped him with personal hygiene products. He needs £150 financial support per month.



N's family consists of four people living in the one room. N is pregnant and will soon give birth. The father works and the family income is 600 lei (£118) per month.

The Foundation helped them with clothes and personal hygiene products. They need £70 financial support per month for kindergarten and school supplies for their two children.



C is the 30-year old mother of two beautiful children. After suffering back pain the presence of two tumours has been discovered. One of them was causing severe deterioration to one of her ribs and a part of the right lung, and two thoracic vertebrae. After thinking she had cancer, specialists found a fungus which was considered responsible for her internal condition.

Because the surgical intervention could not have been made in Romania, her family collected the equivalent of £3300 to enable her to have an



operation outside the country. The second phase of surgery cost the equivalent of £5800 with an additional 1500 lei (£300) per month being required to cover post operation treatment and medication. All these costs were covered by borrowing from close acquaintances and friends and has to be paid back. The family's problem is that they are not able to pay their debts and still raise their children and continue the treatment **C** needs.



R is a 16 year old teenager who was born with a malformation, one of his legs being shorter than the other by 6cm. He had surgery in the past through which doctors managed to extend his affected leg by 4cm. He will have to undergo further surgery when he is 18, when doctors will be able to lengthen his leg by another 2cm. He also developed a tumour-like bone malfunction growing on his shorter leg in the toes region. The real threat of this tumour is that it can develop malign cells and evolve into one of the most aggressive forms of bone cancer. The tumour has to be surgically removed before it is too late. The surgical intervention **R** needs can be performed in Szeged in neighbouring Hungary and costs 3000 lei (£600). Having only one parent working, with his mother unable to find work due to lack of education and age, they barely manage to survive.

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THE PRO PRIETENIA ARAD FOUNDATION



ROMANIA STILL NEEDS HELP

Romania currently has some of the highest levels of poverty in Europe and its needs and opportunities are a great challenge to her people. Many of these opportunities are best met by indigenous charities such as the **Pro Prietenia Arad Foundation** which has received the support of the British charity 'The Friendship Foundation' for ten years.

PRO PRIETENIA ARAD HAS THE VISION

► **Pro Prietenia Arad** builds on its reputation of the past decade as it continues to work for the good of Romanian society. Its vision is to be able to offer help, either directly or by referral to others, to all sufferers of abuse, victims of crime, offenders seeking correction, young people with fewer opportunities, those who are excluded from, or marginalized by society through poverty, lack of education, illness or physical/mental disability and who see no opportunity, or have little opportunity, to help themselves.

► **Pro Prietenia Arad** dreams of our being able to help needy people realise their full potential and to make their own positive contribution to Romanian society.

► **Pro Prietenia Arad** looks to becoming one of the most prestigious non-government organisations in Romania by the end of 2015, based upon the loyalty and commitment of its supporters, together with the effectiveness, values, compassion, expertise, professionalism and dedication of its team and the team's belief in the people they seek to serve.

► **Pro Prietenia Arad** believes that it will become a beacon of excellence amongst non-government organisations in Romania and, by offering such things as consultancy, technical assistance and internships, be well placed to help other charitable and commercial agencies to develop their own organisations.

TOGETHER WE CAN DELIVER

The Friendship Foundation (UK – Romania) has supported **Pro Prietenia Arad** throughout its ten-year history. All the trustees have visited Romania and are informed about conditions there. By supporting **The Friendship Foundation** you are helping the **Pro Prietenia Arad Foundation** deliver its vision. Every penny counts! Nothing is too small.

THE FRIENDSHIP FOUNDATION (UK – ROMANIA)

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