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**THE FRIENDSHIP FOUNDATION (UK – ROMANIA)**

with FUNDAȚIA PRO PRIETENIA ARAD

**JUNE 2011**

## **DISASTER STRIKES MARCELA'S FAMILY**

**Marcela Prisecaru was born prematurely on 27th of November 2001 in Arad, Romania. Her mother died as a result of the birth. When she was nine months old, Marcela was taken to the children's neuropsychiatric hospital where she was diagnosed as suffering from spastic quadriplegia and severe psycho-loco motor retardation.**

Seven years ago Pro Prietenia Arad, began to help Marcela. First of all, there was the proper diagnosis of her condition. The specialist doctor recommended that Marcela should receive treatment at Oradea (110 km North of Arad) at a special treatment centre which she was to attend for 30 days every 2 months.

As a result of the financial help from The Friendship Foundation, as well as the Castle Church Romanian Charity in Stafford, a special programme was developed for Marcela



consisting of medication, treatment at the 1 May Centre Oradea and medical care at the "Ghiocelul" Day Centre for children with disabilities in Arad. The treatment offered by the 1 Mai Centre and the "Ghiocelul" Centre is free of charge, being supported by the Romanian government.

**The little girl's progress has been remarkable but April brought more trouble for Marcela and her family.**



Her grandmother, her main support, pictured here with Marcela, suffered a stroke which has left her with paralysis of her right-hand side. During the time that her grandmother was in hospital she was cared for by one of her uncles, and her neighbours. At the moment Marcela and her grandmother

have moved in with her aunt. These recent events have made it impossible for Marcela to follow her treatment and, according to the doctors, is unlikely to be able to do so for some time since her grandmother's paralysis is not going to improve for at least three or four months.

## **ROMANIA STILL NEEDS OUR HELP**

Most Romanians associate the last two decades with a continuous process of impoverishment and deteriorating living standards.

*Romania's Life Quality Research Institute*

Nowadays, 75% of Romanians suffer from poverty and live in rural areas. However, poverty has soared in urban areas, mainly as a result of rising unemployment. The most vulnerable groups are children, teenagers and the elderly.

*Euroactiv.com*

Throughout the difficult transition period (post 1989) Romanian NGOs (non-government organisations or charities) have provided vital social services with the help of international funding.

This has been possible with the support of foreign donors and EU programs. It is generally recognized that the social services provided by non-governmental agencies offer higher quality standards and responsiveness to community needs than public ones. State funding, however, is directed almost exclusively to public social services.

*The Contribution of NGOs in Reducing Poverty.*

*- Case Study of the North Vest Development Region in Romania.*

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