



together
for
others

împreună
pentru
alții



THE FRIENDSHIP FOUNDATION (UK – ROMANIA)

WITH FUNDAȚIA PRO PRIETENIA ARAD

SEPTEMBER 2010

Overall, the Romanian charity, under the presidency of Puiu Tarcea, has seen a considerable broadening of its activities arising from recognition by local and national government of the charity as a front line NGO (Non Government Organisation), awarding it 'public service' status in August.

As Romania develops an increasing number of EU and government funded initiatives, there is a tendency for the state to relinquish its direct involvement in social/humanitarian activities in favour of their being run by charities. In this respect, things in Romania are becoming akin to what we have come to expect in our own country. Nowhere is this more marked in the city of Arad than in the area of Social Services.

For instance, Pro Prietenia is being given the responsibility for running an existing hostel, which provides accommodation for asylum seekers, victims of human trafficking and young offenders. Fifteen present-day Social Service personnel will be taken on by, and paid through the charity, with 90% of the costs being met by the government.

With an increasing level of European Union and State funding, it is perhaps tempting to assume that the support of The Friendship Foundation is of diminished significance. However, quite the opposite is the case. The fact is that much of the cost of administration and training is not included in project funding in every case and a minimum level of existing administrative capability is presumed in most funding awards. It is through the support of the likes of The Friendship Foundation that this minimum capability is assured.

The significant difference these days is that our financial support is meeting the needs of many more people – through social projects – than was ever the case when we more directly supported individual cases.

Having said that, it is a marked feature of Pro Prietenia that the individual is never forgotten nor ignored. For instance, quite recently in a severe relational crisis, it was Puiu and Dorina who were the first to be contacted for help, as was the case when a severe medical crisis befell a young woman. Pro Prietenia continues to work hand in hand with Raphael (for which Dorina works) in providing a Christian counselling service.

Such cases of individual help and support can be cited time after time. A compassionate response to individuals remains a feature of the charity in spite of a rapidly increasing workload on a 'grander scale.' Believe me, our support remains as important as ever – maybe more important than ever.

Below we provide a short list of activities that are currently underway. The list is not exhaustive and will be expanded upon shortly.

A SHORT UPDATE FOR SEPTEMBER 2010 *(submitted by the office in Arad 15 September 2010)*

1. Development through Mentoring

Holiday 16-29 August 2010

The girls are working on the communication abilities session:

Last Thursday they had the theoretical part.

This Saturday they have the practical activities.

2. Poiana Brasov

Workshops on: Development of life skills abilities, Risk Management, Fund-raising and Income Generating Projects

Period: 30 August – 2 September 2010

3. Victim support project

This morning, a victim of domestic violence crime obtained her divorce from a violent husband. We have been supporting her and providing legal assistance.

Another victim of 19 years in conflict with her mother has a full time job at a tourism agency thanks to our advocacy.

4. Procter and Gamble products.

We distributed Procter and Gamble products to 4 NGO's: 3 from Arad and one from Timisoara, and to 15 families.

5. Sorin Macavei

Will most probably participate at an internship in Italy (30 days) learning of the response to the trafficking in human beings in preparation for work in this area in Arad.

6. Human trafficking

We are making important steps on contracting the Trafficking in human beings Centre of the Arad General Department of Social Assistance and Child Protection.

7. Youth Mentoring

Up to now no answer from Soros Foundation concerning on-going funding. We are still waiting.