

FOUNTAIN OF HOPE



OFFERING A BETTER FUTURE TO DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN THROUGH HOMEWORK SUPPORT, HOT MEALS AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO PREVENT SCHOOL DROPOUT

PASSING THE TORCH - GROWNUPS FOR A DAY

On the International Day of the Children's Rights, November 20th 2013, thanks to a project organized by Terre des Hommes Foundation, twelve children from the Fountain of Hope participated in a special event. The project's main goal was to facilitate the children's in preparing for their future careers and participating actively in the community they live in.

Over a week's time, the selected children had the opportunity to have a real-life experience of a job of their choosing and to make real-life decisions just like adults, for a whole day. Fire fighters, police officers, waiters, pastry

chefs, make-up artists and doctors had the chance to meet their future colleagues. Each child had a mentor that shared with them some of the "behind-the-scenes" secrets of their profession. The children had the opportunity to experience throughout the day both the responsibilities as well as the rewards of the job.

The adults at the Fountain of Hope were in a state of suspense to see how this unusual week would turn out – but we were quite pleased to discover that the children performed remarkably well! The project was a success. The children were very excited and nervous

at the start – but they soon loosened up and did their jobs responsibly and whole-heartedly.

The project climaxed on November 20th, when the commander of the Emergency Services of Buzau invited us to participate at an event that took place in their headquarters in the city. We had the opportunity to watch simulations of different situations where emergency workers have to intervene. Then, the commander invited us to take a tour of the building. This moment was unforgettable and amazed all of us - both adults and children. We followed in the footsteps (...continued on page 2)



EXPERIENCING THE JOB OF A HAIRSTYLIST



FEELING STRONG AND RESPONSIBLE ALONGSIDE THE POLICE



MUSICIAN FOR A DAY - A DREAM BECOMES REALITY!

CREATING HAPPY CHILDHOOD MEMORIES AT THE FOUNTAIN OF HOPE

The Fountain of Hope Day Center was founded for the school children of the village of Panatau. They are children that come from economically and socially disadvantaged families. The village Panatau is located in the countryside, far away from cultural centers and with no recreational possibilities for children.

One of AMURTEL Romania's main objectives is to offer a better future for children. The after-school center

was designed in response to the need for nutritional support as well as educational enrichment. So, in 2007, in partnership with the Panatau Townhall and Cooperating Netherlands Foundation (CNF), AMURTEL Romania founded the Fountain of Hope Day Care Center in Panatau. The services provided by the center are: hot meals, homework support and extracurricular activities, designed to develop life skills and artistic skills in the children.

PASSING THE TORCH continued from pg 1

of the emergency workers from the room where they receive the emergency calls, all the way to the place where the vehicles exit the headquarters and head for the site of the emergency. It was an impressive feeling to witness the risks of this job and we appreciated how they take care of us and protect us in dangerous situations. The children admired the courage and devotion of the Emergency Service employees, and were inspired to offer their help in the future – learning how to respond calmly and positively in an emergency and call the intervention team. We ended the day in a restaurant where we treated ourselves to an enormous pizza and a delicious dessert. Then we headed for the train, where again everybody had a great time. We returned home late at night, tired, but with lovely memories and experiences.

AT THE PUBLIC EUROPEAN SPACE

The Fountain of Hope participated in the "Magical Christmas" event that was organized by the Public European Space in Bucharest. We took part in a bazaar and show the Christmas crafts that the children made as part of the activities held at the center. We displayed and sold beautiful molded beeswax candles, Christmas tree ornaments, jewellery and other items crafted from recycled materials to the visitors of the bazaar. It was an opportunity not only to raise funds, but more importantly to promote the center and to give more visibility to our activities. The proceeds went to directly to Santa's bag of presents.

STILL SURVIVING!

The national economic crisis still affecting Romania is reflected in the growth of the number of families that benefit from social assistance and, implicitly, the numbers of beneficiaries for the center. In the school year 2013 – 2014 we have had a number of 65 children benefitting from our help, 35 of which came only to have food, because they are from another nearby village and they are using the school bus for transportation right after lunch.

The principle source of support for the center in the past year were the individual sponsors of AMURTEL Romania. However, the project also depends on collaboration with the town hall which provides the location as well as all of the utilities and firewood for heating. We thank both the community of Panatau and our sponsors for their support!

ACTIVITIES



HOMEWORK HELP



FREE HOT MEALS



ARTS AND CRAFTS



SPORTS AND GAMES

OPEN DAY AT THE FOUNTAIN OF HOPE

The Open Day at the Fountain of Hope – for the fifth time in a row – took place on the 30th of May. Teachers, parents, local officials and our team members from the other AMURTEL projects were present at the event.

Didi presented a slideshow of the year's activities which were warmly received by all present. The mayor and the school principle also gave speeches that underlined the benefits of the center's existence, appreciating the value of play, the opportunity to learn foreign languages and to receive healthy food. They also expressed their support to continue to find new opportunities for developing the project. The event was also promoted in the local newspaper "Buzau's Opinion".

THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!!

The involvement of volunteers in our project is a way of offering our children the opportunity to get to know a diversity of people, who come from different backgrounds and cultures, and who offer them the opportunity to learn new things. In February-March 2012 we had the joy of having work with us Lucy Lambert, a volunteer from England. She stayed 6 weeks with us, and the children got very attached to her. In September we had with us Katherine, a teacher from The US. The English lessons were very useful for the children, as were the games taught and played with her.

GARDEN WORK AT POIENI

In the summer holiday of 2014, the center's staff took part in the summer work at the organic garden in Poieni. The physical labour was a relaxing break from supervising rowdy children! It was also useful for the center as the Fountain of Hope harvested a part of the vegetables needed for winter stores in exchange for our help.

NEW TIMES, NEW ACTIVITIES

Amongst the many activities held at the center this year, here are some new ones that deserve to be highlighted:

- **Italian course:** a group of youngsters gathered together with Francesco Ghilotti – our very diligent and serious volunteer from Italy – to get acquainted with his native language
- **Spanish Evening** - Francesco invited some Spanish volunteers to come and together they organized Spanish music and dancing, Spanish food (gazpacho was not such a favourite) and the children had a great time!
- **Outdoor parties** – there were several festivals with juggling, arts and crafts, discoteca and more!
- **Outdoor films** - we also projected films and had popcorn in the garden!

A NEW YEAR UNDERWAY!

A new school year started in October. We spent September painting the hall and the kitchen, we cleaned the entire building, we filled our storeroom, we arranged the garden, we even did some internal "Cleansing" (Didi offered us three days of detox fasting, relaxation, games, workshops and guidance, just like every year). So we were recharged and ready to open the doors to greet the children – both the newcomers and our returning students!



OVERCOMING OBSTACLES!

We have a lot of wonderful, fun activities – but we also have some obstacles that we need help to overcome. First of all, the old tile roof is broken, so when it's raining outside, we also have rain inside the house. Unfortunately, we can't find this type of tile – as it is such an old model – and we can't replace the broken ones. Replacing the whole roof will be a big investment – so we will be needing aid. It is causing deterioration to the ceiling and weakens the whole building.

Also – we are very grateful for the support of our volunteers and sponsors – but we still need about 12 more regular monthly sponsors, each donating \$25 to be able to sustainably cover the operating costs of the increased number of children. It is easy to set up an automatic donation which deducts automatically from your paypal account or credit card:

www.amurtel.ro/donate-now

We hope you will join us if you are not already amongst our regular sponsors!



FINANCE REPORT

Sept 2013 - Aug 2014

INCOME	EUROS
AMURTEL sponsors	11.095,00
Panatau Townhall	857,00
Income generating	243,00
Other donations	1212,00
TOTAL	13.407,00

EXPENSES	EUROS
Food	2638,20
Consumables	1801,60
Repairs	140,25
Salaries and wage taxes	8530,61
Transport	105,21
Club TIP activities	123,80
Authorizations	53,09
TOTAL	13.392,76



THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

PROJECT TEAM

DIDI ANANDA DEVAPRIYA - PRESIDENT
ASOCIAȚIA DE AJUTOR AMURTEL
ROMÂNIA;

IULIA HALANGESCU - EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

LARISA BRATUCU - PROJECT
DIRECTOR SOCIAL WORKER,
SUPERVISOR

DORINA PASCU - COOK, SUPERVISOR

FRANCESCO GHILOTTI - EVS
VOLUNTEER

ANCA ROSU - LOCAL VOLUNTEER,
ARTIST

VALENTIN CULACHI - LOCAL
VOLUNTEER, SPORTS

We wish to extend our gratitude to all of our sponsors whose continued dedication and support makes this project possible.

Thank you also to our partners, the Panatau local community for donations of wood and for covering the utilities expenses, as well as increasing financial support so that more children could attend. Special thank you to the parents of **"Gradinita Rasarit" Kindergarten** in Bucharest for helping Santa Claus to bring gifts to the children and also **Alina Tanase** who collected food and clothes.

A warm thanks to our Romanian sponsors:

Oana Chirita, Mihai Popa Radu si Camelia Constantin

Thank you to our international sponsors:

Chris Walker (US), Didi Anuradha (Costa Rica), Andy Alok Douglas (US), Beverly Bhaktideva (US), Chandragupta (Taiwan), AMURTEL USA, Tyson Dharmaviira Nordman (US), Dina Heisler (US), Divyamurtii Quale (US), Elena Ianselli (Italy), Ishadevii (Italy), Kalyan Christopher McKenzie (US), Karen Bluemcke (Germany), Raymond Deshaies (US), Sharada (Switzerland), Sohail Inayatullah (Australia), Suzanne Dionne (Canada), Sudiipa (Italy),

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Douglas Oldham (Canada), Chandragupta (Taiwan), Istadeva Eric Mager (US), Oana Chirita, Pashupati Dr. Steven Landau (US), Sara Janni (Italy), Tanmaya Thomas Delaiti (Italy)

Regular monthly donations add up and give stability to the project! Join us: www.amurtel.ro/donate-now