

NEWSLETTER

Dear Supporters,

Thank you for your involvement with the abandoned children and young people. They are worthy of all the investment and the reward is to see them blossom in their personalities.

One of our goals is to give each child a loving family. One of the children who we were able to find a foster home for had the task in school to write a poem. It was close to women's day in March so she opted to write about her mother. Sweden and the USA celebrate mother's day in May so this little poem, that is written by a thankful 10 year old, is dedicated to those who have a place in the mother's heart for the father and motherless.

"To mum on mother's day"

"I remember with joy when I saw my mum for the first time. I was six years old. Her daughter, Lavinia, used to take me from Casa Alba home to her family. I noticed that her mum, Lucia, was a good and wise woman and I felt that there was a place in her heart for me too.

When I am ill or in need of help with my homework, then mum is by my side. She is teaching me many things that I will need in life. Time passes by and I understand more and more how important mum is in my life. I try to be good and listen and help out around the home as much as I can. I wish my mum a lot of health and that she may live a long life to see me grow up and have a meaningful life."

Claudia

Many people have come to help with the work this Spring. We have had visits from schools, churches and other places as well as relatives and friends of the volunteers. We hope that those of you who have recently heard about the work are curious and want to find out more at www.fce.ro where you can read more about the different projects and ways you can help.

This Summer camp teams will come and we will have construction teams throughout the whole Autumn. Read Rebecca's impressions as her time here as a volunteer draws to an end:

"To give time and hope"

"What is really important and what is the most important thing one can give another? I can't say that I have thought much about these questions previously but they have been on my mind more than ever over the last year. In January 2011, I decided to take a sabbatical from my job as a teacher and to spend Autumn 2011 in Marghita. This was then extended to a year. My main duty has been at the day centre. It opened in Autumn 2010 and is a place for those who have finished the special needs school and do not have the possibility to get a normal job. Currently there are eight young people there with one employed member of staff and two volunteers, of which I am one. Our goal is to give these young people a meaningful existence and help them develop skills. We produce cards, bracelets and sew, for example handbags.



FCE

Fundația Creștină Elim



Rebecca and some of the young people at the day centre.

Of course there is a difference between teaching a year two class in Sweden and working in a day centre in Romania but there are also similarities. I can see how I have been able to contribute with my previous experience but I will also come home with new experiences and knowledge. Much of what I will take home with me is perhaps thoughts and reflections that have arisen from meeting with people here as well as the Romanian society.

What is really the most important thing I can give as a volunteer here? What I have realised in meeting the children and young people is that we can provide them with all their material needs but the time we invest in them is even more important. For many of the people I meet with here, there has been a big lack of adult contact and feeling that somebody cares for them. Then it is not enough with words but one needs to show with actions that they are important and to spend time together with them.

I visit the half-way home, Brandusa, once a week to do a craft activity with the ones living there. For example we have made decoupage, key rings and painted together. These are occasions that I did not think were going to be so important but in hindsight I

can see that it has been an important element both for them and myself. Some weeks it has been the highlight of the week.

Spending time with somebody can be in many different ways for example; doing craft activities at Brandusa, playing games in the Club, reading with somebody at the day centre, going for a walk, reading the Bible together or stopping for a chat on the street. Time is probably one of the most important things we can give. My thoughts lead to a conclusion: spending time is a way of saying, you are precious, in actions.

One other thing that we can give, which is of utmost importance, is hope. For me it means to share my faith in Jesus which I know is what can really provide hope. I can't promise these young people a secure future but I can give them knowledge about a God who loves them. It is the only hope I can give them that is not a lie or built around an air bubble. It does not guarantee a life without problems or that everything will be like a bed of roses but it does mean that there is One who wants to help us through the problems and has prepared a place without tears for those who follow Him.

I once read this quote: "Everything that happens is not from God's hand but everything that happens, God wants to take in His hand". This is what part of faith and hope is, the hope that God wants to take them in His hand and everything they face. This is also true for all of us!"

Rebecca Lindh

Here at FCE employees and volunteers work together. FCE has 45 employees and here our most recent employee, Marius, tells his story. He tells it at the baptism ceremony in the Baptist church in Popesti.



"My story"

"I was born in Beius and lived at the orphanage there until I was moved to Popesti when I was ten years old. Life there was rough with a lot of violence, fighting and other bad things. I heard about the Baptist church in Popesti and went there more and more often. I did not understand very much but I went there with joy because I felt welcome. I was touched by the fact that there were people who cared for us when volunteers from FCE came. They taught us how to live and we learnt a lot in groups. I learnt a lot about God, especially at FCE's camps. This brought me closer to Him. I was touched by the songs, the lessons and the atmosphere at camp. It gave me a peace in my soul. When I came back to the orphanage, I used to wish I was in another place, far away from swearing, violence and fighting. When I was 15 years old, I was invited by Aniko to the church youth group. I never missed any of these occasions because I liked it so much! They asked how we were and cared for us. They encouraged me very much and helped me to get to know God even more. I am thankful for such friends who have been such a support. I started thinking about getting baptised.

Last year I moved to Marghita and now live at Brandusa. It was hard to start with and I

kept a lot to myself and thought about what I would do with my life. I was worried as I could not find a job and felt that I was falling away from God. I thought of all the chances God had given me at camps and in church and it helped me to make a decision to follow Him. I am now glad that He has given me a job. I had been thinking of getting baptised for a long time so I enrolled straight away when Pastor Dan announced a date for the baptisms. I want to be a child of God with all my heart. To live at Brandusa helps me to be serious and I am daily rejoicing over my relationship with God. He helps me to have patience with the ones around me and be secure and calm when I look to the future. "

Marius Lacatus



Photo taken at FCE camp in Chislaz when school pupils from Sweden invited all family homes there for the afternoon in April.

All of us at FCE thank you and wish you a lovely Summer!

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."

Jesus, Matt 25:40

Contact people

For any information concerning the work of FCE or becoming a supporter please contact the following:

Demelza and Simon Danielsson (UK in Romania)
sddanielsson@yahoo.co.uk

John and Pam Vivian (Bristol, UK)
01275-849813
fceuk@yahoo.co.uk

Jenny & Cosmin Guias (Scotland, UK)
07814-396959
jennyeguias@gmail.com

Frank Vos (The Netherlands)
0118-410887
vosfra@hotmail.com

Natasha & Andy Sexton (Canada)
sextonfamilyfive@gmail.com

Brian Davies (California, USA)
001 530 245-0213
bdpatobe@charter.net

Contact Organisations

Blythswood Care

James Campbell or Finlay Mackenzie (Scotland)
Tel: 01349 830777
Email: info@blythswood.org

Mercy Ministries

Fred and Karleen Dewey, Founders
5610 Ward Road, Suite 110
Avada, Colorado 80002 USA
Tel: 001 303 238 9505
Email: dewpt@msn.com
Web: www.mercy-ministries.com

Elim Fellowship International

Pia & Niklas Österholm – Sweden
Tel: 0046 70 561 19 06
Email: fadder@efifadder.se
Web: www.efifadder.se

Gifts

Banca Comerciala Romana
Sucursala Marghita
Cod: SWIFT: RNCBROBU

Account number: GBP - RO58RNCB0035022151630003
(IBAN) USD - RO85RNCB0035022151630002
EUR - RO31RNCB0035022151630004

Address

FCE

Str. N. Bălcescu nr. 79
415 300 Marghita
Jud. Bihor Romania

Tel: 0040-259 363 570
Fax: 0040-359 407 833
E-mail: herculaneinfo@yahoo.se