

Dear supporters,

*Once again it is time for a greeting from Romania. Thank you for standing with us, enabling us to make a difference for children and young people who, in different ways, have had a tough start in life. They deserve all the care and love they need in order to grow and realise their dreams.*

FCE runs four family homes. A couple lives in each one of them together with five to six children, creating an as normal home as possible. Since 1998 when the first home opened, then called transit home, many abandoned children and young people have received a chance to experience family life.



## Where would they have been?

Nicu and Mariana Lazar are 54 and 51 years old. They have two sons, 28 and 30 years old as well as a grandchild. What is interesting with the Lazar family is that they also have another 27 boys!

In 2001, they came in contact with an orphan boy who told them that he lived in one of FCE's transit homes. They noted their interest when FCE was looking for a family for their new transit home in Marghita and were employed! This was the

beginning of something completely new.

"Former work colleagues and other friends thought we were out of our minds to leave good jobs to look after orphan Roma children. There was a big difference in pay but God provides and the money was blessed," says Nicu.

## How did it start?

"We opened the home on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2001 when six boys moved in. They had all grown up in orphanages and had nowhere to go when they finished school. They were all over 18 and it was time for them to start to work. As they had big problems with authority, it was a big challenge to teach them to work and keep a job."

## What is the main goal with transit homes?

"The most important thing is to give them a family. This is something they have never had and will help them to understand what a family means. The hardest thing is to help them with their behaviour and emotions," says Mariana. "Violence was all they knew and it was hard to ensure that the one's who felt they were smarter did not look down on the other boys. We love them and want the best for them even though they have not



always understood this.” Nicu explains further that the difference between raising their own children was that their own knew that they were loved even when they were confronted or told off. The boys from the orphanage thought they were hated when they were corrected.

### **How many boys have lived in your home?**

“Including the six who live here now, there have been 27 boys. Most of them were between 15 and 18 years old when they have arrived but one was 24 years old and one only nine months. Those who have moved out lived here 3 ½ - 4 years but the younger ones will obviously live here much longer.”

### **Do you stay in touch with all of them?**

“We have almost daily contact with some of those who live in Marghita. We have given everyone a chance and we have tried to guide them but some have chosen to walk their own way. They have taken with them a sense of family belonging and it is us they turn to when they are ill or have problems. Where would they be if they did not receive this chance?” say both Nicu and Mariana.

### **The transit homes have become family homes. How?**

“Initially it was meant for a short period of time for the young people who had finished school. This was then followed by boys in their midteens who were still in school and now we receive children who are much younger. It is like a group of siblings in different ages - A family home.” Mariana goes on to say how the integration into a main stream school became a challenge. It demanded close collaboration with the teachers and she often came with them to school as it was so important for the boys that somebody cared. Fights and issues had to be resolved and their new parents taught them to tell straight away if something had happened. The boys also need a lot of help with

their homework. “The opportunities to succeed in life are greater for those who have arrived at a younger age,” says Mariana and adds that, “in order to help these young people, you need all the fruits of the spirit”. (According to Galatians 5:22, the fruits of the Spirit are: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control).



Florin is one of the boys who lives in the family home in Marghita. “Nobody has ever taught me what I have learnt here,” he says and goes on to say that he was an emergency case. After several foster

home placements he ran away and social services did not know what to do with him. “I ended up in a hospital for a month. I came here during class six which I am very thankful for.”

### **Do you see a result of your work?**

“We know that we have sown seeds in these boys’ lives. In some they are not visible yet and in others it is in full bloom. They have got answers to some of life’s questions and know where their security is. One boy ended up in a bad place after having moved from here. Since he came back, he has recovered and is now free and healthy. He is a married man today and has children whom he loves. That is amazing!”



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In the last newsletter we encouraged you to sponsor a week at camp for a child. If you have forgotten, we would then like to remind you that you still have the chance. Camps are still running in our camp in Chişlaz. 10 Euros enables a child to attend camp for one day. 50 Euros would cover an entire camp.

A Swedish girl did a school project where she raised money for FCE by offering massage and the profit enabled 10 children to attend an unforgettable camp week!

Since the state run orphanage in Popeşti was taken over by a private foundation, we no longer run camps for these children. For a long period of many years, camp teams from different countries came and provided many fantastic camps, giving the orphans memories for life. These camp teams covered all the camp costs which was admirable. It was worrying to plan camps this summer because of all the expenses, but we are happy to have teams of motivated and loving Romanian volunteers. Even though they are unable to cover all the costs they run all aspects of the camps with high quality.

Many children come from poor families and have never ever been on a camp, swum in a swimming pool or eaten three meals a day.

Read what an anti-trafficking team from Stockholm writes after a visit here to Marghita! [www.fce.ro](http://www.fce.ro)

## “Dreams come true

Romanian abandoned and poor children need a lot of attention, love and wonderful experiences in order to really feel valued. The summer holiday is an opportunity for us to make these things come true for these children.

Thanks to generous people and with help from several Romanian volunteer teams each week, so far we have been able to provide a camp experience in FCE’s camp building in Chişlaz for 120 children and young people with wonderful memories and joy. From mid June to September, we are aiming to provide camp for 250 children. Motivated by a desire to help hungry and dirty children in the Marghita area, we also provided camps for the children from our Poor family project. There were sports activities, crafts, games, good food and a nice bed which for some is very different to their home circumstances. They have been allowed to forget poverty and worries for a few days.

They are also taught that they are valuable, that they have the right to dream and that dreams can come true. These camps fill these children’s hearts with hope which brings happiness and puts a smile on their faces.

Being in charge of these camps is a big challenge with some financial obstacles. We can only do this with your help!”

*Andrei Loghin  
(found at the back right of the picture)*

Are you interested in becoming a part of a construction team this autumn?  
E-mail: [FCE-byggteam@tele2.se](mailto:FCE-byggteam@tele2.se)  
With any questions

Warm regards from  
FCE

"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:

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## Gifts

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Cod: SWIFT: RNCBROBU

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