



*Dear sponsors,*

Poverty and begging is a burning topic in Sweden and many other EU countries today. Everyone has known about their existence, but most people have only met them at a comfortable distance. The problem is not that the common swede thinks it is hard to deal with the feeling of discomfort when they, on their way to fill up the shopping trolley at the supermarket, meet the poor. The problem is that the poor are forced to humiliate themselves by begging in order to get food for the day.

Romania has been a member of the EU since 2007 and many things have improved but unfortunately the gap between those who have a relatively good life and those who suffer from poverty and discrimination is very big. It is not difficult to understand that Romanian people are forced to go to Western Europe to find means of living, when the job they could possibly get in Romanian doesn't provide a salary big enough to live off and they don't even have the security of knowing they are officially employed.

## **Discrimination**

In April a conference was arranged in Club Elim (the FCE youth club). It was public and was held in collaboration with the Rotary club in Marghita. The subject was discrimination of the Roma people in the society and was first

demonstrated in an illustrative way through a drama. The scene was set up as offices in different social facilities. Some of the actors were acting as people with important roles and others were acting as Roma, both children and adults, who were being treated in a discriminating and humiliating way. All of it related to reality today in Romania.

A lecture was held with pictures from the dark history of the Roma people and after that some of the FCE projects were presented where Roma people are receiving help to get out of their difficult situation. The discussions afterwards were valuable and beneficial and the FCE employees, who had prepared and arranged the conference, were thanked.

Following the conference, during two morning sessions, high school and college classes were invited to Club Elim to be informed about the discrimination of Roma children in school and to provoke a change in attitudes.

## **Your help provides an opportunity**

Too many children in Romania do not attend school and this causes big problems. What possibilities does an uneducated person have? The school has high demands on their



students and it requires that a big part of the school work is done at home. When the parents can't help their children with the homework or make sure they have the clothes and the school supplies they need and can't give them a sandwich to bring for lunch (no food is served in school), one has to understand why the children do not attend school. Besides this, they also need to help their family by taking care of younger siblings, collecting wood and water and also finding food by begging or looking through rubbish bins. Many children are forced to take care of each other when the parents are gone for several months or years to work in another country.

Many of the children you support through FCE have experienced these problems whilst others have been rescued earlier. Your support gives exposed people an opportunity to a dignified life. The children come to our family homes at a younger age now and this significantly enhances their possibility to succeed in growing up and getting a good education. Thank you to all of you who have helped in different ways during all these years! You are saving many lives and preventing them from humiliation in Western Europe.



*Gullvi together with one of the first that FCE helped. Here with his daughter.*

Gullvi Johannisson from Skillingaryd is a radiant example. Besides being a sponsor, she travels to Romania to help with what she is good at; cooking is one of those things. In

April she came to Romania for the 25<sup>th</sup> time and she is keeping in touch with the first children FCE received. They grew up in orphanages during the communist period but today they can take care of their own children thanks to what they have learned in the care of FCE.



*Children and teacher at "After School"*

### **Help with homework**

"After School" is a project that gives children the opportunity to go to school and succeed. All children have the right to education. Thanks to a promise from the Swedish organisation "Erikshjälpen", preparations are now being made to receive a group of approx 30 children from poor families in Marghita. The children will be given school uniforms and school supplies, they will go to the local school and when school ends around noon, they will be picked up and brought to FCE's premises. There they will receive a hot lunch and the possibility to take a shower. After that they will get qualified help with their homework and then taken home.

The experimental activity that has been taking place since last September with 15 children has shown very good results. We also believe in good results in the long run where the entire family will receive the help they need to rise and give their children a good future.

The situation for the poorest in Romania, many of them Rroma, looks hopeless today but in the long run it can be improved if the children have the opportunity to go to school. If you have an education and can therefore get a job, you can stay in your country!

### **Give a summer memory!**

All children also have the right to play, rest and free time. Soon it is time for our summer camps again! We need your help to be able to implement these important weeks! Do you want to be a part of giving a child a wonderful experience that will have a positive effect on them for life? One week costs 50€ per child. One day costs 10€ per child. How many wonderful days are you able to offer?

If you want more information to help with fundraising ideas/events for summer camps, email us at [elim@fce.ro](mailto:elim@fce.ro)!



*Happy children on the first camp of their lives*

Thanks to financial gifts last year, we were also able to offer camp weeks to some of the children from our poor families' project. For those who had never experienced anything similar, it was a wonderful experience! Romanian volunteers are a great resource for these camps and already applications to be on a camp team have started to come in.

### **Construction news**

News in the construction area is that an expansion to the warehouse is being made and that a new building for the Day Centre is being built at the FCE base. All of this is possible thanks to employees at FCE, Swedish construction teams and Rotary clubs in The Netherlands.

The Guias family and their seven children have now moved into the new family home in Marghita, the construction site that has been given the name Poiana Verde. Incredibly many sponsors, construction workers and other people have been involved and made an invaluable contribution to this building (and all other FCE buildings), it is a miracle! Take a look at what was shown in the local news Smålandsnytt in Sweden through this link:

[www.svt.se/nyheter/regionalt/smaland snytt/hjalporganisationer-andrar-arbetsatt](http://www.svt.se/nyheter/regionalt/smaland snytt/hjalporganisationer-andrar-arbetsatt)

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*We wish You a  
wonderful summer!*

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

Banca Comerciala Romana  
Sucursala Marghita  
Cod: SWIFT: RNCBROBU

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

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[www.fce.ro](http://www.fce.ro)  
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