

Dear Supporters,

This is the last newsletter this year. During this year we have seen positive results amongst the children and young people who we can help thanks to all of you! It's wonderful to look back over the past year and see improvements! At the same time, there are frustrations and a feeling of being insufficient in helping all the needs that are around us. Thank you to all of you who faithfully join us and are engaged in the lives of the Romanian children and young people with their special needs!

One of the latest projects that has proved to be a success is the Education Centre which FCE runs; more commonly known as the 'After-School project'. Unfortunately there are far too many children in Romania who don't go to school. The reason is usually poverty which means they don't have suitable clothes to wear to school, no lunch bag to bring and no money to buy a school uniform and school materials. Parents who are not educated and who cannot read or write cannot help their children with their homework. In many cases, the children are needed at home during the days to help support the family. In Romania children have shorter school days, but they have hours of homework to do at home. That is why it is so important with help to do the homework!

FCE Education Centre

?To invest in education is to invest in the future. A healthy society can only be built through education and this was very obvious when we decided to start the project 'FCE Education Centre'. The trial project started in September 2013 and those children who had the opportunity



Kids doing homework at the Education Centre

to attend were aged 5-14 years and came from poor families. Classrooms, kitchen and bathrooms/changing rooms were arranged on the second floor in the halfway house Brăduşa. The children were picked up after school and taken to the project where they spent the next four hours each day. Here they received hot food, were able to wash themselves, get their clothes washed and get help with their homework from two employed teachers. They also participated in other educational activities.



The work has shown good results and the response from the schools where the fifteen children attend has been positive. We are collaborating with the town council and the schools and it positively affects the children's progress that their teachers come to us to help on a voluntary basis.

2014 was a very good year because in February we were able to sign a contract of collaboration with 'Eriks', a help organisation in Sweden. Since then, our project has grown a lot. We now have 34 children, five teachers, one driver and one cleaner. Besides the daily lunch and help with their homework, the children have the opportunity to take a shower, change clothes and get extra help from a psychologist and a speech therapist. They also get to take part in creative activities. Everything is done with the purpose that the children should attend school and be integrated into the society.



Two of the girls in the 'After school project'

Also within this project, we have plans to build a "hygiene house" in one of the Roma communities in Marghita. There will be showers, toilets and laundry machines. The plan is that it should be open for the whole community four hours a day.

We believe that education is what can lift a society and that it takes a big part in success. We want to prepare these children for the challenges they will meet in life and we want to help them develop a good character."

Lucian Hebristian, project leader

"Do the small things you can do – do them willingly and cheerfully

It was the year of 1998 and I received the offer to be a "grandma-volunteer" in Marghita.

It sounded very exciting but I wondered what I would be able to do among these children. I didn't know the language and my English is poor but the curiosity was there so I went. I flew to Budapest together with another volunteer, continued with the train to Oradea and then by car to Marghita where I stayed in the volunteer house at Strada Herculane 2 in a room with 8 beds.

For me an adventure had started and I stayed for three months. I worked at Casa Albă where there were 24 children divided into six rooms. I spent most of the time with the smallest ones, where hugs and love was more important than language knowledge. We picked up food at the hospital but it was poor food without vegetables and desserts so we bought fruit and sweets once in a while and this was of course very much appreciated.

Half of us working there were foreign volunteers and half were Romanians. We also worked night shifts, which were a bit harder than the day shifts, but the laundry machine that never stopped always kept us company! It wasn't easy to comfort the children if they woke up during the night and were sad.

When we, as a group of volunteers, met in our evening meetings, we cried and prayed that God would engage in each child's situation and through these moments we became like a big family – most of them in their twenties and then me aged 56.

Ten years later my husband Lennart and I returned to Marghita with a bus tour. We were then informed about the construction teams that continually go to Marghita and now we have joined seven of them.

All my experiences in Romania have enriched my life and I am thankful for that! I am also thankful to see that family homes have started instead of the orphanage. It is also a joy to meet those who have grown up and now live on their own!

I wish Barbro, Lars and all of FCE God's blessings and LOVE!"

Siv Holm, Sweden



Siv Holm

There are many ways to raise funds for FCE. We want you to write and tell us what you have done so others can be inspired!

Write to elim@fce.ro or FCE, Str Balcescu 79, 415300 Marghita, Romania

In Sandviken, Sweden you can support FCE by playing golf!

Vallhovskyrkan Golf Open in favour of FCE.

"It all started a little more than 20 years ago. My golf friends and I ended the golf season by playing a round of golf together. Someone initiated a trophy and the tradition "the

last try" started. More and more members of the church started to play golf and joined the competition. In 2008 the trophy stayed with the one who had won their third victory. When we talked later about either closing or developing the competition, we decided to do the latter. Vallbohovskyrkan Golf Open was a reality, with the purpose of "according to the vision of the church, in a practical way, to show that the church is an open community, and to support FCE"!

The starting fee of 50 SEK per participant will go to FCE in full and at the evening award ceremony where everyone, also those who don't play golf can come, we provide the opportunity to donate to FCE. The competition this year attracted 13 players aged 11-70 years and with joy I was able to send a contribution to FCE."

Nille Wiklander, Sweden

With this Christmas card made by the young people at the FCE Day Centre, we wish you a



"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

www.fce.ro
www.facebook.com/efifadder.fce

FCE

Str. N. Bălcescu nr. 79 Tel: 0040-259 363 570
415 300 Marghita Fax: 0040-359 407 833
Jud. Bihor Romania E-mail: elim@fce.ro