

Dear Supporters!

We are glad to be sending a Spring greeting to all of you who are interested in FCE's work in Marghita! All your support means a lot!



Family home children on a trip

Read and learn

"We children, who live in FCE's family homes and are in grades 5-7, receive help with our homework during the afternoons. One by one we go to the Day centre for Maths and Romanian tuition, one hour of each subject. Those of us who live in the family home 'Poiana Verde' think it's far to go there and those of us who live close by wish it was further away so we could use our bikes! It's hard to have to do homework every day but we know it's good that we have the opportunity to learn. Duci and Ella help us and they are really good!

The week before the Easter holiday, we did fun things every day because it was activities week. One day we did craft activities and the next day we went by train to Sacueni. It was very far to walk from the train station into town and we almost got lost. Another day we

went by bus to Oradea and took the train back. We learned how to buy a ticket and how to punch the ticket on the tram.

We also learned a lot of things about places and buildings in our county. In Oradea we went to the cinema and saw a 3D film so that was extra fun! After that, we got to order fast food ourselves and some of us ordered too strong food! We also went to the park in Marghita one day. It was good with ice-cream in the sunshine. On the last day, we went to the "Apple hill" for a picnic. Sergiu helped us to BBQ meat. We played football, took selfies and ate a lot of sunflower seeds. We are ten children and have a lot of fun together! When school ends in June, we would like to go to the zoo in Oradea and to the airport."

Claudia, Cerasela and Iulia



New roles

FCE has about 60 employees; amazing people with many different and meaningful jobs in all of FCE's projects. Lidia Micula is one of those who has been here the longest time. She has now been welcomed into the leadership team of FCE, together with Valentina Ferche and Lars Gustavsson. She and her husband, Dan, moved to Marghita in 1991 where they met Swedes and Americans who had come with a desire to help abandoned children. The collaboration started there and then. Now, when Lidia turns 50, she has worked half her life at FCE. During this time, she has studied to become a special needs teacher and psychologist because she realised that there is a need for so much knowledge and understanding to be able to help these children.

During the early years, Lidia worked as a volunteer. Dan and her were a good resource in the FCE board in the building up of the foundation. She was a translator when classes and courses were held by foreigners for both staff and children from the orphanages and she was always available whenever she was needed in different areas.

In 1999 Casa Alba needed a leader and Lidia Micula was very suitable for the job. She says that it was great to be part of providing the opportunity for a better life to small abandoned children. "The children who came from the paediatric ward at the hospital were often in very bad shape but changed amazingly fast and came alive when they moved to Casa Alba," she tells us. She continues, "There were mixed feelings when the children moved to their adoptive parents. We mostly felt joy that the children had received a family because that was our goal, but we also had feelings of nostalgia and sadness when they left."

Since FCE's transit homes became family homes about seven years ago, Lidia has been the leader of this project. Some of the children in the family homes were at Casa Alba as very young children and have confidence in Lidia. In counselling sessions with them, she gets to hear that they have positive memories from their time there and this makes her happy.

She is also responsible for foster care placements



Lidia Micula is one of FCE's leaders

where most of those children have come from Casa Alba. "I am so happy to see the change in these children's lives and see that both the family homes and foster families have a good effect on the children's lives and show positive results! I enjoy seeing how happy the children are to see each other! Last year they asked me to take them to the building where Casa Alba used to be so they could talk about memories," Lidia says smiling.

It was Lidia who was responsible for Casa Silvia, a home opened in 2003 for children with disabilities. "It's important that these children, who today are young adults, have a nice house to live in and that they have everything they need in order to feel good and happy. I enjoy the atmosphere at Casa Silvia a lot and it's fun to see how well those who live there and those who work there thrive!"

The fact that Lidia also works at the Special Needs School is another story, but it's always interesting to hear her talk about her pedagogy which has provided security to many children and given them tools to acquire knowledge.

Lidia expresses her gratitude over how God has led the foundation during all these years and that it is He who has led her into the roles she has today. "My life has turned out like this without me having to figure it out and plan it. I feel blessed. I wanted to make a difference for these children and I have studied to be able to do that. My new role in FCE is a new challenge, but I think it will turn out well. I can see that the communication with sponsors is important and I want to do my part when it comes to that. I have earned the trust of the children and youth and I cooperate well with Vali and Lars", Lidia finishes.

Volunteers and guests

During March-May, almost 150 people have come to Marghita to see and take part in the work. Some visited for one day, while others stayed to work for a couple of weeks or more. Among other things, two large buildings made of wood, Brandusa and the volunteer house, have been washed, scraped and re-painted which is wonderful! Those people who come here experience good fellowship and learn that you can be of help with whatever skills and abilities you have. A wide variety of people, of all ages, come to visit and volunteer at FCE. On our website, www.fce.ro, you can read what Robert Karlsson thought about his week in Marghita.

You can also read about a 20 year long commitment from secondary schools in Bankeryd and Jönköping.

In the next FCE newsletter, No 3, there will be a report from FCE's After School project, where many poor Roma children get the opportunity to go to school.

20 years of support from a Second Hand store- Filippos is a Second Hand shop in Osby in the south of Sweden. They have faithfully supported FCE for 20 years and this effort is admirable! Marion Ohlsson, who has been a part of this work from the beginning, tells us:

"It all started with the disturbing TV programs about the Romanian street children and orphanages. Claes-Åke Bengtsson, the founder of Filippos, travelled to Romania to visit the street children who lived in the sewers. The children sniffed glue to help them endure life and lived in such total misery and hopelessness that it was inconceivable. He decided to try to help at least some of these poor children.

After buying the school 'Marklunda' in Osby, a Second Hand shop was opened and the profit would be donated to children in need. Claes-Åke was a visionary and trusted that God would be with him in this project and lead it into something that would generate millions of Swedish crowns to those in need in the future. No-one thought he would be proven right but today, 20 years later,

more than eleven million SEK have been sent to people in need.

In July 2000 something happened that is very hard to understand. Claes-Åke Bengtsson, the founder and strong enthusiast of Filippos, died in a car accident while on his way with an aid transport. It was a great loss for everyone but it was decided to continue the work. I, Marion Ohlsson, was assigned to run the daily work. After a while my husband, Leif, also joined this work and that's how it still is today. Generous donors are the foundation for our aid work!

Currently, we are a group of 25 people who work voluntarily at Filippos Second Hand shop and we are involved in all the work. We feel united and are happy to be able to help children in need. We have made many specific efforts when there have been disasters. For example, in Nepal where many suffered after the earthquakes and now more recently, we have sent help to refugees from Syria who are in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon. In Ukraine, a children's hospital in Lutsk receives our help. There are 400 children there. Besides that, we send money for food packages to Ukraine before Christmas which are given out through 'Barnmissionen' (Child Mission). In Moldova we support a day centre in Cornesti, where approximately 40 children receive food and help with their homework etc and in Dubechno we assist with camps.

We support FCE in Romania every month by donating money to help run the family home 'Casa cu Flori' in Marghita. These are some of the things Filippos works with and supports and it is a great privilege to be a part of a work such as this. 2016 will be an exciting year for us at Filippos. We are moving from the old school building we are in now to an industrial building. We are looking forward to this move and hope that God will be with us and that the citizens of Osby will find the way to us there too.

We thank God for the 20 blessed years that have past and ask for His help for the future too.

Marion Ohlsson

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

Jesus, Matt 25:40

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Money for camp

Do you want to be a part of providing an unforgettable camp for a child this summer? 10€ will pay for one day at camp and 50€ will pay for an entire camp week.

Please find our account details at the bottom of this page.

Watch the information film about FCE and pass the link onto others!

You will find it on our website [http://www.efifadder.se/ / media-2/videos/](http://www.efifadder.se/media-2/videos/)



FCE wants to Thank you for
all support and wish you
a wonderful summer!

Gifts

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