

Dear Supporters,

The children and young people in Romania who have received a chance in life, thank you for your support and want you to understand just how important your efforts are. Continuous gifts from sponsors and donors are especially appreciated in helping FCE with the big costs in the daily running of the work taking care of these children and young people.



Florin Aslovici, Ari Robotin, Lars Gustavsson and Valentina Ferche together with children and young people in the Roma community when the first ground-breaking dig was made for the construction of a hygiene centre.

Building a hygiene centre

It is our duty to create a society together built on unselfishness and warmth. A society where we take good care of one another and encourage the good in everyone.

We rejoice over a Summer filled with challenges, new experiences and fun events. One of our joyful moments is that in July, we were finally able to start the construction of the hygiene centre in one of the Roma communities in Marghita. We have waited for a long time for this dream to become a reality.

To most people water and a bathroom is a priority in order to have a decent life and it is hard to imagine what it would be like not having this comfort in your home. Yet there are people living close to us who have never experienced having a bathroom or washing machine, not even running water. We want to provide these people with a beam of hope by building this hygiene centre. It will consist of six showers, seven toilets, a laundry room with two washing machines, a staff room and a boiler room.

Close to this building, we plan to extend with activity rooms for the children and rooms that can also be used to meet with their parents. We have a great hope that this building will make a difference and increase the quality of life for the disadvantaged people in the society. This project is created and supported by people who understand that a healthy society cannot develop if those crying out for help are neglected.

We are very grateful to Eriks Development Partner, EFI Fadder, a church in England and two Swedish families who made this financially possible!

A warm greeting to all of you from us at FCE,
Valentina Ferche



Summer visit

“What a privilege to be able to visit Marghita - again! This week is the third time I have been there. So much joy and curiosity among the children and young people. It is impossible not to be affected!

Some snapshots: We visited a state run care home and held a gathering in the small chapel. We finish it by praying the Lord's prayer. The voices from many who live in difficult circumstances are heard; strong and full of hope!

Another snapshot: a young deaf woman, employed by FCE, helped at the Day Centre one day. She is very skilful and worked carefully for almost an hour making a greeting card with decorations. I talked to her and she told me she was abandoned as a baby when her parents realised she had a hearing disability. “But now I have a Father in heaven”, she said with a huge smile.

My most overwhelming experience was to go with Ari to one of the Roma communities in Marghita. She is employed by FCE and works with integrating Roma people into the society. The poverty and misery is great. The children run around between the houses.

In the middle of this misery, I was still surprised how much life and joy the children beamed with. Soon Ari had a group of children around her. She handed out rubbish sacks and we all started to pick up cans, diapers, glass and all kinds of rubbish.

When we got home, Ari told me about the love she has for the Roma people and how she hopes to be able to help at least the children integrate into the society. I travelled back to Sweden again but Romania is in my heart.”

Torgny Andersson

Camps

All summer camps are held at FCE's camp building in the village of Chişlaz, approximately 20 km from Marghita. Most camps run from Monday to Friday where around 20 children together with leaders participate. Children and young people from all of FCE's projects have the opportunity to attend these camps and even if the activities and how the camps are run are similar, each camp is unique. All children and young people go away with memorable experiences and those of you who have helped financially should know that you have made a difference! Thank you!



Children on one of the camps for the After School Project.

“An amazing camp week

For the second year in a row, I visited Marghita together with five other young adults from Sweden. We were responsible for a camp week in Chişlaz for children from poor families and were in for the adventure!

What an amazing week this turned out to be – everything fell into place! It turned out that Robert was best needed in Marghita to solve technical issues, which made it possible for him to serve us who spent the whole days at camp. Bea was the one who focused most on learning the language (or languages, since we

also had Hungarian speaking children at the camp). Joel was an amazing role model for the boys, took care of all the dishes and prepared the teaching together with Rut, who was so engaged and wholehearted in her teaching that the children didn't miss one word of what she said. Anne was optimism and energy impersonated and when the week was over, she was the one with the most child-made necklaces and bracelets out of us all! I was the one who organized competitions and contests and together with Anne and Bea I prepared all the games.

By the end of the camp, we were very pleasantly surprised to see that they weren't the same kids anymore – something had happened to them! It was soon obvious to us that the older children really needed love and closeness but that they didn't really know how to approach us or ask for it, especially not the boys.

A favourite moment was when we were going to play football and a big box with football boots was pulled out. One of the youngest children, who had recently lost a parent and mostly walked around with his head down hardly saying or eating anything, put on a pair of boots and started to walk on the paving slabs. He was beaming like the sun and was so happy because it sounded so cool when the studs hit the ground!

Another was on the last evening when we played a water game where they were supposed to pass water in long rows, from the youngest to the oldest, with the help of filled water sponges. Above all, the two children with the most integrity, who never really had the courage or wanted to join in any of the games, were taking part in this and happily threw water sponges to their team mates. Then I felt that I had succeeded with the

games!

But the strongest moment of all was when the toughest boy, who never really listened, who always cheated in the games and overall in everything he did was quite rough, asked if he could pray out loud! In that moment, I really felt like one of the people who was surprised that Jesus wanted to visit Zachaeus in his home (the story of Zachaeus can be found in Luke 19). It was so obvious that Jesus wants to be with *all* these children!

Our photographer, Anne, realised on the day before the camp ended that the children wouldn't be able to see any of the pictures, so she started a project that resulted in a kind of plastered medallion with a photo from the week on one side. On the other side, we wrote a line from the children's favourite song (they sang with so much power that it wasn't easy to hear the melody when they were singing). The words are: "God is amazing, he has everything in his hand". On the last evening, we called out the children one by one and gave them these medallions – just for being who they are. It was wonderful to see how happy it made them!

I remember a child I met a few years ago in Sweden, who had been on a summer camp and said, "I will live on this until Christmas". A week of camp will not last forever, but it will last for a while! To be honest, I feel that I myself, and I dare to speak for the rest of the group as well, will also live on this for a long time!

If you want to help out with a camp next year, or if you know anyone who would like to, contact FCE and we will go there together! You can also donate money to these incredibly valuable camps!"

Ida Cederholm

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

Jesus, Matt 25:40

Contact Organisations

Blythswood Care

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Mercy Ministries

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EFI Insamlingsstiftelse

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Stichting Ondersteuning voor Roemeense Kinderen (SOK)

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Second Hand shop in Marghita

Did you know that a second-hand shop is almost ready to open at FCE in Marghita? It is part of a project run together with Eriks Development Partner (with help from the Swedish postcode lottery) and is connected to the integration programme for Roma people in Marghita. If it hadn't been for all the paperwork required and other complications, the shop would already be up and running.



The second-hand shop is situated in the old car wash.

*Warm regards from
FCE*

Gifts

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