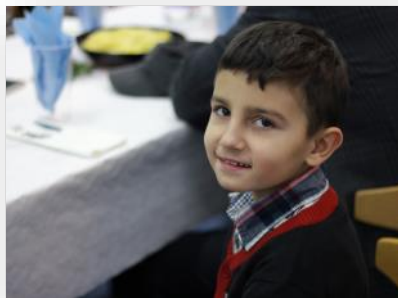


2018 Campaign year to find more monthly donors



Dear Supporters,

It gives us great pleasure to be able to send you our latest news from Marghita. We would like to thank everyone who reads this information and makes it possible for us to help others! This year our aim is to enlist more regular monthly donors. We invite you to become a regular monthly donor and even try to enlist others! No amount is either too little or too much!

FCEs focus

The commitments that we have also involve heavy responsibilities. This obligation is manifested by love to one's neighbour and remains steadfast after 20 years of work. It has been victorious over great obstacles and conquered many difficulties.

These acts of love are the result of many generous people who have helped to save the lives of those who have longed for a family, a home, food, security, understanding and happiness. Many have found what they needed in FCE. However, when we involve ourselves in social action, it is important that we finish what we have started. If we only half-help someone then we have in fact failed to save the whole person.

FCE is very serious about its promises and commitments. This is why our most important

goal for this year is to continue with our existing projects. This, together with other plans, are however dependent on other people's involvement in the work of FCE.

Another important goal is to focus on helping people who live in a marginalised position in society to be integrated into the employment market, especially Roma and young people who have grown up in the orphanages.

Working with people teaches us that new challenges turn up continuously. When we feel the strain, we need to encourage and remind ourselves that there is only one direction in life; that is forward! As we work together, we will always succeed in finding a way to save lives.

Valentina Ferche VD FCE



FCE

Fundația Creștină Elim

Family Homes

One of our three family homes is called Casa Marghita and is a continuation of the transit home which opened in an older building in 1998. Five boys live there together with family home parents and their own three younger children.

Our aim is that a family home should be as close as possible to life in a normal family. The boys are all teenagers at Secondary school. They have different backgrounds but all have one thing in common which is that they do not live together with their biological parents.

Claudiu will turn 15 this year and says that he doesn't know anything about his real parents. He was taken into care when he was a little boy. He was placed in an orphanage first and then later in a foster home. He came to Casa Marghita when he was nine years old and was in the third class at school.

Samu came to FCE when he was ten years old – five years ago. He says that he has "grown up and calmed down". He says, with a smile, that in the beginning he often ran away because that was what he was used to doing. He was taken into care after running away from home several times and ending up in a city street gang. He lives a different life today. He thinks that school is OK and he would like very much to take his driving license and work as a car mechanic.

Both boys enjoy football. Claudiu is in class eight and has important exams at the end of this school year. Every day after school he receives help with his homework which will help him to pass his exams. He says that he would like to continue studying after he finishes school if he can manage it.

Many of our donors and supporters understand that not all the children and young people that we help are willing to talk about themselves and of course are in no obligation to do so.

It is common knowledge in the schools and society in general that they belong to an organisation which unfortunately is not always positive for them. However, FCE wants to give them security,

education, self-confidence and a good foundation to stand and build upon.

Claudiu and Samu say "We learn, we are happy here and we mean it!"



Claudiu och Samu

Worth Everything

For the last ten years Cosmina Mârze has been working with FCE as a social worker. From the outset she did much more than just the necessary paper work, immersing herself into people's social situation which took much more time than her normal "office hours". Cosmina comments, "I helped the young people with their economy", and "it's a great privilege to be confided in by people who have never trusted anyone".

When FCE opened the halfway house 'Brândușă' in 2009, Cosmina began working three shifts per week there and two in the office. She says: "When I worked nights at Brândușă, I was able to do the paperwork. She says that she still has many memories from that time.

Cosmina is an expressive person and enjoys telling her story. It is interesting to hear her tell us about the progress in the lives of the young people. The halfway home, Brândușă, has given many of them the chance that they needed to organise their lives.

"It was a big challenge working at Brândușă during that time. Many of the young people had serious

problems and were living together under the same roof. There was a lot of adrenalin, fights and other dramatic incidents. There were young people involved in some critical situations and I must admit that sometimes I was afraid of what could have happened.”

Cosmina’s eyes shine as she tells about the young people whose lives have been changed and that it was these results which motivated her to continue with her work.

“I have seen quite helpless young people who have grown up in orphanages develop and even be transformed into confident, independent individuals who can manage their day to day lives very well, after spending time with us in the halfway home. Sometimes they remind me about things which I have helped them with. Things which I thought were insignificant but have meant something for them.

Sometimes I wonder if we made the right decision but looking back, I have realised that it was worth it all when starving and ill-treated individuals have found security instead.

I moved to Marghita in 2008. In 2015, I married Mugurel and we live in a little village called Chiribiş 2km from the town.

The authority’s demands on social workers have increased and all the extra paperwork is very tiring and takes a lot of time and energy. Despite the fact that I have not asked for it, I have a place on the FCE board and in the leadership team. Four of us have the responsibility for the day to day running of FCE’s activities.

I think it is positive that there are several people who share the responsibility. We all have different perspectives of the work and therefore can find suitable solutions. The others listen to me and want to hear my point of view, which also helps me to develop”.

Cosmina has a lot to say and tells us with a lot of conviction that her job takes a lot of energy, but that it is well worth everything when she sees the fantastic results of her labours!



Cosmina Mârze

Sunday school helps Casa Cu Flori

“The Pentecostal church in Mariestad, Sweden begin their Sunday morning worship in the main church building. After a while, the special “Sunday school time” music begins with their own jingle. A long rope is unfolded and held in the main church aisle. A Sunday school leader stands at one end of the rope and another at the other end. The children also join in holding onto the rope and give “High Fives” both to their left and right. The rope winds its way downstairs to the children’s own Sunday service.

The children here have learnt how to say “thank you” and “Hi” in Romanian. Every week at Sunday school, a collection is taken up which goes to FCE for the family home ‘Casa cu Flori’ in Marghita. The money clinks into the collection box and the children here in Sweden know that every coin is valuable and that they are sent to the children in Romania who live in the family home. We pray that all will be well with them. Sometimes we receive greetings from them in Romania and always a letter of thanks from FCE for the money.

Perhaps you can also find a way of helping! No amount is too small to make a difference or a person too young to be able to help.”

Görel “iorela” Karlsson

"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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