



2018 Campaign year to find more monthly donors

Dear friends,

It is still summer when I am writing this and many staff are on annual leave. A number of children have been on camp and the others are waiting to go and dream of new experiences.

Camps are an opportunity for each child to get away from their normal daily routine, create unforgettable memories and to meet God. We are glad to be able to provide all the children and young people in our projects the opportunity to go on camp for a week and we are very grateful to all of you who have made this possible!

It is sad to think about people who don't have a chance to think about a holiday, for instance those in our projects where we support families in the Roma communities and other poor families. Now is the time when they are trying to work doing different things to gather the funds they need to pay

for everything the children need when they start school. They also need to start to gather wood and other things for the winter. The dream about going on holiday to a beautiful place is unthinkable for these people because they are busy trying to solve all the impossible challenges in their everyday life.

We are still working on trying to make the lives of these people a little bit easier through the building of the Hygiene Centre and Community centre in the Roma community. Together with the people who live there, we dream about seeing it finished and hope that we will raise the funds needed to make this possible.

Thank you for all your support and for always being able to count on you! Together, we have managed to do things that have meant so much for the marginalised people who are our neighbours.

Valentina Ferche, Director FCE



Volunteer work

FCE has many faithful volunteers in the different countries that support FCE who help with a wide variety of things. Some of these volunteers have specific responsibilities such as being involved in the long process in order to produce and send out this newsletter which involves at least six people linked in a long chain of tasks.

There is a need for volunteers to help us with the big job of getting information out about the work of FCE in a number of different ways. We especially need help with the media side of this, for example website, information/promotion clips, leaflets etc. Please let us know if you can help with this.

Another responsibility in the foundation is the transport of different kinds of materials which are sent to Marghita, Romania. Hans Lundberg, a volunteer from Lammhult in Sweden, has worked faithfully with this since the beginning of the 1990s. On his first visit to Marghita in the Autumn of 1990, he was deeply affected by the misery he saw and filled with the feeling that he wanted to do something to help.

Together with others, he talked about the needs there in schools and in churches and to journalists from the newspaper. All of Lammhult was involved! Hans and his team found other people in other parts of Sweden who were also struck by the 'Marghita-fever'. The Elim congregation in Askeby, Sweden, started a sponsor system and worked to find sponsors.

Hans says that he is not good at "begging" for material but he took on the responsibility for transport when trucks needed to be loaded with goods and driven to Marghita. Different

premises have been used as warehouses during the years, but now donated goods are kept in the EFI Second Hand shop in Värnamo, Sweden. It is from here that the trucks are loaded.

Hans tells us that each transport is carefully planned and he has become an expert in packing everything well. Since Romania joined the EU in 2007, the paper work is not as difficult anymore but everything is carefully marked and the packing lists must correspond to what is in the boxes. Hans calculates the volume and it must correspond exactly with the weight of all the goods. Everything concerning the transport takes a lot of time and Hans prioritises this ahead of everything else. It is easier since he became a pensioner and he finds it stimulating and fun. He has been to Marghita around thirty times and has loaded 140 trucks!

There is always a positive atmosphere around Hans and others have joined the work thanks to his 'nothing-is-impossible' spirit. His closest co-worker is his wife Lisbeth and together they make lists of the companies and others who donate things in order to be able to send thankyou letters. Hans doesn't like to stand in front of people and talk but tells us that when he starts to talk about Romania, it's hard to make him stop!



Hans Lundberg

Giving back

“I don’t have any fun memories from my childhood, so I would rather not talk about that.” That is how Anghelina started her life story when we meet in Sweden one rainy day towards the end of June. She tells us that now she wants to help those who helped her when she was going through difficult times, so she has given up her own job in Romania to support a family with children in Sweden who needs her.



Anghelina

“Through them and other volunteers who came to the orphanage, I got to know God and they showed us love. Now I want to give some of that back.”

When Anghelina left the orphanage in Popești, she came to FCE’s first transit home for girls in Chiribiș and after that she lived in an apartment in Marghita together with some other girls. She is very good at taking care of children and got a job at Casa Alba. There she was loved by the children and she was also very appreciated as a babysitter during her free time.

When Casa Alba closed in 2009, Anghelina got a job in FCE’s kitchen and moved to the halfway home, Brândușa. After some years, she moved on to another foundation in another city where she received continuous support. She studied for the bacalaureat in the evenings whilst in Marghita and had wanted to continue to study but it was difficult since the school at the orphanage hadn’t given her the basic foundation she needed.

Anghelina radiates safety and love. She is grateful for the chance she received and she has taken it. “Who knows where I would have been today if I hadn’t received help in Marghita”, she says.

Summer camps

The camp on 13 – 17 of August was special in the way that the children were so eager to learn new things. No day was the same even if the programme was very similar: Waking up at 8 o’clock followed by fun morning aerobics to music, a blessed breakfast, games and competitions, first aid lesson, water games, bible teaching, going to the thermal pools and finally a lovely time around the camp fire. These are just a few of the activities enjoyed by the children from the poor families who attended this camp.

As every year, my goal for the camp and that of the volunteer team was to inspire these children, so much that this inspiration will give them the necessary strength to choose a different road in life. A different life than the one their parents have. Under the pressure of poverty, these families live a hard life and many of their parents are stuck, dependent on different things.

During the camp we could clearly see the potential these children have. Regardless of which family they come from, they can go far if only they receive help. Their willingness to learn, their participation in games and

"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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creative activities convinced me that they have great potential to become engineers, doctors or maybe leaders of well-known companies.

Bobi, six years old and very intelligent, thanks all of you and so does shy little Alexia with golden hair, who was at her first camp. We thank all of you who made this camp possible! Don't forget that besides good food and a clean and comfortable bed which you provided these children with this week, you have also given them a lot of inspiration that I am convinced will help them immensely through life.

Andrei Loghin



Alexia enjoying her first camp

Greetings from FCE

Gifts

Banca Comerciala Romana
Sucursala Marghita
Cod: SWIFT: RNCBROBU

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

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