



2018 Campaign year to find more monthly donors

Dear supporters!

The year is quickly coming to an end. We have had a year full of different activities and many challenges but in the end we are happy and celebrating success. We have already forgotten the hard times because the successes in the lives of those we help convince us every day that our efforts are not in vain.

Saved lives, especially those of children, changed destinies, rehabilitated people and hope are some of the things we are really grateful for this year. Of course behind all these things are a lot of kind and generous people who share our mission.

We were really glad to be able to meet together with everyone on the Swedish and Romanian board and make plans to maximise our collaboration in the future. In addition, we were also able to visit some of our sponsors in Sweden, to share some of our successes with them and also tell them about our current needs.

Everywhere we went, we met wonderful people!

Thank you everyone for all you have done this year. We are very grateful.

Valentina Ferche, Director FCE

FCE Supporters day in Sweden

A big enthusiastic crowd met on the annual FCE supporters day in Sweden on 27th October. Many of these people have been to Marghita and are involved in the fund raising whilst others have heard a lot about it and want to help. Everyone who came was interested and wanted to know more.

Valentina Ferche, Lidia Micula, Florin Aslovici and Lars & Barbro Gustavsson came from Marghita to present the work of FCE in both words and pictures.



Others talked about different ways to support the work from home. Kea Svensson talked about his joy of being a monthly sponsor. Göran Johansson shared about the FCE Second hand shop and the carpentry workshop in Sweden. Many volunteers work in Sweden to support that which is happening in Romania to give people there a hope.

Jan Ternvall and his wife Therese sang together and Jan told how he is selling home-made chilli sauce to raise money for FCE. Other items being sold were material shopping bags and beautiful bags made from denim. Later on, the gathering became something of a concert with the Sion brass band.



Lars, Barbro, Lidia, Valentina och Florin on
FCE Supporters day in Sweden

Volunteer team and guest house

In Autumn 2008, FCE's purpose built volunteer and guest house was completed after many months of mostly volunteer work. Below is an extract from Barbro Gustavsson's blogg written in October 2018:

"I am extremely grateful for FCE's volunteer and guest house. After ten years, I still look around the house and ask myself, 'Is it true?' Is it really us who have this beautiful house? It is often referred to as 'Herculane'. Do you know why?"

Herculane is a little town in Romania close to the border to Serbia. It is a thermal spa resort. In Marghita there is also a street called Herculane. It is on this street that we very first lived. For many years this was the volunteer team and guest house, for unpretentious people.

After some years, FCE bought a piece of land with an old house which then became the 'new volunteer house'. The name 'Herculane' automatically followed with the move! Then, after years of dreaming, plans and proposals to build a new volunteer and guest house were made. The time had come. It feels good that this wasn't realised earlier when there were other buildings and homes to be built which had a higher priority.

A construction company in Sweden had a large office. FCE were offered to buy this building for one Swedish Krona if they took it down, packed it up and took it away! There were visionaries in Sweden who could see this building on the land in Marghita. These people were not daydreamers, they simply got on with the job. Some of those who took down the building in Sweden came to Marghita and built it up again. Other people collected furniture and everything that would be needed for such a big guest house. The house is like a big conference building with many rooms, bathrooms, a large kitchen and laundry room. The house is a miracle!

The kitchen and dining room were finished in October 2008. Then we had already used the house as accommodation for short term volunteers. Many of those who came to build up the house slept in the worksite! Lars and I got a nice little apartment at one end on the ground floor.

We feel privileged to have such a comfortable place. The house is similar to a youth hostel but with a high standard. The rule is that you help to take care of the house when you're there. There is no hotel staff coming to clean after you. Everyone pays but it is a cheap price. There is a different price depending on whether you are a volunteer or simply a visitor. Even those who are big sponsors or who work a lot for FCE still pay. You are very welcome! The rooms are prepared. It is a blessed place with a peaceful atmosphere."



Lena and Marianne in charge in the nice kitchen in the guest house

One year

Mădălin Tărau has been working for FCE for one year. He lives together with his wife and one year old son in Oradea. He studied natural sciences for A level and then went to England to work there. He felt the need to find a church to go to and found a Romanian congregation in London where he quickly became involved in the youth work. After some years, Mădălin went on a mission trip to Moldova and Russia and there he understood that it was time for him to study theology. Without a lot of planning, he found himself at a theology college in Bucharest.

Mădălin got married and his wife had a good job so he was able to give time to work in the church in Oradea and also start building their house. When little Emanuel was on the way, Mădălin needed to find a job. This happened at the same time as when a Swedish congregation was looking for a suitable person to financially support to minister in FCE's work with children and young people in Marghita. This process took time to complete.

"I almost gave up hope that something should come of this but now I've been working here one year and I know it is where I should be", says Mădălin. He likes to be with the children from the family homes who are now teenagers. He also meets with the young people with special needs who attend the day centre and feels that they are very open and give a lot back.

The children in the After School project meet with Mădălin twice a week and he is impressed by a girl who can tell bible stories back word for word.

If Mădălin needs to be free for some reason, he does his best not to do that on a Thursday when he goes with the team to the state-run home in Ciutelec, as he doesn't want to miss it. The people there are waiting for the team literally with open arms.

"If I don't know what they understand and need, God does and that's good to be reminded of," finishes Mădălin who just turned 31.



Mădălin

Joint project

Together with Eriks, FCE leads a project working with a Roma community, helping to lift them out of poverty and their difficult situation. Even though it is a long process, there are some good results. Many of the children are in school thanks to our After School Program. Some of the Roma people are in employed work. The hygiene block and community centre are built. Swedish construction teams have been in Marghita and worked together with FCE's construction team to work on the inside of the buildings.

Christmas preparations

December is a hectic month with a lot of preparations for Christmas. It is a lovely opportunity to encourage people through giving gifts which otherwise they would not have the joy of receiving.

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

Jesus, Matt 25:40

Contact Organisations

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Web: www.blythswood.org

EFI Insamlingsstiftelse

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Stichting Ondersteuning voor Roemeense Kinderen (SOK)

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FCE gives out thousands of Christmas presents thanks to the many people who donate them. The organisation, Blythswood, collects filled shoebox gifts throughout the year and sends them to many different countries in need. One of the places that benefit from these gifts is FCE in Marghita.

During this season of gifts and giving, if you would like to help pay for a bag of groceries for a poor family or simply make a special Christmas financial gift to the work of FCE, please find the bank account details at the end of this newsletter. Your gift makes a big difference!



*We wish you
all a very
Happy
Christmas
and a blessed
New Year!*

Gifts

Banca Comerciala Romana
Sucursala Marghita
Cod: SWIFT: RNCBROBU

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

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