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# Heartbeat



**HEARTS  
ACROSS  
ROMANIA**

A NEWSLETTER FROM HEARTS ACROSS ROMANIA

DECEMBER 2011

## SPONSOR A CHILD

The most powerful way to change the life of a Romanian child is to sponsor one! Hearts Across Romania (HAR) is excited to announce our new "Sponsor a Child Program".

Sponsoring a child is a life changing experience, both for the sponsor and the child. Your financial assistance enriches a child -- economically, physically, socially and spiritually. HAR is committed to helping children in desperate need to live long healthy lives. The "Sponsor a Child Program" is one of the HAR Board of Directors' 2011 projects, and we, as an organization, have sponsored a girl with specific medical needs. We realize that traveling to Romania for a volunteer vacation is not always a possibility for everyone. Many of you have expressed a desire to help Romania's children and have faithfully given in the past, so we wanted to share this exciting news with you!

The "Sponsor a Child" program now allows you a more personal opportunity to support the children of Romania. For only \$35.00 per month -- a little over \$1 a day -- you can change the life of an orphaned, abandoned, or at risk child. HAR offers children for sponsorship who have lost their parents or are at risk of losing their families due to illness, poverty or other hardships. One hundred percent of your tax deductible donations to this program will be used to benefit the child of your choice. Contributions will be used for food, clothing, shelter, healthcare and educational needs. Sponsoring a child is easy ... please visit our revised website: [www.heartsacrossromania.org](http://www.heartsacrossromania.org) and choose a child that speaks to your heart. The voices of Hope are calling to you ... won't you please "Sponsor a Child"?

## REFLECTIONS ON 2011

The end of the year is a time to reflect on what we have accomplished and to say thank you to all of our supporters, who make it possible for Hearts to continue our work with the Romanian children and the Brasov community.

Our medical project for 2011 included purchasing a surgical table for the Children's Hospital in Brasov and shipping medical supplies donated by Stacia Engelhardt and Angie Webb Covington. Thanks to these two women for their contributions.

Mariana, Geanie and Samantha met in Brasov in May on an administrative trip for Hearts, which was filled with non-stop activities. Samantha, who was completing a study abroad program in Copenhagen, was joined by her younger sister, Tori, and the girls worked very long days at the Rupea and Dacia orphanages. What a treat for the young kids in the orphanages to have two energetic, enthusiastic young women showering them with much needed attention, attending to them at meal time and helping them with their hygiene.



Juliana Tarog, age 7, lives with her single parent mom, who struggles financially and needs help to keep the family together.



Andrei-Ionut Simion, age 19, is in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade. Abandoned by his father, he has maintained contact with his mother, but she is unable to provide him with financial assistance. Ionut would like to go to Transylvania University after completing high school, but he needs financial assistance in order to do this.

## BOARD MEMBERS

Mariana Achiriloaie  
Geanie Burns  
Samantha Matthews  
Kathy Roote  
Leigh Ann Ward  
Jerry Williams

## THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Bogdan Antohe  
John Broussal  
Angie Webb Covington  
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Paula Popa  
Kathy Roote  
Leigh Ann Ward  
Chuck Weidner  
Jerry Williams  
The Windmill Foundation



2544 BROOKSIDE DRIVE  
IRVING, TX 75063  
214 213-9001

In keeping with tradition, Hearts provided assistance to some Romanian organizations, as well as some individuals who had specific needs. We continued our support of the UPSV -- "A Step To The Future"-- transitional program ([www.upsv.org](http://www.upsv.org)) by hosting a bowling/pizza party for the young men and purchasing supplies and medications.

Leigh Ann Ward, Jerry Williams, Robert Davis and Chuck Weidner are again "making Christmas bright" for the young men in this program with a generous donation sponsoring their holiday celebration.

Hearts also gathered together older teens and some college-age students, many of whom we have been involved with since our beginning in 2004, for a cookout, and it was so gratifying to see these well adjusted young people living their adult lives. Some of our "kids" have completed college and have jobs and others are near graduation, so we are very proud of them.



Friends from the Rupea orphanage at play at the Hearts' sponsored picnic.

## ROMANIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

Hearts was represented with a table at the Romanian Food Festival held at St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church in Colleyville, Texas in early November. Thanks to everyone who purchased Hearts t-shirts and raffle tickets. Thanks also to our Board Member Kathy Roote for donating a portion of the proceeds from the sale of her beautiful glass work.

Congratulations to Stacey Brzovskis and Carmen Reza, both of whom were raffle winners of framed paintings done by two of our Romanian kids.

## SPECIAL THANKS

Hearts Across Romania would like to extend its gratitude to Lance Lyda for donating his time and talent in creating this year's Hearts Christmas card. Lance is President/Creative Director of the Camenae Group, a health promotion and education company located in Southlake, Texas.

Thanks to Bogdan Antohe for volunteering his time and expertise in providing the layout/design of our newsletter and for maintaining our website. These donated services are extremely valuable to our organization.

Thank you all for your support and for spreading the word about the activities of Hearts Across Romania.

## 2012 ROMANIAN WORK TEAM

Want to travel to a new land, experience a different culture and meet children who will change your life? Join us on our 2012 work team. Tentative dates are May 24-June 7. Application and more information are available on our website at [www.heartsacrossromania.org](http://www.heartsacrossromania.org).



HEARTS ACROSS ROMANIA WISHES EVERYONE  
A JOYOUS, PEACEFUL HOLIDAY SEASON!

[WWW.HEARTSACROSSROMANIA.ORG](http://WWW.HEARTSACROSSROMANIA.ORG)