



HEARTS
ACROSS
ROMANIA

DECEMBER 2013

Heartbeat

A Holiday Newsletter from Hearts Across Romania

Hearts Across Romania wishes you and your family a very happy and healthy holiday season. Thank you for your continued support of the children and families in Romania.



Fall 2013 Trip to Brasov

Board members Mariana Achiriloaie and Kathy Roote travelled to Brasov in September for what turned out to be a very busy (and productive) trip. Some of the things that were accomplished were distributing hundreds of pairs of shoes, sneakers, boots and slippers from Sunshine Heroes Foundation to children and adults in Brasov and Dacia, purchasing and distributing new track suits and backpacks for the young boys at Dacia Orphanage, visiting our Sponsor A Child children and families, donating and distributing reading glasses to the Brasov community, taking donated infant clothing to the Brasov Maternity Hospital and presenting thousands of dollars in medical donations to Dr. Moraru, a physician in Brasov. We were also very fortunate to visit a local school for the blind and see blind children experience their first ride on a bicycle and participate in a painting class. A snowstorm on October 1 was a huge surprise and created a beautiful winter wonderland in Poiana Brasov. **Our next volunteer work team trip is scheduled for May 2014.**



Sunshine Heroes Grant Awarded

In April of this year, Hearts was the recipient of a grant of \$2,500 and 250 pairs of new shoes from the **Sunshine Heroes Foundation** (formerly the Little Heroes Foundation). Based in Provo, Utah, Sunshine Heroes mission is to improve the mental and physical well being of children throughout the world by serving, supporting and enhancing human life. Their grant made it possible for Hearts to give more than 300 children, teens and adults in the Brasov, Romania community a new pair of shoes, sneakers, boots or slippers. The shoes donated by Sunshine Heroes were shipped to Romania and distributed in September to the young men at UPSV Transitional Program, Hearts "Sponsor a Child" children/families, children at the Dacia Orphanage, and members of the Brasov community in need.

Transitional Program (UPSV)

The UPSV Transitional Program headed by Florin Catanescu is in the process of renovating a building donated to them by the city of Brasov. This is a huge undertaking, but Florin and the boys who are part of this wonderful program are doing the majority of the work on the building themselves and are creating a beautiful new space for their program. Please take a look at the photos of their progress on their website, www.upsv.org

Romanian Food Festival

Thanks to everyone who came out to visit Hearts at the Romanian Food Festival in Colleyville, TX. We had a great weekend eating delicious food, watching traditional dancing, seeing old friends and making new ones. Thank you as well to Karen Higham for donating the very cool Dracula purses. Hope to see everyone again next year!



Donations Needed for February Shipment to Romania

It's a New Year and time to clean out those closets! Please consider donating new and/or gently used clothing (infant, toddler, girls, boys and adults – all sizes) to our children, teens and families in Brasov. Donations need to arrive in Dallas by mid January to be ready for the February shipment. Please send donations to:

Hearts Across Romania
16012 Windy Meadow Dr.
Dallas, TX 75248

Meet Our “Sponsor a Child” Sponsors

As we enter the holiday season, Hearts would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our sponsors for their ongoing support. They are making a difference in the lives of Romanian children, and we wanted to share some profiles of both our sponsors and the children they are helping.



Nancy and Rob live in California, and are the parents of twin girls. Their choice for sponsorship was Simona and Ioana, also twins. Rob chose sponsorship as a birthday gift for Nancy, who has Romanian heritage. Rob and Nancy traveled to Romania a few years ago and saw the needs of children first-hand. The children they chose to sponsor, Simona and Ioana, live in a one room apartment, which is adequate for their needs, with their older sister. Their sister is a college student, so she receives a small stipend from the government. Their mother lives in Belgium, and she sends money when she can. Sponsorship money has been used for school supplies, helping to pay utilities, and general family needs.

Lael, a professional nanny, lives in New York City, and she loves traveling, learning about other cultures and studying child development. Lael’s motivation to sponsor is her love of children; she believes every child deserves a fair start. Through her travels and contact with kids, she realized that no matter where they live, all children have the same needs -food, clothing, shelter, love and security. Lael chose to sponsor Catalin, Cornelia & Cristina, a sibling group of three, living with their mother in very inadequate housing. Quarters are very small, with no electricity or running water. A wood cook stove provides what heat they have, and there is no place for the children to sit and do their homework. A fourth child has been born since Lael began her sponsorship, and though the family has an additional sponsor through Hearts, they are very needy.

Our Generous Donors

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Andrea Kirschner | Lael McLeod |
| Andrea Varela-Stoke | Willena Jean and Billy H. Hamby |
| Andrew Nicoli | John Broussal |
| Anthony Tinelli | Brittany Lancon |
| Aravind Ravisekar | Kelly Meeker, Cardinal Health |
| Arina Grossu | Marcela and John McCracken |
| Bethany Gernand | Microsoft Matching Gifts Program |
| Christopher Ocker | Sorin Papuc |
| Rene Sarria | Chuck and LeighAnn Weidner |
| Daniela Lambour | Lydia Moldovanu |
| Denise Delican –Miclea | Mark Shoukry |
| Fanel and Mihaela Vasile | Mark Tabeling |
| Jerry Williams | Mary Jane Wilson |
| Jack and Laura Matthews | Paula and Valentin Popa |
| Judith Fisk | Radu Achiriloaie |
| Karen Higham | Robert and Nancy Pierce |
| Katherine Morales | Ronald and Doris Marshall |
| Kathy Roote | Timber Daniels |
| Kimberly Zaksek | Lauren Marchant |
| Laura Leone | Bogdan Antohe |
| Sunshine Heroes Foundation | |



Anthony lives in San Diego, CA where he works as a consultant for Staples, Inc. One of his primary interests is music. Anthony spent a few days in Romania in 1999. After that trip, he read an article on overcrowded Romanian orphanages and felt compelled to do something to make a difference in that part of the world. By choosing to sponsor Alexandra and participate in her life this way, he feels he is helping to offer her hope and a possibility for change. Alexandra lives with her grandmother (her mother is not in the picture) in a one-room apartment in a building that was formerly a high school dormitory. She is in the 1st grade. Alexandra, like Anthony, loves music, and his sponsorship will pay for music lessons for her. In addition, Anthony’s sponsorship has paid for school supplies and uniforms, and a special birthday gift of a bicycle.

The Volunteer Adventure

During our visit to Brasov in the fall, we met a remarkable young man named Alexander Hallett, who is heading up The Volunteer Adventure (www.thevolunteeradventure.com). Alex is traveling the world for one year to volunteer for a month each at an orphanage in at least 10 different countries. He was volunteering at UPSV while we were there and Alex was a great help with the UPSV renovations as well as participating in many other volunteer activities in the area. Next stop for Alex - Peru!!

Fused Glass Sale on Etsy.com Benefiting Hearts Across Romania

One of our board members is selling handmade fused glass art on etsy.com. Please visit the shop at <http://www.etsy.com/shop/panamagallery> and when you make a purchase, enter the coupon code **Hearts** at checkout. A portion of each sale will be donated to Hearts Across Romania.



Hearts is now on Facebook, LinkedIn and Pinterest! Follow us on social media: <http://www.heartsacrossromania.org> (972) 849-4359