



2003 - 2013  
*Hearts Across Romania –  
Celebrating 10 Years of  
Helping Romanian Children*

# Heartbeat



HEARTS  
ACROSS  
ROMANIA

A NEWSLETTER FROM HEARTS ACROSS ROMANIA

APRIL 2013

## SPONSOR A CHILD

We are very pleased to provide an update on Hearts Across Romania's (HAR) newest program - "Sponsor a Child". This program was launched in late August 2012, and we owe the early success of the program to our generous sponsors, whose financial support has already touched the lives of 19 Romanian children and teens in need!

HAR's core mission is to provide material, medical, educational and emotional support to Romania's underprivileged children. Our mission has not changed in our 10 years of existence. HAR was founded in 2003 by Mariana Achiriloaie, Geanie Burns, and Susan Flanagan—three friends brought together by their desire to make a change in the lives of the forgotten children of Romania.

*"Be the change that you wish to see in the world." Mahatma Gandhi, one of the world's greatest prophets*

The "Sponsor a Child" program provides individuals an opportunity to extend a helping hand to at risk children and teens by providing much needed financial support. Financial support made on behalf of a child or teen provides assistance with housing, food, education, clothing, and basic health care. With accountability and stewardship utmost on our minds, we are proud to say that 100% of donations made to "Sponsor a Child" directly support activities that touch the lives of those sponsored.

Local support is provided by Brasov volunteers- Rodica Toma, Azota Popescu of Asociatia Catharsis and Florin Catanescu of UPSV. Asociatia Catharsis and UPSV are non-profit organizations based in Brasov, Romania. Our Brasov partners assist us in monitoring, supervising and reporting to HAR the use of donations and the overall wellbeing of sponsored children and teens. Those who have sponsored children and teens receive letters, emails, videos, gift exchanges, and one donor even got to meet her sponsored children who reside in Romania!

Hearts Across Romania wishes to take this opportunity to thank our donors for their kind and generous support. Your donations assist us in our efforts to raise public awareness and to provide support to at risk Romanian children and teens. And for your convenience, we have added the option of recurring payment through PayPal on our website.

## VISION PROGRAM

Hearts has been working with the pediatric eye department at the Brasov Children's Hospital since 2004 and to date has donated over \$36,000 in new equipment. Our most recent donation was delivered to the hospital in September 2012 (see photo) - a new chair and equipment to better diagnose eye problems in children. We continue to accept donations for this very important and worthwhile cause.



A young patient and Dr. Dana Apatachioaie of the Children's Hospital of Brasov with eye equipment purchased in 2012 by Hearts Across Romania.

## BOARD MEMBERS

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

## THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Mircea Achiriloaie  
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## ROMANIAN FOOD FESTIVAL

On a very warm Texas weekend in November, Hearts Across Romania participated in the 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Romanian Food Festival at St. Mary's Romanian Orthodox Church in Colleyville. The food was delicious, and the entertainment was great. We were fortunate to make many new friends and introduce them to our organization and to catch up with old friends and supporters. A special thank you to Cindy Gage who continues to be a tireless ambassador for Hearts! Save the weekend of November 1-3, 2013 and visit us at this year's Romanian Food Festival.



Romanian Food Festival November 2012. From left: Chuck Weidner, Leigh Ann Ward, Mariana Achiriloaie, Jerry Williams, and Kathy Roote.

## WE WANT YOU

.... to join our Autumn 2013 work team! Tentative dates are September 26 – October 10, 2013.

Our trips are tailor-made to fulfill your interests, likes and expectations. Contact us today to learn more about how Hearts can be a part of your next adventure. We can accommodate groups and individuals. We'd love to have you on board! Contact us at (972) 849-4359 or visit our website for more information.

**Stop by the HAR website in the next few weeks to see our new Hearts merchandise – below is a sneak preview of the new t-shirt design. We will also carry Hearts tote bags and some other goodies. And as always, 100% of the proceeds from the sale of our merchandise will go to the children.**

**This year's proceeds will go to the children at the Dacia and Rupea Orphanages for Christmas; a special meal, celebration, and gifts for each child to help make theirs a memorable, happy Christmas.**

