

Heartbeat



HEARTS
ACROSS
ROMANIA

A NEWSLETTER FROM HEARTS ACROSS ROMANIA

OCTOBER 2004

TOREADOR RESOURCES CORPORATION GIVES H.A.R. \$5,000 GIFT

Hearts Across Romania would like to say “mulțumesc” to Toreador Resources Corporation for its donation of \$5,000. Toreador is an independent international energy company engaged in the acquisition, development, exploration and production of natural gas and crude oil, and Romania is one of several countries in which Toreador holds oil and gas property interests.

Michael FitzGerald, Senior Vice President Exploration & Production, met with Geanie Burns in June to learn more about Hearts Across Romania and, as a result, saw an opportunity to give something back to a country that has played such an important role in his company's success. Many thanks to Mr. FitzGerald and Toreador for playing such an important role in our success as well.

FALL IN TRANSYLVANIA

Foundation members Mariana Achiriloaie, Geanie Burns and Susan Flanagan made their second trip this year to Brasov, Romania from September 16th through the 30th, accompanied by our first two volunteers – Maria Lopatic and Jerry Williams.

Both Maria and Jerry have health care backgrounds, and their skills and expertise were quickly put to work in Romania. Maria, a dental assistant for Park Cities Dental in Dallas, helped kick off our dental project by participating in evaluations by a local dentist for ten children from the Codlea orphanage. X-rays will follow, and these children will receive the recommended dental work. In addition, Hearts will continue to have other children evaluated for dental care and follow up on their treatment. Thanks to Maria, who was traveling abroad for the first time, for her donation of surgical gloves and masks, which were given to the dentist, the baby orphanage, the maternity hospital and the Children's Hospital, and also for her donation of toothbrushes, toothpaste and floss.

Jerry, team leader for the cath lab at Baylor Heart and Vascular Hospital with over 17 years of experience, toured both the maternity hospital and the Children's Hospital, and he was extremely helpful in negotiating the cost of the eye microscope with the Zeiss salesman. Jerry's team raised over \$1,000 for Hearts Across Romania before the trip by having a fund raiser, and the team also collected boxes of in-kind donations, so thanks to Jerry and the staff at Baylor Hospital for your support.

Both Jerry and Maria came away from their experi-



Maria Lopatic assists a Brasov dentist in teaching the children good oral hygiene.

ences realizing the need for updated dental and hospital equipment in Brasov, and they will tap into their resources here at home to see how they can help.

In addition to providing donations and working with children in the baby orphanage and the 4 to 7 year old orphanage, the team made 3 trips to the Dacia facility. Jerry and Maria fell in love with the children here, and they donated money to help purchase medication for Dacia. Hearts also provided fruit for Dacia and purchased new pajamas for all of the children.

The 4 to 7 year old orphanage has a new director – a young social worker – who welcomed our volunteers. At her request, Hearts purchased a tape player with some speakers so music can be projected into each bedroom, which may be particularly soothing to some of the handicapped children.

Hearts also gave in-kind donations to Asociatia Catharsis, which were distributed to needy and foster families that Azota Popescu works with.



THANKS TO OUR DONORS

Radu Achiriloaie
Emily Buenzow
Sheri Bly
Kevin and Heather Brune
Jenna Chavez
Ken and Gretchen Doll
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Luz and Jair Vasquez
Ann Penson Vreeland
Jerry Williams
J.M.P. Williams
Dr. Leilani Wiltz
Special thanks to the entire
staff at Baylor Heart and
Vascular Hospital



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THE EYES HAVE IT!!

Hearts Across Romania successfully completed the first phase of the "I Care" Project on their recent trip to Brasov when they were able to purchase a much needed ophthalmology microscope for the Children's Hospital. The state-of-the-art microscope – an MDO model – purchased from the Carl Zeiss Corporation in Germany at a cost of 13,500 Euro gives our doctor, Dana Apatachioaie, the ability to do more complicated eye surgeries, including cataract and glaucoma operations. A special thanks to Andy Suciu from Splash Corporation, a software company in Brasov, who secured a corporate donation for the "I Care" project in excess of \$2,000.



To date, more than 50 children in Brasov County have had eye exams, 16 children have had eye surgery, and numerous pairs of glasses have been purchased for kids. This ongoing project will continue until all the children in orphanages in Brasov County have been evaluated and received the appropriate services for their vision needs, and the remaining eye equipment has been purchased.



Jerry Williams plays with the children on a visit to Dacia.

LIONS CLUB CONNECTION

Hearts Across Romania foundation members got the opportunity to meet with Gabriel Barzescu, past president of Brasov Lions Club and current Zone Chairman, District 124 Romania, to discuss the "I Care" Project, as well as proposed projects for the coming year. Thanks again to Andy Suciu for arranging this meeting. Mr. Barzescu will try to enlist some financial support for our foundation through Lions Club in Romania, as well as other countries. If any of you have connections at local or surrounding Lions Club or Rotary Clubs, and would be willing to network with them on behalf of Hearts, please let us know. We are anxious to start speaking to groups about our organization and our projects.

TRANSITIONAL PROJECT

The next big project on the horizon for Hearts is a transitional project for older children who will be graduating from orphanages to independent life on their own. This project is in the planning stages, but Hearts intends to purchase and/or construct housing for ten to 15 children – perhaps three or four such facilities – as well as develop outreach services to the community to provide job training and/or independent living skills for the kids. Foundation members and volunteers toured a dormitory in Brasov where approximately 15 teenage boys from the outlying area live in substandard conditions in order to attend a nearby high school. The building was in poor condition with spare furnishings, inadequate bathroom facilities and no living room or dining room.

Obviously, we will be soliciting grant money and corporate donations for this project, so let us know if you have any contacts who may be interested.

SPRING WORK TEAM

The tentative dates for the Spring Work Team are May 13th through May 27th. The cost for a volunteer is \$2,400, which covers all expenses, including air fare, lodging, ground transportation and meals. The trip is contingent upon having six confirmed volunteers by April 15th, which means we need completed applications and a deposit of \$1,000, to be applied to the total cost, by that date.

